

## **Press Release**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 (Immediate release)**

### **Election candidates speak to nearly 200 cyclists at Space for Cycling rally in Oxford**

A crowd of nearly 200 cyclists gathered outside County Hall yesterday to hear what candidates from all four political parties in the current County Council had to say about Space for Cycling. 36 candidates have now registered or expressed their support for Space for Cycling.



*One candidate talks to the assembly of cyclists, while others look on. (Photo: Robin Tucker)*

"It's great to see 'soap box democracy' back in action," said Robin Tucker, Chair of the Oxfordshire Cycling Network who organised the event. "We've given candidates a platform to talk about an important local topic where the County Council exerts real control. We've brought together an audience of nearly 200 cyclists and supporters from every District in the county, as far afield as Faringdon, Wallingford and Witney. The nine candidates who spoke really got their message across, they recognised the importance of enabling more people to choose cycling in safety, and set out what their priorities would be if they got elected."

Robin Tucker started by reminding the assembly of the potential benefits of cycling, as set out in the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy that the UK Government's Department of Transport had launched the day before<sup>1</sup>. "If we can increase levels of walking and cycling, the benefits are substantial. For people, it means cheaper travel and better health. For businesses, it means increased productivity and increased footfall in shops. And for society as a whole it means lower congestion, better air quality, and vibrant, attractive places and communities."

He outlined the pivotal role that Oxfordshire County Council plays in gaining those benefits for the residents of the county. "We need the Council to do three things. To **Plan, Invest and Build Space for Cycling**. So we want more Councillors supporting cycling, and with the clear strong mandate that comes from the crowd here today and thousands of others beside them."

Simon Hunt, Chair of Cyclox asked people to '**Vote Bike**'. "Check Cycling UK's Vote Bike web page to find which of your local candidates support Space for Cycling<sup>2</sup>, and then 'Vote Bike!'"

Nine candidates from four political parties then address the group. They talked about their views of the importance of cycling and how to improve conditions for cycling. Some focused on the benefits of cycling, like the health benefits. Others focused on the routes themselves, the danger of potholes and the need for high quality tracks separate from motor traffic if we are to realise the full benefits of cycling.

The speakers, in order of appearance were:

- Helen Evans, Labour candidate for Iffley Fields and St. Mary's, who took a break from a friend's wedding and cycled across Oxford to speak.
- David Grant, Liberal Democrat candidate for Faringdon, who rode in with the Farcycles group.
- Councillor David Williams, Green Party candidate for Iffley Fields and St. Mary's and leader of the Green group in the current Council.
- Dr. Suzanne Bartington, Conservative candidate for Witney North and East, who in with the Windrush group. As a medical doctor, she emphasised the importance of health benefits.
- Hazel Dawe, Green Party candidate for Cowley, a passionate advocate for sustainable transport.
- Councillor John Howson, candidate for the Liberal Democrats in St. Margaret's, Oxford who explained how Liberal Democrats on the current Council were working for cycling.
- Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Labour candidate for Wolvercote and Summertown, and President of Wadham College Student's Union.
- Judy Roberts, Liberal Democrat candidate for North Hinksey, who spoke of her support for the B4044 community path
- Tim Bearder, Liberal Democrat candidate for Eynsham, who spoke of the urgent need to act and improve routes for cyclists.

Three further candidates were also present to show their support for Space for Cycling.

- Peter Coggins, Liberal Democrat candidate for Churchill and Lye Valley
- Denise Macdonald, Labour candidate for Didcot East and Hagbourne
- Pam Siggers, Labour candidate for Didcot Ladygrove

## Candidates who have registered their support for Space for Cycling with Cycling UK

(Revised. In order of electoral Division. Candidates can register at [bit.ly/2ohPp79](http://bit.ly/2ohPp79))

Name	Division	Party
Emily Smith	Abingdon North	Liberal Democrat
Paul Austin Sargent	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	Conservative
Christopher Manley	Banbury Ruscote	Green
Glynis Phillips	Barton, Sandhills and Risinghurst	Labour
Robert Nixon	Bicester Town	Green
Sarah Haydon	Bicester Town	Labour
Chris Tatton	Bicester West	Liberal Democrat
Steve Dawe	Churchill and Lye Valley	Green
Hazel Dawe	Cowley	Green
Denise Macdonald	Didcot East and Hagbourne	Labour
Timothy Eden	Didcot West	Green
David Grant	Faringdon	Liberal Democrat
Roz Smith	Headington and Quarry	Liberal Democrat
Stephen Webb	Hendreds and Harwell	Labour
Helen Evans	Iffley Fields and St. Mary's	Labour
David Williams	Iffley Fields and St. Mary's	Green
Bob Johnston	Kennington and Radley	Liberal Democrat
Catharine Arakelian	Kidlington South	Labour
Al Morris	Marston and Northway	Green
Dickie Bird	Ploughley	UKIP
Gill Sanders	Rose Hill and Littlemore	Labour
Sarah Church	Shrivenham	Labour
John Howson	St. Margaret's	Liberal Democrat
David Bailey	Thame and Chinnor	Labour
Sue Roberts	Wallingford	Green
Stuart Macdonald	Witney North and East	Green
Suzanne Bartington	Witney North and East	Conservative

## Candidates who notified OCN of their support, but not yet registered

(In order of electoral Division. Candidates can register at [bit.ly/2ohPp79](http://bit.ly/2ohPp79))

Name	Division	Party
Peter Coggins	Churchill and Lye Valley	Liberal Democrat
Denise Macdonald	Didcot East and Hagbourne	Labour
Pam Siggers	Didcot Ladygrove	Labour
Tim Bearder	Eynsham	Liberal Democrat
Liam Walker	Hanborough and Minster Lovell	Conservative
Deborah McIlveen	Leys	Labour
James Fry	St. Margaret's	Labour
Christopher Blount	Witney West and Bampton	Liberal Democrat
Lucas Bertholdi-Saad	Wolvercote and Summertown	Labour



## Notes

Photographs of the event available from [OCN@cyclingukoxfordshire.org](mailto:OCN@cyclingukoxfordshire.org)

A further press release confirming which candidates have registered their support for Space for Cycling will be issued closer to the 4<sup>th</sup> May election date and voters will be able to see the list at [www.cyclinguk.org/votebike](http://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](http://cyclingukoxfordshire.org/strategic-cycle-network)

## 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@cyclingukoxfordshire.org](mailto:OCN@cyclingukoxfordshire.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chairman@harbug.org.uk), 01235 778241



### **Windrush Bike Project**

Windrush Bike Project is a 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Contact: Brigitte Hickman, [brigitte@windrushbikeproject.uk](mailto: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@cyclingukoxfordshire.org](mailto:Secretary@cyclingukoxfordshire.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>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cyclinguk.org/votebike](http://www.cyclinguk.org/votebike)