



Newsletter October 2021

Planning

Those of us living & working in Lewes will have noticed that there are a lot of new road & housing projects currently being taken forward.

In the next few years there will be hundreds of new homes in Lewes with many more motorised vehicles coming in & out of the town.

It is therefore important that we review planning applications to ensure that where relevant, they support rather than discourage cycling.

We must put pressure on developers & planning authorities such as SDNPA in order that all new developments are scrutinised. This would make sure that they build in sustainable transport where cycling & walking are the norm.

All new road & housing projects are expected to follow the latest cycling & walking infrastructure design guidance issued by the Department for Transport.

The Government document “*Gear Change*” https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007815/gear-change-one-year-on.pdf sets a good framework, but planning authorities need to use it rather than ignore it as they often do.

Recent planning applications:

SDNP/21/00020/FUL | Extension to Lewes Garden Centre Newhaven Road Kingston BN7 3NE

Cycle Lewes has responded saying that the proposals have not demonstrated compliance with the various planning policies and still do not provide safe and convenient cycle or pedestrian access.

The application states that a ‘Sustainable Transport Strategy’ will be adopted by the garden centre to encourage travel by sustainable modes’ but the access and site layout ignore and make no provision for connectivity to the adjacent cycleway requiring cyclists to re-join the C7 highway at awkward and dangerous junction.

SDNP/21/02342/FUL | Realignment and replacement of an existing single lane bridge at the A259 over the river Cuckmere (Exceat Bridge)

We believe this has gone back to the 'drawing board' at ESCC given all the comments notably Sustrans, Cycling UK and ourselves!

Low Traffic Lewes Project – Brief Update

The Business/Visitors' Survey has been completed and the through traffic survey will now start in mid-November. It was delayed due to road works at Earwig Corner as it affected traffic volumes over the summer months.

Urban Movement have begun some preliminary work on a re-imagined High Street and scoped out locations along School Hill and the High Street where there is sufficient space for seating, planting, bike parking and parklets.

They have also confirmed that there is sufficient space for a cycle path along School Hill.

The next stage will be to develop designs for consultation with our members and the wider community in Lewes. This will take place in December/January 2022.

Crowdfunding campaign

We have raised £1710 through our crowdfunding campaign since we launched our project in May 2021. Our target is £5000.

We'll be doing another push towards the end of the year when we have our designs to share. Meanwhile, if you can support this project please go <https://>

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lowtrafficlewes?utm_term=e4a56bk6j

COP26



Here in Lewes affiliate groups of Lewes Climate Hub will be curating free daily exhibitions, talks and workshops in the Depot Studio, exploring themes that are critical to tackling climate change at an international, community and personal level.

Making the case for cycling: COP at the Depot - 10 Nov 15:00 - 18:30



13 reasons why Biking is Better (by Leo Cardini: leo@flod.it)

Cycle Lewes and Lewes Living Streets will be there on **Wednesday, 10 November, 15:00 - 18:30** for the Transport and Travel Day highlighting the importance of cycling to reduce our

transport carbon emissions and air pollution (38% in Lewes District).

We'll be making the case for our Low Traffic Lewes work alongside the need for greater space for safe cycling & bike parking (including secured parking).

An increase in cycling & walking is crucial if we are truly committed to reducing our transport emissions in the town. However, in some parts of the Lewes cycling is only an option for confident cyclists. We must change this.

Lewes District Council LDC will also be there talking about their e-cargo bike loan scheme 'Get Bikery'

The Town Council will be talking about better bus services and have arranged for some of our bus operators to tell us about their plans to de-carbonise their bus fleet. More information from [Depot events](#), and [Lewes Climate Hub](#)

Saturday 11 December (11:00-12:00)
Food Bank 'Carbon-Free' Deliveries



During our 4th 'carbon free delivery, on October 1, LDC's new e-cargo bike put in an appearance.

An infographic with a teal background. At the top, it says "Those who switch just one trip per day from car driving to cycling reduce their carbon footprint by about". Below this, "0.5 tonnes" is written in large white font with a yellow underline, followed by "over a year." in smaller white font. To the right is a white silhouette of a person on a bicycle. At the bottom left is a white silhouette of a car. Below the car, it says: "**The climate change mitigation impacts of active travel: Evidence from a longitudinal panel study in seven European cities', University of Oxford, Imperial College London". At the bottom left is the hashtag "#CarFreeDay" and at the bottom right is the "sustrans" logo.

"Do you deliver by bike....?"

Is this the question we should be asking all local businesses especially those who deliver take- a-ways?

We think it is... with more and more local food outlets getting involved in deliveries we think the availability shortly through 'Get 'Bikery' of an eCargo Bike Scheme in Lewes which aims to roll out a zero carbon delivery service should help.

It's a joint project between LDC and Ovesco who will be publishing more details over the next few months of how it will operate.

The plans also include a hire scheme and a 'try before you buy' offer for community purposes

Pharmacie Coffee <https://pharmacie.coffee> recently opened in

the Southerham Estate and their e-cargo bike can regularly be seen in South Street and throughout Lewes. It does deliveries in Lewes and in Brighton.

Lock it, Log it



LOCK IT, LOG IT
Keep your cycle safe, don't lose it in 20 seconds!

We want to encourage everyone who has a bike in Lewes to **Lock it** securely and **Log it** with Bike Register to deter theft.

Come to a free 'bike marking' event and we'll mark and register your bike.

Can't make an event? Register it directly at: www.bikeregister.com

Join us: www.cyclelewes.org.uk

CYCLE LEWES
Image from CycleUK

Thanks to all our members who helped with running these sessions; it wouldn't have been possible without us working together delivering the sessions and entering the data behind the scenes to send off to the Data Register company.



It was hard work at times, but fun and in just one session we marked a total of 35 bikes.

We marked 150 bikes in all and had to cancel our final session as we'd run out of the kits. We want to run more of these sessions but are just working out the best and most sustainable way to do so.: whether we apply for another grant or purchase them and charge a small donation fee.

Bike theft in Lewes

Like many of you we have been concerned at reports of bike theft in the town, especially those in the secured bike parking hub at Lewes Railway Station. We have been in touch with one of the bike owners to see if we can help in any way and have been in contact with the British Transport Police.

Meanwhile, don't forget to lock your bike with a secure lock, preferably a D-Lock.

Organised rides Any volunteers to run some?

Over the years Cycle Lewes have made several attempts to organise occasional bike rides but there wasn't much interest. At some of our events over the summer we were asked about organised groups or rides. Some groups do organise rides although these are primarily during the day so not good for those working full time.

If you could get involved and help organise some, perhaps for new cyclists to Lewes on a Saturday or Sunday for a few hours and a focus on key routes in and around the town let us know. We'd be able to find someone from the Committee to help and support initially.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lewesfamilycycling>

Cycling UK – mid week, U3A

East Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan: 2021-2031

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/planning/east-sussex-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/print>

Well it has finally been published after the consultation in October 2020. All the publicity says its ambitious..... lots of good general intentions many following the national policy document "Gear Change".

A quote from the ESCC Cabinet Paper on the Plan (page 206) states:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/documents/g4771/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Sep-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

"The draft East Sussex LCWIP will be at the forefront of taking positive action to support several current and long-term challenges and opportunities at an international, national, and local level including climate change, economic recovery and supporting health and wellbeing. Locally it will be integral to the delivery of the County's Economy Recovery Plan, the Environment Plan, the East Sussex Climate Emergency Plan, the East Sussex Whole System Healthy Weight Plan, the emerging Bus Service Improvement Plan, and district and borough council Local Plans.

However, it falls on the basis that there are still no deliverable routes that will be funded in Lewes or connections in

and out of Lewes to our rural villages like Hamsey.

Neither are there any upgrades to the below standard cycle routes alongside the A27 to Falmer or out towards Firle.

There is no investment planned for Lewes in the next 2-3 years and this follows no investment in cycling from the £2.25 million that ESCC received from the national "Active Travel Fund" during 2019/20 and 2020/21. There has been no general investment in cycling since the development of the Ringmer cycle path completed in 2015; six years ago.

So, our campaigning work continues and we have recently met our new County Councillors for Lewes about the inadequacy of ESCC's current approach and discussing our next steps. We'll keep you posted.

Dates for your diaries

Next Cycle Lewes Committee Meeting,

Wednesday, 3rd November 2021 at 7.30 at White Hart Hotel, High Street.

All welcome, email for agenda in advance.

COP meeting

Wednesday, 10th November 3pm-6.30pm Depot, Pinwell Lane.

6.30-8pm join us for drinks and/or snack to chat and meet other members

(We'd like to encourage to come along and think about staying on to join some of us for a drink and snacks).

