



cyclewinchester

Better by bike

Cycle Winchester Chair's Report

February 2026

Background

November 2017

CW formed

June 2021

CW becomes ‘unincorporated organisation’

- bank account
- membership scheme: support and funds
- eligibility for grants
- credibility

February 2023

1st Annual General Meeting

February 2026

4th Annual General Meeting

... motion to register as a charity

The Year in Numbers

Website unique visitors (calendar year)		11,000
Website articles		13
Newsletters		3
Facebook page followers	905	(+18%)
Instagram followers	1089	(+47%)
Members	136	(+15%)
Mailing list subscribers	485	(+ 8%)
Hours committed by core team members towards a Winchester that is Better By Bike		XXXX?

What does Cycle Winchester actually do?

September 2020 Status Report

direct campaigning

public engagement

January 2022 Operating Report

direct campaigning

indirect campaigning

February 2023 Chair's report

engaging with specific schemes & consultations

general activities that are intended to keep cycling high on the agenda

February 2024 Chair's report

involvement with schemes & consultations

Ideas that we initiate in the hope they will advance our aim (of making Winchester Cycling Charter become reality)

February 25 Chair's report

working to get better cycling infrastructure

promoting cycling as a better option

February 26 Chair's report

Advocacy

Engagement

Advocacy & Engagement

advocacy ...

advocating for better cycling provision at all levels:

- overarching plans eg LCWIPs
- individual schemes and infrastructure projects
- planning policy, guidance, applications and enforcement

engagement ...

everything else:

- getting more people cycling
- supporting those who do cycle
- helping build a cycling community

Advocacy reasons to be cheerful 1

Some infrastructure improvements not always quite to our liking but close enough, certainly improvements.



- Advanced Stop Lines/Lights on City Road (but still no early release ...)
- a parallel crossing on Worthy Road and related changes
- surfacing under the railway bridge at Kings Barton
- legal cycling on Middle Brook Street between Friarsgate and Silver Hill
- a traffic filter on Hyde Church Lane

Advocacy *reasons to be cheerful 2*

A recent positive meeting with officers at HCC who once again seem to have a fully-staffed department and have set in place a regular three-monthly meeting with Cycle Winchester which includes WCC representation.



Background

Cycle Winchester had developed a good working relationship with the relevant authorities and been accorded a high degree of trust with regular access and updates to information and designs ... but in recent times that access and information-sharing has gone into reverse.

A particular concern is committing a great deal of time contributing to early designs then complete silence before they emerge much further down the line with many of the limitations noted and suggestions made having been ignored and at such short notice there is little or no time to resolve outstanding issues.

Advocacy reasons to be cheerful 3

A pro-active approach

... we aren't the highway authority, have no engineering expertise and certainly aren't the main fund holders
- but we can still help to make things happen.



- creating a vision of the Barton Line as a catalyst for change – more after the break.
- planning a bid to the National Highways Community Legacy Fund to surface a section of the Black Path between Alresford Road and Tesco.
- recently completed an audit of the NCN23 between City Bridge and Five Bridges Lane and will be looking at ways to get action on our recommendations.
- pushing for cycle access through WSA between North Walls and Park Avenue

Five key design principles will guide the design of the new development

1. *Improving access to and from the site for pedestrians and vehicles*
2. *Achieving greater connectivity*

Advocacy

Where else have we had input this year?

- M3/J9 including temporary diversions
- Parchment Street contraflow
- Romsey Road crossing
- Olivers Battery/Badger Farm Road junction
- Middle Brook Street crossing
- St Cross Road shared crossing at Garnier Road
- Station Approach
- South Downs National Park Draft Active Travel Network Plan
- South Wonston to Winchester / Andover Road
- CW response to City Focus LCWIP
 - (CW concerns re LCWIP discussed at the HCC Decision Day meeting)
- CW response to Community Governance Review
- CW response to Integrated National Transport Strategy



Engagement

reasons to be cheerful 1

Mass Ride 8

Our biggest turn-out ever combined with new measures, including road closures, that meant it was also probably the smoothest, most coordinated lap of the one-way system.

A meeting about MR9 with Safety Advisory Group earlier today – previously the police representative was implying maybe hold your ride out of the centre somewhere where you don't have to worry about traffic lights: today the police representative is enthusing about this great local event ...

More on Mass Ride 9 later ...



Engagement

reasons to be cheerful 2

Bike Buses

Bike buses are growing in number and numbers ...

More on the growing network later ...



Engagement

reasons to be cheerful 3

Developing connections and outreach

- Hat Fair stall
- Green Fair stall
- Winchester Workplace Travel Network
- Winchester Greener Schools Forum
- Bike Bus Summit
- Greener Futures Partnership
- ...

+ WinACC, Green Party, FoE, Winchester Walking Strategy Group, 20's Plenty etc, Cycle Hants, CUK Cycling Advocacy Network, Transport Action Network etc



Engagement *other news*

People Who Cycle

a new addition to our series ... Mary and Becki
the people who cycle around our city are not stereotypes!



Bike thefts/parking

continuing pressure regarding station parking/trees/theft, met
Danny Chambers MP who is now on the case and requesting
monthly updates ... but still inertia

Open Meetings

- *Let's Get Cycling*
- *Cycling and the Mayor*

Annual Cycle Count

Headline: no change in rush-hour cyclists in three years (300 over 10 locations in one hour)
Conclusion from elsewhere: where there's a will there's a (cycle)way ... and more cyclists.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Cycle Movements	301	300	314	300

Looking forward

Separate to our formal structure we have recently looked at how we function as a group. We have a slightly expanded core team with new energy, ideas and capacity. Over the next three or four months we are looking to evolve so that ...

- ❑ *roles and responsibilities are more distributed*
- ❑ *we are more organised and efficient in our meetings, communication (internal and external), information sharing and record-keeping.*



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To our members

In a world with so many competing demands for your attention and money thank you for your support.

We appreciate it and don't take it for granted.

We think membership is a good deal, that we do good work and use your money wisely ... but we'll try to do better in keeping you informed and in touch.

And never be afraid to get more directly involved!

To the core team

It has been rewarding and almost always enjoyable (!) to chair a group with such a mix of experience, expertise, creativity and enthusiasm.

It would be difficult to start naming names, someone would get missed – I think we all appreciate who contributes what.

Thank you all for everything you do on behalf of cycling and cyclists in the city.

A special thanks to Rob, Emma and David (who's no longer able to be directly involved but who contributed so much through his design skills) – we were the mass ride team until six years ago - Covid arrived and we agreed together to get stuck in with the main CW group, which I think had gone a bit quiet.

Anyway I've relied enormously on your support, direct and indirect, throughout this time and probably wouldn't still be here now if you hadn't all got fully involved in the way you have.

And finally ...

more thanks ... to the other officers who volunteer to take on specific roles without which we couldn't operate as a group like we do – and who do a great job:
Anne our Secretary and Mike our Treasurer.

And as I stand down as chair, I'd like to give very best wishes to those in the group now steering us through the changes ahead over the next few months and to those who end up taking on new roles and responsibilities.



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Better by bike

YOUR CITY NEEDS YOU!

