

Dorset Cyclists Network

News Sheet – Spring 2021

Well, it's been quite a while since we put out a DCN newsletter, partly because DCN Founder Michael Evans (who has been putting our newsletter together for longer than some of us have been members) has decided to retire. Not only that, but Covid has curtailed our riding, so there's been very little going on!

However, change is finally in the air. Not only has spring arrived, but *if* all goes to plan, the UK will see a gradual relaxation of Covid restrictions as spring turns to summer. Here's hoping this means we can all get out and about on our bikes again – maybe even visit a few cafes...

In the meantime, to remind you all that DCN is still very much alive, here's a short news sheet on what's been going on lately. We have news on 20sPlentyforDorset, the new campaign to make 20mph the default urban speed limit across all Dorset's towns and villages. Plus a report from Dorset Council's cycling liaison meeting, what's been going on in the DCN areas and how to ensure that Dorset's next Police & Crime Commissioner knows the importance of road safety and the need to protect cyclists.

Peter Henshaw

Secretary – Dorset Cyclists Network

20sPlentyforDorset

DCN Blandford rep Dilys Gartside formed a campaign group in March to seek a 20mph default speed limit in all of Dorset's towns and villages. It might sound radical, but many places across the UK have already done this, and not all of them are cities. The advantage of a general 20-limit (as opposed to smaller '20 zones') is that it does not need expensive traffic calming, just signage.

To move this forward, we need DCN members to write to their Parish/Town Council and express support for the idea. Also to the Dorset Council officers responsible for recommending speed limit policy: John Sellgren (john.sellgren@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) and Matthew Piles (matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

Experience with other 20 limits has shown that they not only reduce the number of casualties, but encourage more cyclists to take to the roads. Perception of safety is the key. If you wish to offer your support in any way, please contact Dilys. She also has 20sPlenty stickers including big A4-size ones for bins (£1 each).

Dilys Gartside 20's Plenty for Dorset Campaign Coordinator

T: 01258 860157 E: dilysgartside@gmail.com



Dorset Cyclists Liaison Meeting (West)

Regular meetings take place between DCN reps and Dorset Council staff, alternately concentrating on West or East of the county. This West meeting was on 18th January 2021 (on line of course) with Kevin Humphreys in the virtual Chair. Main points were as follows.

Gillingham

Wayne Sayers reported that improved pedestrian and cycling facilities along the B3081 Le Neubourg Way had been completed. For further details: [Gillingham road and transport improvements](#). Dorset Council (DC) has obtained funding from South Western Railway for improved wayfinding and cycle parking at the station. DC Transport Planning will be liaising with the Town Council on potential new walking and cycling routes for inclusion in the emerging neighbourhood Plan.

Weymouth

The old rail lines along Commercial Road and Custom House Quay (something of a hazard for cyclists) have now been removed. As part of the change Chris Peck of DC has been able to get cycle lanes added to Commercial Road and is looking to include a contra flow cycle lane in Custom House Quay to improve cycling accessibility around the harbour. For further details: [Weymouth Branch Line track removal](#). We'll also see improvements to Weymouth railway station forecourt for wayfinding and pathways to the town centre and sea front. For further details: [Weymouth Station Gateway](#). Also, Dorchester Rd cycle lanes have been widened to 2 metres

Dorchester

Highways England has approved funding for the proposed toucan crossing on the eastern arm of the A35 at Stadium Roundabout to be progressed to the detailed design phase in 2021/22. Construction is currently programmed in for 2022/23.

Bridport

East Road Roundabout Cycle Scheme, Burton Road Cycleway and the bridleway to West Bay surfacing works have all been completed. Sea Road South is next in line, part of the long-term project to connect Bridport with Maiden Newton along the old railway. Bridport Area Sustainable Travel Maps have been refreshed – paper copies from Bridport Tourist Information and interactive version at: [Bridport Interactive Sustainable Travel Map](#).

Maiden Newton

A new access link is being built at the station.

Next Liaison Meetings: 11th May (East), 21st September (West).

GLAUDAX
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SNIPPETS

Help – Captain & Editor Wanted

DCN is looking for a Facebook Captain and Newsletter Editor. Our facebook page needs a thorough refreshing with regular updates on campaign news to keep it relevant – ideally one person who can commit to take it over. Also, as riding and campaigning gets underway again (Covid permitting) this summer, the newsletter needs to restart, so we need an Editor who can collate one of these every 3 months. If interested in either role, contact Peter sec@dcn.org.uk in the first instance.

Vote for the PCC

Dorset is voting for a new Police & Crime Commissioner in May. Obviously vital that whoever is voted in as the new link between police and public is committed to making our roads safer for all vulnerable road users, including cyclists. Please contact the two candidates – David Sidwick and Patrick Canavan – and let them know how important this is.

<https://actionvisionzero.org/police-crime-commissioner-elections-may-2021/>

CouldUCycle2?

Know anyone who needs some encouragement to start or restart cycling? Dilys Gartside (registered cycle instructor as well as DCN member) is running three weekly courses from April, teaching basic cycling skills followed by a short ride on the North Dorset Trailway. Choose your own date and time. Contact Dilys: Cyclewisesouthampton@gmail.com 01258 860157.

New Cycle Tours Venture

Richard and Antony Evans, sons of DCN founder Michael Evans, have set up a new venture – see advert on page 2. *Glaudax Cycle Tours* offers six-day tours from the Chilterns to Snowdonia and back (c80 miles/day). See page 2 or go to: www.glaudax.co.uk. Michael is happy to take credit for inspiring them to embrace life on two wheels when they were boys and hopes they remember that when they make their first million!

News from Wimborne, Bm'th, Poole & Christchurch

The Transforming Travel project at Leigh Rd, Wimborne has started and the speed limit has been reduced to 30mph from 40, *writes Judy Windwood.*

There is a lot happening in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Any members in that council area may find it helpful to sign up for the transport emails from the council. There have been a number of consultations on transport recently. The latest is the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The Transforming Travel routes were also out to consultation and the latest proposals show revisions following the first proposals. BH Active Travel are heading up a lot of the campaigning in BCP and our members who use Facebook may find it helpful to join their page. I attended a Zoom meeting recently on the Transforming Travel route from Poole to Ferndown and Wimborne, with the chair of BH Active Travel and a representative from the Wessex Cycling UK group.

Judy is also looking for help with storing the DCN boards, which are handy for publicity at shows and events. If you have spare space where they could be stored, contact her on wimb@dcn.org.uk

Ferndown Congratulated

Ferndown's DCN group was congratulated by INEOS for completing the August/September 2020, which involved riding a total of 6895.84km (over 4300 miles)! The team participated also in several 'Keep Moving'" challenges during the pandemic lock-downs, including one running right now...Thanks for Thanos Varounis for the report.



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