

# North Hampshire Right to Ride report year ending September 2013

## CTC Hampshire Cycling

- This is a network of CTC RtR reps. which makes regular email contact. John Edwards continues to be a hub of information but has returned funds held for reps expenses to the three CTC Groups in Hampshire as there has been no demand over the last two years.
- The New Forest section is active to get cycling permitted more widely, despite opposition from the verderers and a request to ban cycle events such as the Gridiron.
- Sue Coles is still trying to get the route out of Winchester recognised as a ROW cycle route. Proposed changes by HCC and the Highways Authority to junction 8 on the M3 will prohibit cycling into Easton and also make it dangerous for pedestrians as lorry wing mirrors will overhang the footway.
- Various members of CTC have liaised with the county for cycle promotion under “My Journey”, a project funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Sarah Walker is implementing a number of cycle promotion projects in Winchester, Basingstoke and Farnborough.

## Basingstoke

### Tescos planning application

Heather continued her campaign opposing the Tescos planning application because of lack of suitable infrastructure for cycling. She joined with Tescos Action Group (TAG) in November and represented them on issues on walking and cycling at the Appeal which took place in February 2013. There was strong support from LibDem and Labour councillors for improved cycle friendly infrastructure. It was quite an education attending the Appeal which lasted over a week and was very exciting as leading barristers and their witnesses argued their case, often using witty humour.

The Queen’s Silk representing the borough and opposing Tescos was another Heather and a London cyclist. She was very complimentary of the professionalism of TAG. The Tescos application was conclusively turned down in April and TAG had a lively and noisy celebration at the Pizza Hut. As a result there will not be the forecasted huge increase in traffic and the subways across the notorious Brighton Hill roundabout will not be filled in. Basingstoke RtR sent the detailed cycle audit and cycle review of the local area to the county planner with a request for more cycle infrastructure and cycle routes to be on both sides of the road if a footway is converted. These requests were accepted which means that future developers will have to fund/build them and include them in any Travel Plan.

## Infrastructure

The long awaited cycle path from Victory roundabout to the station is now under construction, an expensive project funded by developers as it involves cutting away the hillside on the north side of Alencon Link.

Cycle parking in the Malls has not materialised and cycle parking outside the Malls has not been increased despite intensive campaigning by BBUG. Unused wheel benders outside the Anvil have been replaced by bike pods, these are usually all full. Racks outside M & S have been replaced by pods thereby preventing motor bikes from using cycle space. A cycle compound has been built at the station. A cheap swipe card to this can be purchased at the

station. Many people who work in town use this secure park even if they do not commute by train. All the other bike racks at the station are full. Heather has replied to the Station Green Travel Plan including a request for official cycle access to the station forecourt along the ramp to the Anvil carpark.

## Other

Heather's draft Basingstoke Cycle Policy has been incorporated in the Labour Party manifesto and policies, but it is not in the Local Plan or adopted by the ruling Conservative party which appears to be very anti-bike.

The effectiveness of BBUG is very much hampered as officer support (both county and borough) has been axed so there is nobody to pass on requests. There is no longer anybody to analyse data from the automatic cycle counters or even collect the data. I used some of this data in my presentation to the Tesco's Appeal.

Our cycling mayor has saved the borough many thousands of pounds and he has been successful in earmarking these savings for sustainable transport.

Breeze has been successful in getting ladies out on their bike and getting publicity in the media. Sarah Walker is also asking for volunteers to lead novice rides for ladies to include our local MP.