

A quick run through our plans for the coming months; and a brief mention of some of our activities in the past year. All aimed to encourage you to come to our next meeting or event. If there's something more you think we should be doing, come and tell us and get involved yourself.

On **Sunday 11th June**, come and join us in supporting the next **Bexley Bike Day**, this time at Sidcup Leisure Centre from 10:00am. These events are organised by Bexley Council with classes for people who are new to cycling and Dr Bike service and second hand bikes for sale. We attend in order to tell people, whether engaged in the sessions or just passing by, about the opportunities for cycling locally, including finding quieter routes near where they live or work, where riding a bike is more pleasant with less motor traffic.

On **Saturday 17th June**, we are hosting a ride from Crook Log Leisure Centre, starting at 1.45pm. This is a **social ride to Avery Hill Park**, for people who have completed the Bikeability Level 2 course at any of the Bike Days recently; plus anyone else who wants to enjoy riding at a gentle pace with good conversation. Part of the ride will be along part of the putative route of the TfL funded Quietway between Bexleyheath and Greenwich (via Falconwood). This is a good opportunity to come along and find out more about that, and enjoy some summer sunshine (hopefully). It's about 9 to 10 miles long, with optional extra circuits in Avery Hill Park or a visit to the cafe there, before returning to Crook Log, probably about 4.15pm.

On **Wednesday 12th July at 7:30pm**, it's our **AGM**, in **Bexleyheath Town Centre** at Geddes Place URC (tbc). The AGM itself is usually only a short meeting to elect office holders required by the LCC constitution for local borough groups. This will be followed immediately by one of our now regular bi-monthly group meetings. These finish soon after 9pm, when several walk the short distance to the 'Furze Wren' for further conversation about cycling or other topics.

On **Saturday 29th July**, we are offering a ride from **Abbey Wood to RideLondon Freecycle**, with many of the team of friendly marshals already signed up. Each year we guide about 30 riders up the Thames Path and then carefully through the sometimes less well known parts between Greenwich and Southwark Bridge (tbc). There you can join the circuit and enjoy several hours of riding away from motor traffic, before rejoining us for the guided ride home. There's room for more, whether as riders or marshals – so do get in touch if you want to come.

On **Sunday 1st October**, we'll again be out on the **Thames Path, between Erith and Greenwich**. This is to support the **'Big-Ride'** – a major charity event for **Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice**, which usually attracts about 300 fund-raising riders, including several LCC members. Others help early on the day, along with fellow LCC members from Greenwich and other volunteers, by putting up signs and then later become roving marshals, guiding riders where appropriate and providing or obtaining support if any incident should arise.

In the last year we have been trying to build up relationships with other local organisations, to share our knowledge of the benefits of cycling and to gain wider support for cycling projects and infrastructure. Our contacts with Bexley Council include not only supporting the Bike Days mentioned above but also conversations with staff, by email or face to face. Topics have included:

- Concern about the slow progress in creating a safe corridor for cycling to the north of Abbey Wood rail station, before the arrival of CrossRail / Elizabeth Line services.
- Protection against the predicted increase in motor traffic and demand for commuter car parking to the south of the station in New Road, which is expected to be an important part of the desired (but presently unfunded) Quietway from Abbey Wood to Bexleyheath.

- Route of the east-west Quietway from Bexleyheath to Falconwood.
- Bexleyheath Town Centre Revitalisation – including new cycle route along Albion Rd and Gravel Hill – construction of segregated cycle lane in western part of Abion Rd is shown below.
- Legibility of cycle routes, including signposting and pavement and road marking.
- Issues on the Thames Path, eg abandoned motor bikes, windblown sand from adjacent sites storing uncovered aggregates, unnecessary barriers, obstructions from overgrown vegetation.
- Cycle parking in shopping areas; potholes; the process for reporting and removing cycles abandoned on streets.



We've also tried monitoring the decision-making activities of Bexley Council, by observing committee meetings and talking to councillors, watching webcasts of other meetings, tracking and commenting on planning applications. We participated in the 'Great Weight Debate', organised by Bexley Voluntary Service Council, to advocate how cycling can contribute to better personal and public health. We are always looking for opportunities to present the case for better facilities for cycling.

We've also maintained or developed contact with Sustrans, and local groups of Cycling UK and British Cycling (especially Breeze groups). We are increasing direct contact with LCC groups in SE London, so that we can learn from what's happening in their boroughs - on routes connecting to Bexley, 20 mph zones, Liveable Neighbourhoods, hire for trial schemes for electric bikes, and bike to station for rail-commuters, for example.

We want to increase contact with all local cycling clubs, ride leaders, informal groups, and bike shops so that we can keep up with what they are offering. In that way we can spread the message to anyone we meet, so they can find a style of group activity that best suits their interests, or just incorporate cycling into more of their individual daily lives.

If any of this interests you; do get in touch. An email to bexley.cyclists@gmail.com is the most reliable way of contacting us remotely, meeting face to face is best of all. We'd love to have your support and any energy you can spare.