

**£34
vs
20p**

Some councils in England spend 170 times more per head than others on active travel



We pushed for funding pledges for active travel

Left: Courtesy of @LondonDinaslow Right: Alarmy

Campaigns

POLL POSITIONS

Our election campaigns asked candidates to make real commitments to cycling and active travel – and many did. Keir Gallagher reports

On 6 May the largest set of local and devolved elections in decades provided a key opportunity to push cycling up the agenda in the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd, as well as in over 150 councils and metro mayoral posts in England.

We asked parties and politicians to commit more funding to cycling and active travel. Our 'Manifestos for Cycling' in England, Scotland, and Wales set out an inspiring yet achievable vision for towns, cities, and rural communities where cycling is for everyone – from a child learning to ride using a balance bike to an older person visiting friends on an e-bike; from a disabled person handcycling to work to a family having a day out at the weekend.

Thanks to the support of thousands of you who signed our petitions in Scotland and Wales, we soon saw signs from party manifestos that our message was having an impact. In Scotland, most main parties met our key demand that 10% of the transport budget go to cycling, walking, and wheeling, while in Wales we saw ambitious plans for cycling across the board.

We kept up the momentum by asking individual candidates from across the political

spectrum to pledge their support for this vision. In Scotland, 30 elected MSPs pledged their support – a fantastic result which will help us secure serious investment in cycling over the next four years, especially as the lack of an overall majority means the Scottish Government will be reliant on cross-party support. In Wales, 40 MS candidates made the pledge. Although only a handful of those were elected, we've now written to all MSs to further build cross-party support for cycling.

In England, pledges by hundreds of councillor candidates will help our Cycle Advocacy Network find supportive voices in their local authorities. Throughout the election, we also supported local cycling groups and backed Action Vision Zero's road safety-focussed campaign for the metro mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Our work is far from over: we'll now be engaging with newly elected politicians to ensure cycling is central to our Covid-19 recovery, and to hold parties to their manifesto commitments. But for now, thank you to everyone who supported our campaign. To find out if your new representative supports cycling, visit: cyclinguk.org/cycling-for-everyone.

Off-road route

THE WEST KERNOW WAY

Cycling UK is creating a new off-road adventure route in west Cornwall. The 150-mile West Kernow Way will explore the history, culture and landscapes of the Penwith and Lizard peninsulas. Launching in autumn, the trail is part of the EU-funded EXPERIENCE project to promote sustainable, year-round tourism in the region. cyclinguk.org/west-kernow-way



Heritage site Botallack Mine is on the route

Governance

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2021

Cycling UK wants as diverse and inclusive a Board as possible. We're recruiting new trustees for 2022-25 and welcome applications from younger people and under-represented groups in cycling, including ethnic minority groups. Help direct Cycling UK's strategy, enabling millions more to cycle, and apply by 9am 5 July 2021. Visit cyclinguk.org/become-trustee or email recruitment@cyclinguk.org

Volunteers

TIME WITH TOM

Keep your eyes peeled for details on our continuing Time with Tom webinar series. These webinars and online workshops are aimed at supporting our groups and volunteers with the skills they need to run cycling activities and enable everyone to get involved. We ran several last year and have plans for more in the coming months. We'll be sending details and invites directly to groups, so don't forget to check your emails!



Groups engagement officer Tom Page

Members

AWARD WINNERS

Certificates of Appreciation have been sent to Cycling UK members Drew Moyes and Morris Dowding. Drew was a founder member of Cycle Ayrshire member group and served on its committee, until his recent retirement from it, for a total of 34 years. Morris pioneered the development of weekly daytime rides for Cycling UK Reading, and also initiated and ran the popular Henley Hilly Hundred Audax.



UK police forces who took part in the first national day of action on close passing on 14 April



Devon CTC's Shaun East leading a spring ride

Photo: Graham Brodie

Member groups

CLUB TOGETHER

After the enforced breaks over the last year, we are thrilled to see more and more groups resuming their pre-pandemic activities. Covid-19 protocols, training and guidance are in place to ensure Cycling UK group rides and events meet national and local coronavirus rules.

Many groups, such as South Devon CTC, have seen an influx in new riders in recent times. Group secretary Graham Brodie said: "We welcome all our

new members and riders and hope they are making friends and enjoying the rides we offer. We'd also like to thank the ride leaders who have stepped up and got a good selection of destinations sorted out quickly after the lockdown." The group is also hoping to put on some of its well-loved, larger-scale events, such as the Devon Delight and the Dartmoor Devil, restrictions permitting.

Acting volunteer manager for Cycling UK Gjoril Berg said: "Cycling UK has kept

our group volunteers across the UK updated with the latest information on cycling in the pandemic. I am so pleased that, as Cycle magazine goes to press, it looks as if the resumption of normal group activities for the rest of the year can go full steam ahead, although it's possible some changes to normal practice may be necessary for a while yet."

Keep up to date with the latest Covid-19 guidance at:

cyclinguk.org/news/coronavirus-guidance-cycling-uk-groups.

Event

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK ON NOW

National Volunteers' Week from 1-7 June is an annual celebration of the tremendous contribution made by so many people to encourage more of us to go cycling. It's a chance to thank our volunteers for maintaining morale in their clubs and groups over the past year, and to acknowledge the impact of those who haven't been able to carry out their usual tasks. See cyclinguk.org/volunteer to nominate someone for a 'Going the Extra Mile' award 2021.



Tell us about cyclists who go the extra mile

Belfast's Maritime Heritage Trail is a 7km route that connects iconic locations



Left: Robert Spanning Right: pannier.cc

Routes

CYCLING INTO HISTORY

In Northern Ireland, the Routes and Roots project has resulted in the creation of the Maritime Heritage Trail, a short city route that visits iconic locations in and around Belfast's waterfront.

Made possible with a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund NI, Routes and Routes (cyclinguk.org/routes-and-roots) links landmarks connected with ship-building in East Belfast with the Sailortown area in the north of the city.

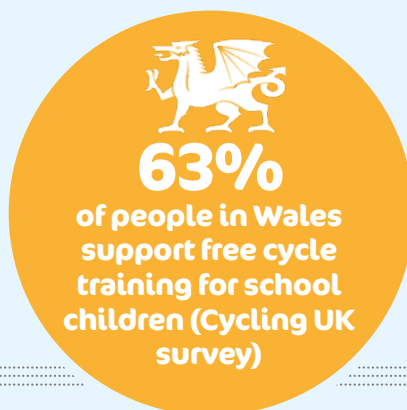
Cycling UK's engagement officer for Northern Ireland, Josh Murray, rode the route – a mix of traffic-free cycle paths and quiet streets – ahead of its official launch. His journey was captured in a 13-minute documentary, which includes interviews with people who used to work and live in the area and heritage partners who have helped unearth stories from past. The film is on the Cycling UK website.

Josh said: "I thoroughly enjoyed travelling from East Belfast across to Sailortown, taking in the maritime area and learning about all the history and heritage on my doorstep. I hope the video will encourage more people to come down to experience the 7km trail for themselves."

In Wales, the National Lottery Heritage Fund has helped Cycling UK create Tales of the Trails,

a project inspired by a ride Gwenda Owen, Cycling UK's engagement officer in Wales took along the Taff Trail from Cardiff into the valleys. Gwenda realised that the fascinating stories of the coal-mining communities in this part of South Wales, and the landscape with which they are inextricably linked, needed to be shared more widely.

Stories from Clydach Vale, where miners clashed with colliery owners in the Tonypanyd Riots of 1910, and Ynysybwl are currently being filmed. A video will be released alongside maps of the new cycle routes when the project is launched in June. Events are also being organised in the communities to coincide with Bike Week. See cyclinguk.org/talesofthetrails.



Access

RESPECT THE RANGE

Cycling UK is supporting the Ministry of Defence's Respect the Range campaign to encourage the public to stay safe on military land. Many of these areas are fantastic for cycling but are also in frequent use for military training. Check the firing times before you go, stick to marked routes, and look out for information signs and red flags. cyclinguk.org/article/respect-range-and-stay-safe-military-land



Warning sign on Salisbury Plain

Northern Ireland

THE FABRIC OF LIFE

Cycle commuters in Belfast will be able to access more support for a green return to offices, thanks to a partnership between Cycling UK in Northern Ireland and local businesses in the Linen Quarter, a district named for its textile industry past. Starting this summer, training, events, and access to Cycle Friendly Employer accreditation will be delivered in conjunction with the Linen Quarter Business Improvement District.

Scotland

RURAL CONNECTIONS

A new Rural Connections project from Cycling UK in Scotland aims to get people cycling, walking and wheeling in remote, rural communities. We want to help people of all ages and abilities choose active travel for daily journeys, leisure and adventure. The project will run in Shetland, Orkney, Highlands, the Western Isles, Moray, Argyll and Bute, and the Scottish Borders.



Photo: Alamy

Touring CYCLISTS WELCOME

Many cyclists are taking staycations this year. Those who do can look out for places signed up to a new free accreditation scheme for tourism businesses that's been launched by Cycling UK. Cycle Friendly Places is operating in three regions – Norfolk, Kent, and Cornwall – and is part of the EXPERIENCE project co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.



Children's bikes ready to be renovated by Resurrection Bikes in Harrogate



45%

Proportion of Big Bike Revival participants who weren't regular cyclists beforehand

Projects

A CYCLING REVIVAL

Last year introduced many people to the joy of cycling as they sought to find ways to exercise close to home. Cycling UK's programmes to support new and returning cyclists continue to evolve in England and Scotland.

In England, Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival is back for 2021. With our delivery partners, we'll be fixing bicycles, teaching skills and helping people enjoy riding. This year, as restrictions on gathering in groups gradually lift, we're reintroducing the social aspects of support that are so vital to help motivate people to change their behaviour.

That means more small, led-rides to boost confidence, and more beginner cycle maintenance courses to teach new skills (while still adhering to Covid-19 guidance). For more information, visit cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival.

With the Scottish Big Bike Revival ending after five years, we're using the experience gained to launch Shift. This new project will use the power of cycling to transform communities. Shift aims to get more people cycling for short everyday journeys. A team of development officers will support community organisations across Scotland to bring cycling projects and

services to life.

We know that whole communities benefit when more people use bikes to get around. As well as improved health and wellbeing, reduced air pollution and congestion, and economic benefits, cycling provides a cheap and convenient way to travel. And it's fun!

To encourage people to jump on a bike for short journeys, the project offers funding and expert support for organisations who will run local activities. From cycle training and confidence boosting sessions to cargo bike trials for local businesses, Shift will get people moving.

Member benefits

SAVE ON SAFETY APP

Busby is a fitness safety app that gives you and your loved ones peace of mind while you're cycling. The app automatically detects if you have an incident by using the sensors in your phone, and it will contact your emergency contacts with your exact location. Busby are offering Cycling UK members a 35% discount on their premium subscription. cyclinguk.org/member-benefit/busby-fitness-safety-app-discount

