



## Reading Cycle Campaign

### Policy on e-bikes and e-scooters

The Reading Cycle Campaign was set up over 40 years ago to provide a voice for cyclists in the area. Over the years we have campaigned for more and better cycling facilities and have been rewarded with a steady increase in the numbers of people using bikes of one sort or another as a healthy and sustainable mode of transport.

We have always encouraged the safe and responsible use of bikes and have partnered with other organisations to provide training and advice for cyclists. We also encourage all cyclists to keep their bikes in a safe and roadworthy condition and again have been prominent in providing advice and help with cycle maintenance recently through the Dr. Bike scheme.

Two developments in the last few years have raised issues that require a re-statement of our aims and policy. These are the emergence of cheap and readily available electric bikes and scooters and the development of a gig economy based mainly around the delivery of food by riders on e-bikes.

The Cycle Campaign welcomes the opportunities that these bikes and scooters provide by encouraging people to make journeys without the use of cars. We welcome their use in the local economy where they provide opportunities for employment that may not be available elsewhere.

At the moment however the use of e-scooters is illegal on public roads and footpaths and while e-bikes are not illegal, many do not comply with current regulations.

Therefore in keeping with our original aims and objectives we encourage all users to cycle in a safe and responsible way and ensure that they do not provide a threat to pedestrians and other vulnerable groups. We encourage all cyclists to ensure that their bikes are well maintained, safe and comply with current regulations. As a campaign, we do not support the irresponsible use of any bikes whatever their legal status and will work with the authorities to raise standards of road safety all round.

As safety of cyclists has always been at the heart of our campaign we would urge our local authorities and the police to take a balanced and objective view of the overall picture. Far too many cyclists and pedestrians are killed and injured by road vehicles and the number of injuries caused by cyclists is trivial by comparison. We would urge local media outlets also to remember this when reporting on road collisions and other incidents involving cyclists.

Reading Cycle Campaign March 2025.