



Press Release

Saturday 22nd April 2017 (Embargo to 00:01am)

Election candidates and cyclists gather today to support Space for Cycling

Today, Oxfordshire will see a mass gathering of cyclists and supporters, and candidates for the County Council elections, to support Space for Cycling. The gathering is at 2pm at County Hall, Oxford. Members of the 29 cycling and supportive organisations in the Oxfordshire Cycling Network will promote their vision for a Strategic Cycle Network for Oxfordshire. Candidates representing all four political parties on the current Council are planning to speak, in a revival for “soap box democracy”.

This event is one of 16 across the UK to mark International Earth Day and to show incoming politicians the strength of public support for cycling.

More than 11 Cycling groups will be riding in to the event from across the County. Six groups will ride in from towns across the county: BikeSafe, the B4044 campaign group from Eynsham and Botley, Farcycles from Faringdon, CTC Wallingford, Cycling UK Wantage, the Windrush Bike Project from Witney, and Isis Cyclists, the Oxford-based women’s group will ride a long loop out from Headington to Great Milton, and back to the city. Oxford Cycling UK will be guiding rides in from all five of Oxford’s Park and Ride sites, to demonstrate the practicalities of ‘Park and Pedal’.

Other cyclists and groups will be coming from other towns and villages. Some, including members of Cyclox and the Oxford Civic Society, will have a shorter journey, riding or walking across the city.

They will be joined by election candidates from all parties on the current Council, some of who will be riding in. Confirmed speakers (in alphabetical order) are:

- Suzanne Bartington, Conservative candidate for Witney North and East, riding in with the Windrush group.
- Hazel Dawe, Green Party candidate for Cowley
- Helen Evans, Labour candidate for Iffley Fields and St. Mary's
- David Grant, Liberal Democrat candidate for Faringdon, riding in with the Farcycles group
- David Williams, Green Party candidate for Iffley Fields and St. Mary's

“Our proposal for a county-wide cycling network has had a fantastic response from the public and from local politicians across the political spectrum,” said Robin Tucker, Chair of the Oxfordshire Cycling Network. “So many people and politicians can see the potential for cycling to improve health,



the environment and transport across our county. We have given them both the opportunity to express their support, both in person at this event, and electronically through Cycling UK's Vote Bike web page. I think this brings back some of the engaging aspects of democracy we are at risk of losing, by linking local elections to something with such great public enthusiasm as cycling."

Simon Hunt of Cyclox said: "Since launching our vision of an all ages, all abilities cycle network, we have had a huge positive response from Faringdon to Thame and from Witney to Wallingford. Now we are asking our future Councillors to support this wide desire and help turn it into reality."

John Tranter, Chair of Cycling UK Wantage, and Bursar of St. Cross College, Oxford said: "Yesterday, the Government launched their Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. This clearly puts the onus on Councils to act and gain the well-recognised health and economic benefits of high levels of cycling. It's great to see that 25 candidates from 5 parties have already expressed their support, so early in the campaign."

Kath Cochrane of the Windrush Bike Project noted: "In Oxfordshire, there are 140,000 adults of voting age who cycle, and many more who would if they felt safer. That's an average of at least 2300 per Division, and enough to shift the outcome in almost every seat on the Council. We're helping these people to give their local politicians a strong mandate to create space for safe and practical cycling."

Candidates are invited to register their support, and Voters will be able to look up which of their candidates has supported Space for Cycling through www.cyclinguk.org/votebike .

About the event: <http://cyclingukoxfordshire.org/rides-and-events/space-for-cycling-campaign-event/>

About the Oxfordshire campaign: <http://cyclingukoxfordshire.org/campaign/>

Oxfordshire Cycling Network's proposed Strategic Cycle Network for Oxfordshire: cyclingukoxfordshire.org/strategic-cycle-network

Candidates who have already expressed their support for Space for Cycling

(In order of electoral Division)

Name	Division	Party
Sarah Haydon	Bicester Town	Labour
Robert Nixon	Bicester Town	Green
Hazel Dawe	Cowley	Green
Denise Macdonald	Didcot East and Hagbourne	Labour
David Grant	Faringdon	Liberal Democrat
Liam Walker	Hanborough and Minster Lovell	Conservative
Roz Smith	Headington and Quarry	Liberal Democrat
David Williams	Iffley Fields and St. Mary's	Green
Helen Evans	Iffley Fields and St. Mary's	Labour
Bob Johnston	Kennington and Radley	Liberal Democrat
Catharine Arakelian	Kidlington South	Labour
Deborah McIlveen	Leys	Labour
Dickie Bird	Ploughley	UKIP
Gill Sanders	Rose Hill and Littlemore	Labour
James Fry	St. Margaret's	Labour
John Howson	St. Margaret's	Liberal Democrat
David Bailey	Thame and Chinnor	Labour
Sue Roberts	Wallingford	Green
Suzanne Bartington	Witney North and East	Conservative
Stuart Macdonald	Witney North and East	Green
Christopher Blount	Witney West and Bampton	Liberal Democrat

A further press release confirming which candidates have registered their support for Space for Cycling will be issued after the event and closer to the 4th May election date.



Contact and organisation information

Oxfordshire Cycling Network

OCN brings together people from 29 cycling and supportive organisations across the county to work towards better facilities and more cycling in Oxfordshire. OCN supports the 170,000 cyclists in the county and the 460,000 who would cycle if it were safe, convenient and pleasant.

Contact: Robin Tucker, OCN@cyclinguksouthoxfordshire.org, 07901 622622

Cyclox

Cyclox is the voice of cycling in Oxford. It works to improve facilities for cycling in the city, and to encourage positive relations between people on cycles, pedestrians and other road users

Contact: Simon Hunt, contact@cyclox.org, 07989 869995

Bike Safe

Bike Safe campaigns for better cycling and walking facilities, with a main objective of creating a community path alongside the B4004 to link Eynsham and Farmoor with Botley and Oxford.

Contact: Ian Leggett, ianleggett27@gmail.com, 07880 652207

Farcycles

Farcycles is the Faringdon-based cycling group famous for their Follyfest sportive ride every July.

Contact: Mark Harrison, farcycles@gmail.com, 07525 452220

HarBUG

HarBUG is the Harwell Campus Bicycle Users Group. It works to make it easier to cycle to the Campus and to improve facilities for cyclists and cycling on the site.

Contact: Kevin Wilkinson, chairman@harbug.org.uk, 01235 778241

Windrush Bike Project

Windrush Bike Project is community interest company based in Witney, bringing together cycle training, maintenance, campaigning and culture. Its 'Open Workshop' will be officially opened by the Mayor of Witney on 25th March 2017.

Contact: Brigitte Hickman, brigitte@windrushbikeproject.uk, 07707 433771

Cycling UK

Cycling UK is the national cycling organisation, formerly known as the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC). It has championed the cause of cycling since 1878, and the local group in Oxfordshire has been riding since 1924.

Contact: Robin Tucker, Secretary@cyclinguksouthoxfordshire.org, 07901 622622

Space for Cycling

Space for Cycling is the national campaign to create the conditions where anyone can cycle anywhere. It was originally created by the London Cycling Campaign, and taken nationally by Cycling UK and Cyclenation.

<http://www.cyclinguk.org/campaign/space-for-cycling>