



CYCLE TALK

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WHAT PATHS FOR CYCLISTS?

John Taylor

I make no apology for continuing comment on Core Paths and Local Access Forums (LAFs), because 2007 is *crunch year* in the whole process. Most Councils' Access staff have now amassed the data that are required to construct draft Core Paths Plans (CPP), and these have to be ready for formal public consultation by Feb 9, 2008.

The Plans must propose networks that are "sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area" - but, what's sufficient for purpose, especially for cycling? There are guidelines on a whole load of factors, but not on how much is required to be sufficient for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and canoeists. This is understandable taking into account the basic premise that all users have equal rights, and that there is such a spread of requirements from urban areas to remote communities.

So, is it possible for us to devise any rule-of-thumb for what we should look for to satisfy cycling? The spread of types cyclists (and would-be ones) demands route lengths from the very short upwards, preferably in rough loops, though there will be a limit to what would be relevant to any particular community or group of communities. So, I suggest that a rule-of-thumb might be roughly in the intervals of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 15 miles.

When your CPP goes out for that formal consultation, it will be possible to object on the grounds of "insufficiency for purpose". But, before that stage, the Local Access Forum (LAF), being a statutory consultee, should have influenced the process to make sure that it was sufficient.

LAFs, themselves, should now be taking themselves more seriously, i.e. becoming "independent, expert and respected", as the second edition of LAF Guidance has it. So they must now be getting used to setting the agenda for Access in their areas.

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Do these two pictures say something about cyclists' common sense and their sense of style & design, or do they say more about urban planners? They are within a few yards of each other:



CTC Scotland

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Web Sites

CTC Scotland:

Cycling Scotland :

www.ctcscotland.org.uk

www.cyclingscotland.org

Publicising Scottish Events/Rides

What's the difference between a ride and an event? Hard to say, but, if you publicise in the public domain (e.g. posters, "What's On" columns, broadcasts), it matters! That's because if you are not registered as an event, and more than five non-members turn up, you are not covered for public liability insurance.

Fortunately, the remedy is simple! All you have to do is inform Bob Kynaston (by post, phone or email) at Head Office (bob.kynaston@ctc.org.uk), who will add your info to the CTC website. In that way, also, you will get your programme made known to anyone who hits the site. Whatever you called them before, your happenings are now events, so you are covered however many non-members attend.

Dumfries and Galloway Section does that, and you may have noticed that we have had a good airing in Cycle's "What's On" (very few other Scottish ones - but, perhaps this article will cure that!). I have found, also, that we can take under our wing the cycling events of other people who do not have appropriate insurance (even my Council!), providing we register it with Bob, and that we co-organise it (especially getting everyone entered on CTC Standard Entry forms and complying with the children-accompanied rules).

Let Alex Geen in on the act too (alexandra.geen@ctc.org.uk, local groups and events coordinator), especially for the more significant events. As for getting an article in Cycle, Dan Joyce (dan.joyce@ctc.org.uk) says that it must a) have something new or a new angle, and that that must be apparent in the early sentences, b) can be local news, especially if it provides a slant on a national issue, and c) is accompanied by a telling picture (if digital, 300+ pixels per inch). Space achieved depends on pressure, of which latter there is more in spring.

So let's see more of our events getting wider publicity!

John Taylor

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I have not been able yet to ascertain exactly how many of our members are LAF members, but where they are not, all is not yet lost. **It would be good if some of you got in touch with your LAF** and, if there was no CTC member on it, endeavour to get yourself registered as a "corresponding member", so that you get all the papers (which should also be on the Council website), and can make a contribution to the process. E.g., in Dumfries and Galloway, I am cycling rep on the LAF, and have gathered together several cycling interests into a group, who all get the LAF papers.

For more info, and possible help, please contact me, *John Taylor, details below.*

Contact us...

Post AGM details of office-bearers will have been changed on the website. Go there to update your lists.

Meantime you can contact

John Taylor: 01556 670395, johnwtaylor@care4free.net

Mike Harrison: 0131 554 7773, Secretary@CTCScotland.org.uk

Please note change of address for Mike, from Leith to Gilmerton. New address is 16 Ravenscroft Place, Edinburgh, EH17 8QU.

Cyclists lunching in a friendly Sailing Club during a Try Cycling in Edinburgh ride. Definitely an 'event'. Helpers come from several cycling organisations (including Bike Station, Spokes, CTC) and most participants from no organisation.

