

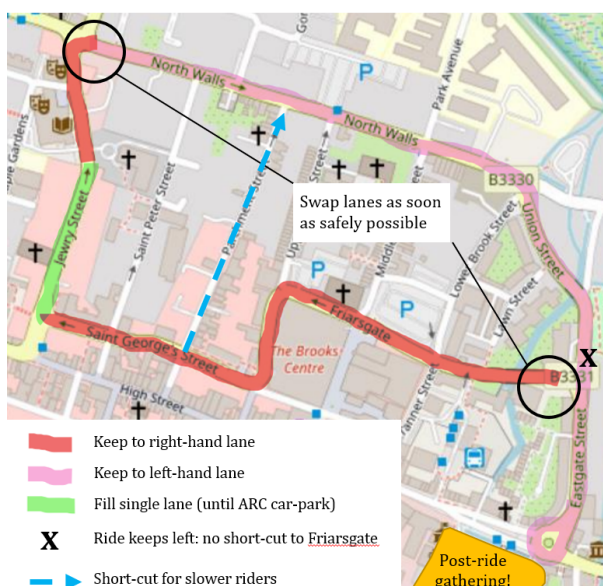
# Mass Ride: GUIDANCE TO RIDERS

We hope you are excited as us at taking over the streets of Winchester again for an hour or two to demonstrate the diversity and size of our cycling community and the pleasure of cycling when we are in the majority on the streets.

## Making the Ride as Safe, Smooth and Fun as Possible

- Each ride into the city will have at least three marshals. They will decide when and how the group moves, keep the ride moving at an appropriate pace, negotiate junctions in an orderly fashion and so on. They are very experienced riders, but they can't be responsible for every individual. Parents should keep a close eye on their children, always stay traffic side of them and later on around the one-way system ensure they don't get separated at traffic lights.
- Many of you will be experienced riders and we hope that *you will play your part in watching out for, protecting and encouraging younger or less experienced cyclists* - acting as informal marshals, supporting our volunteer team.
- *Please stay behind the front marshal who is carefully monitoring progress* for a well-timed and efficient merging of incoming rides on North Walls.
- For safety, minimum disruption and maximum visibility we want to make every effort to keep the ride as a single cohesive group for as long as possible without traffic getting caught up in-between.
  - *young riders* ideally should form a group at the front of the ride with their responsible adult(s);
  - *slow/ tired riders* can exit any time the ride passes King Alfred's Statue / use the short-cut shown below;
  - *all riders* should try to keep close together to prevent cars filling into gaps;
  - *all riders* should be ready to move off promptly when traffic lights change.
- If the ride does get split around the inner-city loops a splinter group should continue as a single unit rather than getting stretched out trying to catch up the front group. Marshals will look to split between the groups. There will always be a back-marker so no-one gets left behind.
- Two PCSO's will be in attendance on bikes. They will be riding around the one-way system with us helping to ensure safety and assisting in keeping the ride together in order to minimise disruption.

## Instructions For The One-Way System



The diagram shows the lanes we will be using as we loop around town.

It includes a change from previous rides in that *both loops will go around the roundabout at King Alfred's statue* ie there will be no right turn onto Friarsgate.

## Abbey Gardens

The Mass Ride finishes on the Broadway after one or two loops of the city centre -depending on traffic conditions and weather.

Riders should aim to disperse reasonably quickly to avoid congestion and are encouraged to congregate in Abbey Gardens, where we aim to provide refreshments, and an opportunity to socialise and enjoy the moment.

## The Mass Ride Philosophy

- The mass ride is organised as far as possible to be an informal, community affair: a lot of cyclists doing what they like to do and are lawfully able to do. It is meant to be a fun and sociable celebration of cycling and a chance to demonstrate to others - and remind ourselves - what a large, diverse crowd we are. In that sense it is not an 'event', something occasional and special where roads are closed. We could Mass Ride *any* Saturday.
- We have informed the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) at WCC and explained our general approach to managing the ride which has always been approved. We have informed the bus companies about the ride and made clear that we see buses and cyclists as being on the same side - both part of the solution to polluted and congested streets.
- It is important that *we obey traffic- lights* and *we have no explicit right to block traffic*. On the other hand, most of us when out with young cyclists or a larger group will occasionally at difficult crossings position our bikes as a shield to protect the tail of a group across a busy road. It is done with discretion, presuming on the good nature of motorists for a moment and always with a clear wave of thanks afterwards. This is the spirit of the Mass Ride which the marshals will be aiming to implement and which you can help to support, especially around the inner-city loops.
- The ride is not anti-car. We aren't aiming to create disruption or annoyance. However, there will always be drivers who shout or hoot their horn whatever the situation and we will just ignore them. Our approach should be quietly determined but unfailingly good-humoured. We have every right to be on the road and would be causing far more disruption had we all driven into town.
- Of course, the Mass Ride does have an element of protest. We are tired of being poorly served by the road systems, by the priority given to motorists and by the way some people drive. Until Winchester is 'Better By Bike' we are going to be a bit assertive for an hour or so in order to make it that way: a taste of things to come!

## The Mass Ride Team

Note: **The ride will go ahead unless there is extreme weather or a major incident in which case there will be a notice on our webpage and on social media by 8am on the day.**