

## COMMENT

# WATCH THIS SPACE

*The Space for Cycling campaign launched by CTC and local campaign groups has hit the ground running*

CTC CAMPAIGNS & POLICY DIRECTOR **ROGER GEFFEN** REPORTS



**THOUSANDS** of people have already emailed councillors throughout the UK urging them to create Space for Cycling. The campaign, which we previewed last issue, aims to normalise cycling, making it a safe, convenient and enjoyable option for people of any age or ability, for any local journey.

The national initiative builds on the London-focused Space for Cycling campaign, initiated by the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) in the run-up to the local elections in May. CTC has worked with LCC and other campaign groups to ensure the national campaign is effective in all parts of the UK.

## SPREADING THE WORD

CTC President Jon Snow presented a two-minute video to launch the campaign. This was shown to 250 delegates from local authorities, consultancies and other professionals involved in cycling at the CycleCity Expo conference in Leeds in May.

CTC has also published a short illustrated decision-makers' guide to Space for Cycling,

offering a clear view of what's required. Solutions include: protected space on or across main road corridors and junctions; various ways to reduce traffic volumes and speeds in town centres, on urban streets and rural lanes; and high-quality traffic-free routes.

## FINDING THE FUNDING

The guide also suggests how councillors can find the funding, including ways to maximise the opportunities from new developments and their planned road maintenance programmes. New York's Department of Transport introduced some great cycle facilities very cost-effectively by implementing them while carrying out planned resurfacing works. Plymouth City Council is copying their example in the UK.

Regrettably, cycling minister Robert Goodwill MP gave a disappointing keynote speech at the CycleCity Expo conference, offering no new funding. After the parliamentary Get Britain Cycling report last year had called for sustained funding for

cycling of at least £10 per person annually, Prime Minister David Cameron had said he wished to launch 'a cycling revolution'. His statement came with an announcement of funding for eight cycling cities and four national parks, amounting to £10 per person annually for just a tenth of Britain's population for two years only. But since then, the Government has announced a mere £30,000 of earmarked funding for cycling – to develop CTC's Fill that Hole pothole-reporting website and smartphone apps.

We await the rest of the Government's 'cycling revolution'. But by identifying cycle-friendly councillors, we hope the Space for Cycling campaign will help us find allies who can press their respective political parties to make properly-funded commitments to cycle-friendly planning and design in general election manifestos.

## GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNING

The campaign also aims to strengthen local cycle campaign groups and help new ones form; see p60 for inspiration. To get in touch with your local campaign group, or for help forming one, email [righttoride@ctc.org.uk](mailto:righttoride@ctc.org.uk).

By the time you read this, Big Rides calling for Space for Cycling will have taken place in London, Sheffield, Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle, on the final Saturday before the local elections.

The inaugural Space for Cycling campaigners' conference, which was held the day after the CycleCity Expo in Leeds in May, will be followed by another in Birmingham on 14 June – see [ctc.org.uk/local-cycle-campaigning](http://ctc.org.uk/local-cycle-campaigning). Further events are planned.

## TAKE PART

Ask your local councillors to support Space for Cycling, and see Jon Snow's video, at [space4cycling.org.uk](http://space4cycling.org.uk). For more on the campaign, see [ctc.org.uk/space4cycling](http://ctc.org.uk/space4cycling).



Big Rides calling for more Space for Cycling took place ahead of local elections

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