



# CycleReading

WORKING FOR A CYCLE FRIENDLY READING

[www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk](http://www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk)

Autumn 2025 No 167

## Community Bike Hub Opens in Reading

Reading Bike Hub is an exciting grassroots project which aims to make cycling more accessible, affordable, and inclusive across Reading.

It's part of a broader movement to support active travel and climate-conscious transport.

### What It Offers

- Affordable bike repairs and servicing
- A bike library with long-term loans, especially for children's bikes that grow with them
- Workshops on bike maintenance, learn-to-ride sessions and repair cafés
- A family-friendly space with toys and balance bike courses for young children

The Bike Hub is located near the George Hotel in central Reading

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and is designed to be welcoming to all, especially families and those new to cycling. Explore or

support the project on Reading Bike Hub's crowdfunding page: <https://tinyurl.com/yebnkkzd>

# Campaign News



## Reading Borough Council (RBC)

### Autumn 2025 Report

#### Active Travel Task and Finish Group

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, RBC has set up a Task and Finish Group to review progress with the Council's Active Travel schemes. RBC has expressed thanks to those that have responded to their questionnaire about this.

The next steps include meetings with other Councils to discuss their experience, as well as meeting with RCC to firm up on ideas on how this group will take this forward.

#### Shinfield Road - Active Travel Tranche 2

RBC and Thames Water carried out works in May to fix the drainage issues at the Shinfield Green junction which were causing the cycle lanes to be flooded. Lining has now been completed on the remaining sections of the route. There are, however, no cycle lane signs on poles as yet.

#### Bath Road and Castle Hill - Active Travel Tranche 3

RBC has been reviewing key elements of the design of the scheme to minimise costly road works, especially changes to traffic signals at the Castle Hill/IDR roundabout, as well as the junction of Bath Road with Coley Avenue.

More work is being undertaken on traffic modelling and scheme design, to be followed by engagement with RCC and wider public consultation.

#### Palmer Park to Woodley Cycle Scheme

Although this is a WBC scheme, there is a small section of route within RBC's area. This has been subject to local consultation and has been approved by RBC with construction due to commence later this year. The

scheme includes a parallel cycle/zebra crossing on Palmer Park Avenue with the footway under the bridges on Palmer Park Avenue/Culver Lane widened to provide an off-road cycle path.

#### A33 Kennet Bridge

Works are continuing on the Council's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme on the A33, which includes the installation of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Kennet to allow for a new bus lane. Whilst this doesn't provide any new cycle routes as it replaces what is there already, RBC is taking the opportunity to provide enhanced cycle facilities as part of this project.

This is an important link in the cycle network south of Reading, linking routes from the town centre heading southwards, as well as National Cycle Network routes 4 and 23. The new bridge will open when the full scheme is completed later this summer/early autumn.

#### Orbit Bridge Refurbishment Kennetside

The Orbit Bridge on Kennetside, behind Queen's Road car park, was closed in early July due to maintenance issues. Reading have recently announced £560k funding to carry out works to reopen the bridge. We were hoping that the works could have included widening this very narrow bridge to make it accessible for all, including cyclists.

An upgraded bridge would provide a convenient route for cyclists from Kennetside heading towards the town centre and station via Abbey Gateway instead of Market Place. However, the available funding only extends to replacing the bridge on a like-for-like basis, rather than a widened, upgraded structure.

#### Roads Resurfacing Programme

The Council is continuing with its 2-year main roads resurfacing programme. As part of this work, existing on-carriageway cycle lane markings are being reviewed, to ensure the renewed markings are fit for purpose and meet the latest design guidance.

The resurfacing programme has included cycle lanes on Silver Street/Mount Pleasant and

Southampton Street, which has provided a significant improvement to the surface and ride for these sections of road. Both roads now include markings for a mandatory cycle lane as well as double yellow lines.

This means that enforcement against parked vehicles can be undertaken by both the Council's Parking team as well as the Police. Other recently completed schemes include Greyfriars Road and Oxford Road.

#### Street Pods Cycle Parking

RBC have funded 36 street pod cycle parking stands which have been installed at different locations across the town centre on a trial basis.

These are different to the usual Sheffield cycle parking stands as they wrap around the front wheel of a bike, which means that cyclists should only need one lock to secure their bike. Unlike Sheffield stands, they are capable of being moved, so the Council is interested in any feedback, good or bad, or suggestions for different locations to [transport@reading.gov.uk](mailto:transport@reading.gov.uk).

#### Cycle Hangars

RBC is proposing a similar trial of several cycle hangars to provide secure on-street cycle storage in residential streets, such as terraced housing or where there are no other suitable cycle parking spaces. Funding has been secured to trial four cycle hangars and consideration is now being given as to how the sites will be chosen.

#### Public Space Protection Order

RBC is looking to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the town to deal with the various issues of anti-social behaviour that aren't presently enforced by the Police, which would include restrictions on 'dangerous' use of e-bikes.

Naturally, we are concerned about possible further restrictions on cycle use in the town centre, especially as a few schemes in other towns have been very restrictive.

Some issues remain unclear, such as what defines anti-social behaviour, how this will be enforced, or if cycles and e-scooters will also be targeted. We are seeking to meet with RBC to discuss the proposals.

# Campaign News

## Future Meetings

We have regular informal meetings with RBC officers to discuss progress on the various schemes and initiatives that are on-going. If there are any suggestions or queries from members, we would be happy to raise them at these meetings.

The next formal meeting is the Cycle Forum on 4 September, and the Clean Air and Sustainable Transport forum (CAST) is on 2 December.

**Tony Carr**  
*RBC Campaigner for RCC*



## West Berkshire Council (WBC)

### Autumn 2025 Report

The next West Berks Cyle Forum will be on Wednesday 24 September.

If there are any matters you would like raised at the Forum contact [wbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk](mailto:wbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk)

### Theale Green Roundabout

Last December a cyclist was knocked down and badly injured at this roundabout. RCC contacted WBC and Olivia Bailey MP about our concerns about this junction.

WBC has arranged additional counts of cycle and pedestrian movements over a 7-day period at the A4/A340 roundabout on the west side of Theale.

This count data, together with information from CrashMap <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> and assessment of the site, has helped inform a note with outline proposals focused on vulnerable users.

This internal note is with the Principal Engineer in Traffic & Road Safety team, who will consider and discuss the next steps.

## Streets Ahead Podcast

The excellent Streets Ahead podcast covers a variety cycling related topics. Recent podcasts have focused on the

spending review, e-bikes and an interview with Melissa Bruntlett about her new book, 'Women Changing Cities: Global Stories of Urban Transformation':

<https://tinyurl.com/ympa7xse>

## West Berkshire Spokes' Cycle Count

In July West Berkshire Spokes published the results of their cycle counts.

They counted cyclists passing 17 locations in Newbury, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Purley, Theale and Hungerford, between 7am-9am in summer and 7.30am-9.30am in autumn/winter.

The counts are mostly based around schools, but also take place at busy junctions, town centres and in parks.

Full details and analysis can be found on the West Berkshire Spokes website: <https://www.westberkshirespokes.org>

## West Berkshire Draft Transport Plan

WBC has developed a draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) Strategy Document covering the period up to



2039. It is set to replace the existing LTP3, adopted in 2011.

Details of LTP4 can be viewed on the Council's website: <https://tinyurl.com/47p65bay>

WBC is proposing a merger with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils, so the document may become redundant.

**Rob Hill**  
*WBC Campaigner for RCC*



## Wokingham Borough Council (WoBC)

### Autumn 2025 Report

### Woodley Active Travel Scheme

### Palmer Park Avenue Parallel Crossing Consultation Results

At a meeting of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee on Wednesday 11 June, the consultation response and recommendations were discussed.

It was agreed to recommend the implementation of the changes on Palmer Park Avenue and Wykeham Road Junction.

This will make up part of the new cycle route connecting Woodley Town Centre and Palmer Park and includes an upgrade to the existing shared footway/cycleway sections, junction upgrades and priority crossing points.

More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/y39j37ct>

## Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

Road closures for regular public events, including the Wokingham Bikeathon, are being encapsulated in a single Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), currently out for consultation until the end of August.

More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/28peyztb>

## New Active Travel Design Standards

Wokingham will shortly adopt new Active Travel Design standards, with the cycling standards being based on and compliant with LTN 1/20 design.

This will be the future standard for all cycle projects in the borough going forward, which is a big step and will stop the implementation of poorly designed infrastructure which does nothing to help increase cycling levels.



# Campaign News

## Finchampstead Roundabout Listed For An Award

The controversial new 'leafy playground' roundabout in Finchampstead, which made national headlines earlier in the year, has been listed for a national award.

The noise associated with the design seems to be settling; however, it will

remain a social media lightning rod, and ultimately it will be the data on its safety and effectiveness which will decide if it has been a success or not. More information at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mt789xfm>

## New Speed Limits

New 30mph speed limits have come into force on many sections of road

across the borough. Most of these limits came down from 40mph to 30mph, which is a step in the right direction.

More information at:

<https://tinyurl.com/sfbdpyzh>

Alex Cran

WoBC Campaigner for RCC



## RCC will be having a stall at the Reading Cycle Festival

*at Christchurch Meadows*

Sunday 14 September 11am to 4pm

Now's your chance to drop by and have a word with members of the committee, and persuade other cyclists to join the RCC!

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**cycling**  
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**For ride information visit: [www.cyclingukreading.org.uk/rides](http://www.cyclingukreading.org.uk/rides)**

Or contact Sel Dixon, the club secretary: [secretary@cyclingukreading.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cyclingukreading.org.uk)  
Phone or text: 07867 442046

[www.facebook.com/cyclingukreading](https://www.facebook.com/cyclingukreading)

# Kidical Mass Autumn 2025 Report

## Routes and Rides

May's ride took place at the University of Reading Community Festival. We had a special and unexpected guest, Yuan Yang, MP for Woodley and Earley. I had a chance to speak briefly with her about the need for child friendly cycling infrastructure.

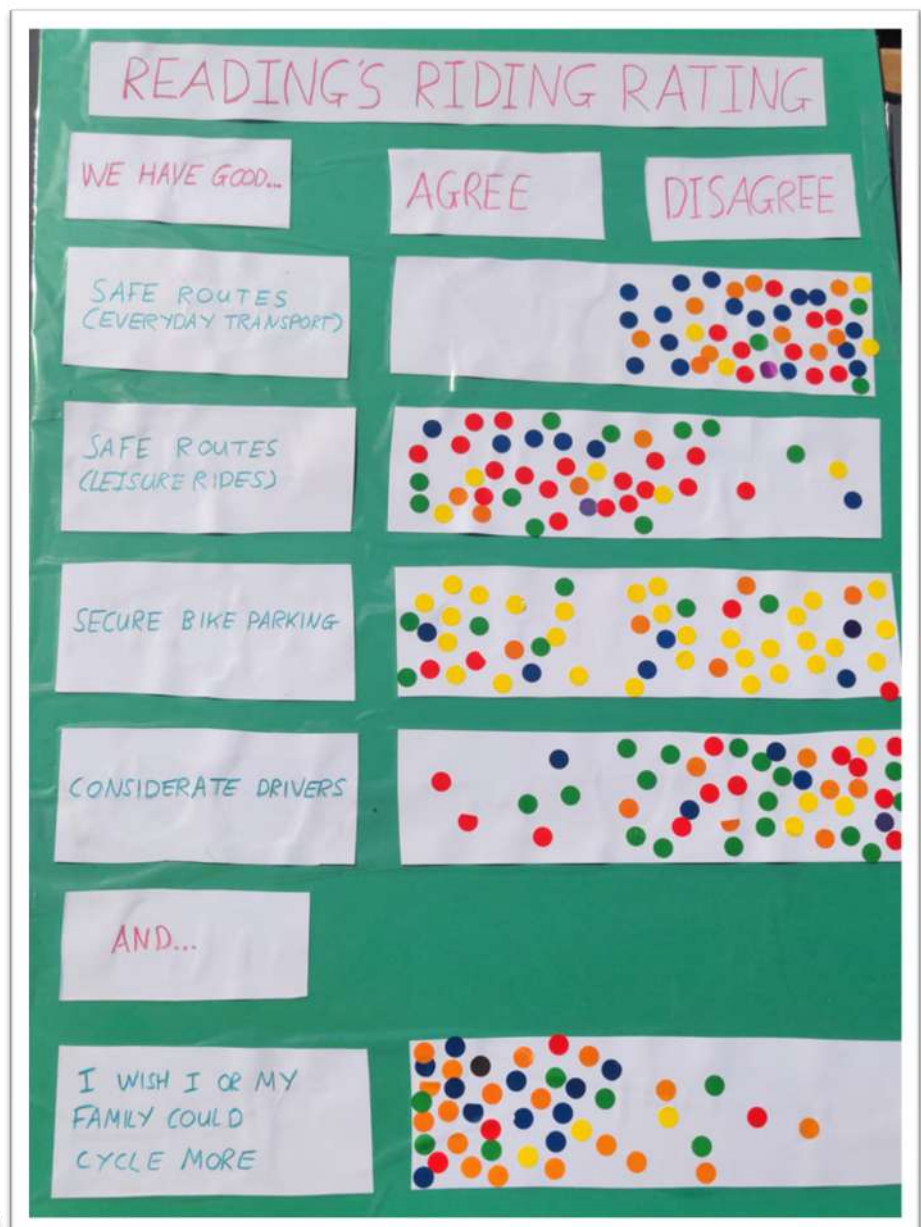
Yuan Yang commented, "When it comes to urban planning, children are the canaries in the coal mine."

We agree - a city that works for children works for everyone. We loved having Yuan on the ride - all councillors, MPs and TVP are welcome to join us on our rides to see the reality of cycling for Reading's children.

The ride itself was great fun, and our marshals were rather more relaxed than usual - the university site has low speed limits on the roads, and many car-free bike paths, which is great for small children.

Kidical Mass also conducted a dot survey at the festival. The answers told a clear story that, although we have some nice cycle paths in Reading, what we don't have is a safe and connected network of routes. Especially for children, an entire route can be made unusable by a bad junction.

We could also see that poor driving is perceived as a problem, and the provision of bike parking is an issue for some. Almost everyone wanted to be able to ride their bikes more.



Perhaps if we can get safe connections built between the existing cycle paths, and tame and contain cars, we can make that dream a reality.

Recently we have been speaking to Cllr Karen Rowland about a PSPO that is being considered to address (among other things) anti-social cycling, trying to ensure the wording doesn't have unintended consequences for those cycling respectfully.

We also talked about how the Council might address poor driving. She made it clear that the volume of complaints received is a factor that drives action.

So for all those who report instances of poor driving and parking, thank you - you are helping to make a safer Reading for our children. And to everyone who joins us at our rides - thank you, you help to amplify our voice.

In terms of dates for the calendar, we have Kidical Mass rides coming up as follows:

- Sunday 14 September (Reading Cycle Festival)
- Sunday 19 October Reading
- Sunday 26 October Wokingham
- Sunday 7 December Christmas Rides both Reading and Wokingham

Hilary Smart



# Chairman's Letter

Dear RCC members

Since the last newsletter, RBC, in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership, have announced that they are planning to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) into the town.

These are intended to tackle four separate categories of nuisance: begging, on street drinking, dog fouling, and anti-social behaviour by people using e-bikes and e-scooters.

It is this last category that has caused a great deal of concern amongst our cycling community. So much so that it is difficult to set out a balanced view that does not offend one party or another to the debate.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) are behind this move as they feel they need extra powers to address the anti-social behaviour of some users of e-bikes.

The PSPO would give them the ability to hand out fixed penalty notices rather than go through the long process of arrest and prosecution. I am told that if Councillors' inboxes are to be believed, e-bikes are one of the things most complained about by residents.

The enforcement of this aspect of the PSPO would be down to TVP and there is obviously some concern about whether they have the resources to do the job. However, it would not be part of the remit of Council Officers,

or of the Reading BID wardens who currently patrol the town centre.

The big problem as many cyclists see it is how anti-social behaviour will be defined and how much latitude the police will have in deciding what it is and what it is not.

Another real concern comes from the fact that some other Councils, e.g. Hull, have used PSPOs to enforce cycling bans in town centres and this has led to disproportionate fines for trivial infractions of the rules.

With regulations of this sort, there is always the possibility that they will in practice be used in situations for which they were never intended.

The Council is making it clear, through their Lead Councillor for Community Safety Karen Rowland, that putting any extra restrictions on cycling in the town is not and has never been their intention.

There is, at the time of writing, an ongoing consultation process which involves filling in a rather simple questionnaire, but Cllr. Rowland has been very open about talking to the RCC and listening to our concerns.

However, it is the vagueness of the wording of the PSPO as presented to the Council Committee, and especially some of the examples which are given online, which give cause for concern.

It is certainly very good that through the consultation process, these

concerns are being heard, and the wording of the PSPO is in the process of being tightened up.

The PSPO was sent back for clarification by the committee and Council Officers and TVP will be working on this after the consultation has ended.

It remains to be seen what the final wording of the orders will be, but the position of the RCC is clear.

On the one hand we do not condone anti-social behaviour by any cyclist, no matter what style of bike they ride, but we will lobby very strongly to ensure that all current levels of cycle access are maintained and improved.

When the current consultation is completed in September, the revised PSPO will be brought back to committee, probably in December, for final approval.

We are pleased that the Council has reached out to us and has taken our concerns seriously, but we will be keeping in close touch with them and hopefully with TVP as well, before the final wording is agreed.

**Joe Edwards**  
RCC Chairman  
(chair@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk)

*N.B. Consultation on the proposed PSPO closes on 7 September:*  
<https://tinyurl.com/4zcfy7k> - Editor.

## risc

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## Need your bike repaired? Don't have the time or tools to do it yourself?

*Wheel building and truing a speciality.*

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### 0118 958 2056

or email [bobbristow.bikes@gmail.com](mailto:bobbristow.bikes@gmail.com)

*for cycle repairs at a very reasonable price.*

# Letter to the Editor

*In our last newsletter (Summer 2025) our Chairman Joe Edwards wondered whether we should campaign for regular testing of drivers to try to improve road safety.*

*At the time of writing this newsletter a major local news story was the jailing of Brendan Banham for driving a motor vehicle dangerously (in Reading) whilst disqualified.*

*Long time RCC member **Graham Bates** shared his views with us on both these topics - Editor.*

Death and injury from bad drivers were opined over by our dear leader Chairman Joe in the previous issue.

In his final paragraph he wrote: "Maybe we should campaign for regular testing for drivers..."

For some learners, that is already the case. More than a thousand took more than 10 attempts to pass the test from 2004 to 2013 in the West Midlands.

Seventy attempted to pass the practical test more than 20 times.

Aren't you worried that they all eventually passed? And this was just the West Midlands.

And these are just the legal ones, let alone those like brazen idiot Brendan Banham, 22, of Hermitage, who has just got a whole nine months inside and a 24-month driving ban for driving dangerously, while disqualified and without third-party insurance (so he kinda already was banned! And wouldn't he be unable to find affordable insurance anyway when he's out?).

TVP has a video of the chase. Have a look and be grateful you weren't also in it, cycling.

My solution for Joe: the driving test is a misnomer. It should be completely restructured and renamed: "Use-of-the-road test".

Before the practical, learners should pass a cycling exam and all the theory for using the road. The only get-out clause is a disability, with a doctor's note.

After all, any fool can drive, as Banham proves (except, of course,



*Someone having a driving test*

those fools who still can't after 10 tries).

When I learnt to drive, the instructor didn't need to teach me how to turn right. I already knew having been taught it in cycling proficiency lessons aged 10.

OK, he needed to teach me the "mirror, signal" routine, but I knew where to position myself and, yes, when to signal. How to use the road.

Twenty years ago, the Transport Select Committee investigated testing because novice drivers were crashing, killing and dying too much.

So I wrote to the then Transport Secretary Gwyneth Dunwoody with my ideas, and I'm looking at her signed, creamy-coloured reply as I write this.

While she was "grateful for your thoughts, which I will keep in mind", the upshot of the committee's report was not much, and she died anyway.

The driving test has been revised, but surely a 'using-the-road' exam before learners get behind the wheel kills many birds with one stone.

Not only would it educate better, it would oblige learners to understand the risks they pose, motivate them to get off their lazy backsides and instil the notion that there is an alternative

to cars as well as prevent a hell of a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

But what do you think? Is it nuts or something the campaign can get behind?

Unlike Joe, however, I think attitudes have improved somewhat, despite a remaining mad petrolhead culture, evidenced in Reading by midnight racing round the IDR and ridiculous "meets" in car parks, sometimes "patrolled" by our traffic police with an admiring wink.

I believe it is nevertheless generally accepted that cycling is naturally a risky behaviour and if you do it and suffer, it's partly your fault.

Decades ago, I asked my late mum: "Whatever happened to Dave the Milkman?" (a top, rugged-featured, sleeves-rolled-up-in-all-weather bloke with a lovely home and family who let us boys ride a while on the back of his electric trailer-float at his speediest of walking paces between drops when women met him at the door in their nylon negligées).

She wasn't at all callous, but she replied matter-of-factly: "He got run over by a lorry on the High Road going home on his bike."

**Graham Bates**

# The National Trust Wants Us!

The National Trust recently launched a 'Cyclists Welcome' project, led by the Trust's active travel advocate **Zsolt Schuller**.

The project aims to make cycling to Trust properties easier and more enjoyable. (We hope this also means safer and more accessible!)

Unsurprisingly, most people drive to Trust properties. This does not align with the Trust's mission to protect the environment.

By supporting cycling, the Trust wants to help reduce emissions, ease pressure on car parks, make properties and places accessible to those who don't own cars and, of course, make visiting more fun!

The 'Cyclists Welcome' project was the brainchild of Huw Davies, the National Trust Head of Data. In the summer of 2022, he took a sabbatical and spent the summer cycling to over 600 National Trust properties.

At each of the properties he visited he did a bit of mystery shopping, recording his experience of arriving as a cycling visitor.

Huw's experiences highlighted that the Trust was inconsistent in welcoming cycling visitors. There was poor information and cycle parking was often hidden away or not fit for purpose.

Huw used this information to make the case for a role to create an improved and more consistent welcome to encourage more visitors, staff and volunteers to cycle to the properties and places in the Trust's care.

This new role was filled in June 2023 by Zsolt, a transport planner specialising in active transport.

Zsolt has been working to develop a fuller picture of the current cyclist experience and the potential that different places have to improve their 'welcome to cyclists'.

This might be through better pre-visit website information or improved cycle parking.

The Trust is currently in the 'test and learn' phase of the project and will be working to scale up across other



*Graphic created by RCC using CoPilot*

properties and places during the coming years.

The project is split into three components:

**Getting To** - Improving pre-visit information and where possible working with partners such as local highway authorities and others, including Sustrans and Active Travel England, to create high quality active travel connections to places in the Trust's care.

**Arriving At** - Installing secure cycle parking, opening new walking and cycle access points if possible and improving signage on properties.

In addition, it's about raising awareness of the needs of a cycling visitor amongst staff and volunteers. Some local authorities are supporting the Trust with this, for example by providing cycle parking and grants for new facilities.

**Now You're Here** - Around a dozen places have off-road multi-use trails, and some have cycle hire too. This is a

great opportunity for the Trust to offer leisure cycling in an inspiring environment and to become active in cycling advocacy.

Research shows that a positive leisure cycling experience can be a good first step back into everyday cycling.

Zsolt stressed that it is important to be clear that the project isn't going to be a quick fix and the Trust needs to collaborate with partners to identify funding to make improvements.

Teams on properties need support as they have lots to do and numerous priorities. The Trust is also working within the wider context of trying to improve their offer around broader sustainable travel.

## The RCC's Thoughts

Reading Cycle Campaign hopes this initiative supports people of all ages and levels of experience to have the opportunity to enjoy cycling as part of their National Trust visits.

This might be families with children, people using non-standard cycles or experienced cyclists wishing to pop in for coffee and cake.

Providing e-Bike charging facilities should also be considered. We appreciate this has some challenges; however, e-Bikes do allow more people to enjoy cycling longer and further, facilitate cycling with children on board, and are very popular with older cyclists! 😊

More than half of all National Trust properties are within four miles of a train station, so there is huge potential for integrated active travel. We just need train operators to offer more and better space for transporting bikes...

Overall, it is really good to see this bastion of conservation embracing the need for change in our travel choices. Let's hope more organisations and businesses feel inspired to follow this initiative as cyclists certainly mean business.



# The National Trust Wants Us!

## Your Chance To Meet Zsolt At The RCC AGM

Luckily for us, Zsolt, who previously lived and worked in Reading, has agreed to speak at the RCC AGM in October. Come along to hear more about the NT's plans and what's available locally.

Zsolt is also interested in hearing feedback on your experiences of cycling to National Trust properties. Send any comments to me at [publicity@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk](mailto:publicity@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk)

*Save the date:*

**Wed 15 October**  
**RCC AGM**  
**7pm @ RISC**

**with Guest Speaker**  
**Zsolt Schuller,**  
**the National Trust's**  
**Cyclists Welcome Manager**

You'll find out how the National Trust is embracing active travel as a key strategy to reduce car dependency and promote sustainability.

## National Trust Properties You Can Cycle To From Reading

- **Basildon Park** - A stunning 18th-century house set in 400 acres of parkland and woodland trails: <https://tinyurl.com/bsvju3py>
- **Greys Court** - A picturesque Tudor mansion with walled gardens and peaceful countryside walks: <https://tinyurl.com/ypsvkzk5>
- **Nuffield Place** - The former home of Lord Nuffield, founder of Morris Motors, preserved just as he left it: <https://tinyurl.com/2azyshnx>
- **Maidenhead & Cookham Commons** - Over 800 acres of meadows, woodlands, and riverbank trails: <https://tinyurl.com/ym95fx3u>
- **The Wyne** - A former Tudor palace with lakeside walks and ancient oak trees: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzm8cn6>

You can plan your trip using these maps and routes as shown via the chart at the bottom of the page.

## More Resources To Help You Further

**Reading Borough Council's Cycle Routes Map:** Offers downloadable and interactive maps showing cycle-friendly paths, gradients, and connections to key destinations—including National Trust properties like Basildon Park and Greys Court: <https://tinyurl.com/4caxdrh3>

**Sustrans National Trust Properties:** Here are some local National Trust properties you can reach via NCN routes or connected cycle paths: <https://tinyurl.com/4xy459e>

**Komoot's Top 10 Cycling Routes Around Reading:** Features detailed route breakdowns with elevation profiles, surface types, and user tips: <https://tinyurl.com/2yxtbzs6>

**Bikemap's Reading Cycling Trails:** Discover over 700 community-created routes, including loops to Basildon Park and The Wyne, with options for road, gravel, and leisure cycling: <https://web.bikemap.net/plan>

**Susan Children**  
*RCC Publicity Coordinator*

Property	NCN Route / Access Path	Notes
Basildon Park	NCN Route 4 via Pangbourne	Quiet lanes and Thames Path links make this a lovely ride west from Reading
Greys Court	NCN Route 5 to Henley-on-Thames, then local roads	Scenic countryside ride with some hills—worth it for the gardens!
Nuffield Place	NCN Route 5 + B-road connectors	Combine with Greys Court for a two-stop heritage loop
The Wyne	NCN Route 23 via Basingstoke	Longer ride but mostly quiet roads and canal towpaths
Maidenhead & Cookham Commons	NCN Route 4 eastbound	Flat and family-friendly, with riverside views and nature trails

# Cycling Organisations Around Reading



## Caversham Visually Impaired Pedallers

### Ride Tandem, Change Lives

Imagine the joy of cycling open roads, feeling the breeze, and sharing that freedom with someone who otherwise couldn't experience it.

That's the mission of Caversham Visually Impaired Pedallers (CViP) – a community-driven tandem cycling group that pairs sighted cyclists (pilots) with visually impaired stokers for monthly social rides around the Reading and Caversham area.

We're a small, friendly collective making a huge impact, but we need more volunteers!

If you're a confident road cyclist who can spare a few hours a month, becoming a tandem pilot or support rider is a rewarding way to give back. No special experience is needed (training provided) just a love of cycling, a steady hand, and a willingness to share the ride.

We're also welcoming visually impaired stokers (rear riders) who'd like to get out and enjoy the fresh air, camaraderie, and exhilaration of

tandem riding in a safe, supportive environment, with all the necessary training provided.

Whether you're an experienced road cyclist looking for a meaningful way to volunteer, or you know someone with a visual impairment eager to get pedalling, Caversham ViPs would love to hear from you. Let's get more people cycling – together.

P.S. As a side note: >80% of our stokers are women and >80% of our volunteers are men; we definitely need more female volunteers to support the riders. Last ride info: [~50km Ride @ avg 19km/h](#)

John McKnight 07810 531559  
[jj\\_mcknight@hotmail.com](mailto:jj_mcknight@hotmail.com)  
<https://tinyurl.com/3kasbw3s>

## Charlotte's Tandems

### Riding Together in Reading

We all love cycling, but for people with disabilities or additional needs, it can feel out of reach. That's where Charlotte's Tandems helps, by making the fun of cycling accessible to everyone.

**awcycles**

Proudly Supports  
Reading Cycle campaign

110 Henley Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 6DH  
0118 946 3050 | [info@awcycles.co.uk](mailto:info@awcycles.co.uk) | [awcycles.co.uk](http://awcycles.co.uk)



# Cycling Organisations Around Reading



The charity was inspired by Charlotte Reeves, a young girl with severe autism and learning difficulties. Her parents, Alex and Kate, discovered that cycling brought Charlotte joy, calm and connection. When she outgrew her tag-a-long bike, they took a leap of faith and purchased a tandem.

The experience was so positive that they began lending tandems to others with similar needs. The charity became official in 2011 and has since grown to include over 250 bikes nationwide, including right here in Reading.

As one volunteer shared: "Seeing someone ride for the first time with a big smile - there's nothing like it. You know you've helped unlock something special."

Our local volunteer is John Saunders, who coordinates loans of tandems and tag-a-long bikes. The best part? They're loaned out completely free of charge, for up to two months at a time.

One of the standout bikes in Reading, a Dutch-designed Copilot tandem, was donated by a local supporter. The bike has enabled families in Woodley to enjoy shared rides, including one with a visually impaired child.

If you'd like to borrow a bike, this is how it works:

1. Fill out a contact form on Charlotte's Tandems website
2. Get matched with a local volunteer
3. Provide evidence of disability and complete a borrower's form



4. Enjoy cycling—then return the bike in good condition for the next rider

The charity also welcomes volunteers to help support inclusive cycling.

Charlotte's Tandems is cycling at its most inclusive.

To learn more or get involved, visit <https://charlottestandems.weebly.com>, and for all the latest inspiring good news stories follow the Charlotte's Tandems Facebook page.

**Susan Children**  
*RCC Publicity Coordinator*

## Palmer Park Velo Club

Hello, I am Chloe, I took over as the Chair of the PPV Club in January and I have currently been faced with the task of trying to keep the club together, without a track!

The track has been closed since April and I still don't have a confirmed date for opening, very frustrating, but I am predicting things will be open by the start of September.

By this time I will be having a real push to bring everyone back together

and drum up some new members, so having a bit of info in your newsletter could be very helpful.

Palmer Park Velo is a racing cycling club for children aged from 8 to 18. We are based in Reading's outdoor velodrome at Palmer Park Stadium.

The club was formed in 1976 and now has over 120 members.

We offer fixed-wheel and freewheel training sessions every Saturday morning at the velodrome; we also run some mid-week training sessions.

As well as track cycling, we offer coaching in other cycling disciplines, including road racing, cyclocross and mountain biking at various locations throughout the year.

PPV encourages and supports children to partake in racing events locally and further afield.

Our rider ability varies from beginners to national and international standards. We are a friendly club run by British Cycling trained coaches.

New members are always welcome.

More information can be found on our website: <https://palmerparkvelo.net/>

**Chloe Cox, Club Chair**  
*Palmer Park Velo Club*

P.S. PPV are a great cycling junior club - my son raced with PPV all the way through his school years until going off to university. Although developing a taste for expensive sports bikes is probably the only downside!

**Tony Carr**  
*RBC Campaigner for RCC*





## Contact Us

readingcyclecampaign.org.uk  
facebook.com/ReadingCycleCampaign  
@rdgcyclecampaign.bsky.social

Chairman	<b>Joe Edwards</b> chair@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Secretary	<b>Keith Elliott</b> secretary@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Treasurer	<b>Brian Morley</b> treasurer@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Membership Secretary	<b>Keith Collyer</b> membership@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Publicity Coordinator	<b>Susan Children</b> publicity@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Events Coordinator	<b>Kat Heath</b> events@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Reading Campaigners	<b>Tony Carr &amp; John Lee</b> rbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Wokingham Campaigner	<b>Alex Cran</b> wokingham@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
West Berks Campaigner	<b>Rob Hill</b> wbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Newsletter Editor and Designer	<b>Alice Elliott</b> newsletter@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Website Manager	<b>Stuart Ward</b> webmaster@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
CUK Liaison	<b>Karen Robertson</b>
Newsletter Distribution	<b>Kat Heath and Nick Zealey</b>

**Next newsletter copy deadline: 1 November 2025**  
The newsletter is delivered electronically to RCC members.  
If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please email  
membership@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk

*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the Campaign.*

## Cycling Events

4 September @ 11:00 - 14:00  
Free Dr Bike Session in Reading

14 September @ 11:00 - 16:00  
Reading Cycle Festival at Christchurch Meadows

26 September @ 19:30 - 21:00  
Critical Mass - Cycle for Change

15 October @ 19:00 - 21:00  
AGM with Guest Speaker at RISC Reading

View more events on our Events page:  
<https://readingcyclecampaign.org.uk/events/>

## RCC's Monthly Meetings

7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month  
**Wed 15 Oct 2025 - AGM**  
**Thurs 20 Nov 2025 - cttee mtg**  
**Thurs 18 Dec 2025 - social**

See RCC's Facebook Page or our website for more details.

## Advertising Rates:

**1/6 page (87.5mm x 80mm):**  
RCC members £6 - Non-members £12  
**1/3 page (180mm x 80mm):**  
RCC members £10 - Non members £20  
**1/2 page (180mm x 120mm):**  
RCC members £14 - Non members £28  
**Full page (180mm x 247mm):**  
RCC members £25 - Non members £50  
*Bikes 'n' Bits (text only) free to RCC members*

Contact the Editor by emailing  
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