
1066 Cycling Festival - *cancelled this year due to COVID 19 restrictions*
The Festival will return next year in June

East Sussex - Emergency Active Travel Program

You have probably already realised that Hastings is going to get very little of any value to encourage cycling or make cycling safer from the measures that East Sussex County Council has decided on, in spite of a number of practical and achievable ideas put forward by local walking and cycling groups including HUB.



The only road reallocation measure on the seafront and shown in the photo is not being used and has been judged to be both ineffective and unnecessary. HUB proposed several temporary cycle lanes alongside narrow and busy shopping streets and supported a more radical plan to pedestrianise Queens Road.

HUB also put forward a new project for a cycling and walking route to connect the Seafront to Hastings Station (see below) none of which were agreed.

HUB is a member of Cycle East Sussex, a forum of cycle groups, and other cycle groups around East Sussex are equally dismayed at the "lack of ambition" shown by the County Council over the options chosen for their application for this Covid 19 funding.

Thank you to all HUB contacts who submitted ideas for locations for the cycle racks that the County Council had promised to provide in Hastings as one of the EAT program measures. We have recently heard that ESCC are only going to install 5 bike racks for 10 cycle at each one.



*Eastbourne Station
- well used cycle racks*

Dangerous Parking - the need for better enforcement

This is seen as a particular problem in Hastings where the narrow roads and difficult junctions make cycling dangerous. This is made worse by irresponsible and selfish parking at the edge of junctions and on pavements increasing the risk of accidents for all road users and pedestrians.



HUB and other groups have continued to call on East Sussex County Council to focus more enforcement action by parking officers on dangerous parking rather than overstaying in paid parking spaces - but to no avail. In fact HUB had an ESCC response to a specific complaint about the complete pavement blocking by the van in the left photo to say they could not take any action !!

HUB & Hastings Greenway Routes Campaign

HUB, working with Hastings Greenway Group and the recently launched Hastings Greenway Trust, continues to lobby for safe and off-road cycling & walking routes to be designed, funded and constructed in Hastings as the absolutely essential infrastructure needed to encourage more people to walk or cycle to work and school and for health and leisure.

Hastings still has no urban cycle routes to link to the promenade cycleway and compares very badly with more progressive cities, towns and districts such as Thanet and Brighton in our area.

However, ESCC is now working on three routes that have been funded by the SE Local Enterprise Partnership.

These are:

- The cycleway through Alexandra Park
- A route from Silverhill to Queensway (to join the Combe Valley Greenway to Bexhill)
- A route from Alexandra Park to the Conquest Hospital and the Ridge

Although progress has been depressingly slow the first two routes above should be constructed in 2021.



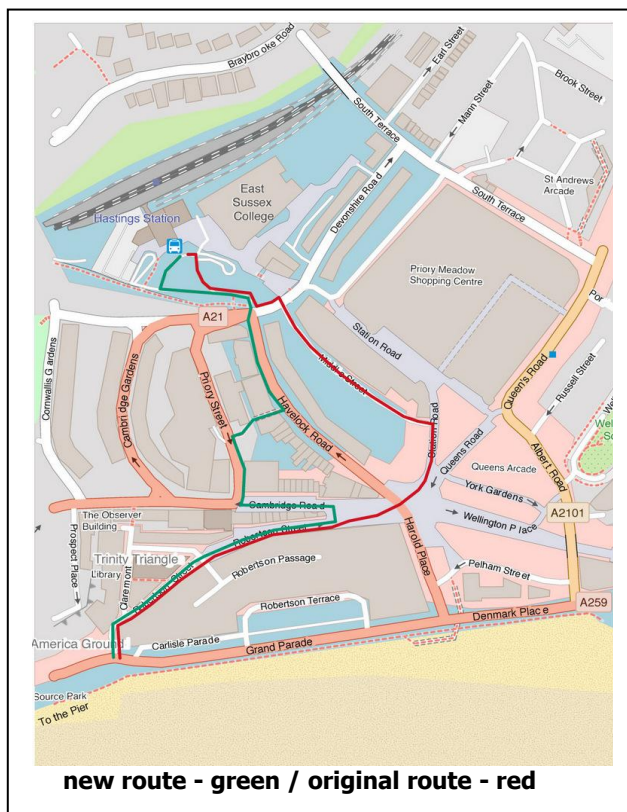
Hastings Greenway Group

www.hastingsgreenway.org
facebook.com/hastingsgreenway

Other Cycling & Walking Route Projects

Seafront to Hastings Station

This route is in the Hastings Local Plan. However a revised and much better route has been put forward by HUB and the Greenway Group for ESCC funding and has been supported by Hastings Borough Council - see plan below.



HUB had put this forward for funding from the Emergency Active Travel fund but this was rejected so HUB has formally asked ESCC to include this route in their capital program for 2021/22

Hastings Country Park Greenway

(from the East Hill Lift to the new Visitors Centre at Fairlight)

Hastings Greenway Trust applied to the Government Green Recovery Challenge Fund to construct this all access route across the top of the Country Park but

the expression of interest was unsuccessful. However this route is also in the Local Plan and has been supported by Hastings BC so further funding applications will be made to other sources.

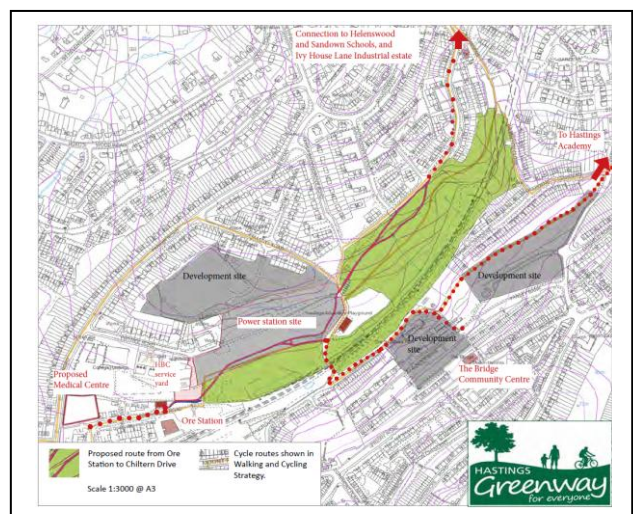
It would make a valuable contribution to improving the National Cycle Route 2 section from Hastings - going East, which is recognised by Sustrans as one of the most needed NCN 2 route improvements in England.

Ore Valley Greenway

Hastings Greenway Trust put in an expression of interest to the Hastings Town Deal fund for these routes through Ore Valley from Ore Station to the Broomgrove Estate and another branch to Ore Village which runs through 'Speckled Wood'.

This very much needed project has got through the first stage of the selection process and it is hoped that it will be included in the schedule of projects to be submitted for this funding.

This walking & cycling route, is planned to include disability access and would provide much needed connectivity and safe cycling routes though Ore Valley. HUB has given its full support for this project. *Part of the route is shown below*



Road safety Issues and Cycling Accidents

Members of the Hastings & St. Leonards Cycle Club are very concerned about both the increase in the number of accidents where a cyclist has been hit by a car and, what they argue, is a weak approach by the Police to enforcement and prosecutions where dangerous driving was the cause.

In many cases cyclists have been injured, often quite seriously, but drivers have all too often been given a very light sanction, a response which the Club want to challenge.

They are building up a dossier of accidents and incidents, with a view to campaigning for tougher policing to tackle dangerous driving.

HUB will want to support this and will work with Cycle East Sussex to seek a meeting with Sussex Police to discuss these concerns and call for a stronger response to dangerous driving

Government funding for cycling & walking

In July the Dept. of Transport issued a plan for cycling & walking in England - **'Gear Change: A Bold Vision for Cycling & Walking'** to develop its Decarbonisation Plan 2020.

It covers building new protected cycle routes, boosting investment in infrastructure, making streets safer, improving air quality, helping people to healthier lives and access to e bikes

Call for evidence of dangerous driving and accidents affecting cyclists in Hastings

If you have been involved in or have witnessed a cycling incident or accident involving dangerous or reckless driving HUB would welcome some details so that we can add to the evidence base that is being prepared.

Please send any information to Hastings Urban Bikes.

e mail:

info@hastingsurbanbikes.org

or by post:

HUB

c/o Hastings Greenway Group

Jackson Hall,

Portland Place,

Hastings, TN34 1QN

Substantial funding to support buses and cycling was promised earlier in the year and a £2B fund for cycling infrastructure has also been announced.

While this is welcome news the amount of funding that is allocated to our area, how it is used and how quickly we will see the results are the crucial questions.

Another Government document of relevance that was also released in July is D o T - **Cycle Infrastructure Design Guide**, which sets out demanding requirements for the design of future cycleway. While the case for high quality routes is recognised there are some concerns about its position on shared walking & cycling routes, which is contrary to accepted practice.

The Future of Hastings Urban Bikes

Back in the late 1900s and the early years of this century, Hastings Urban Bikes was a dynamic organisation and a force to be reckoned with in its high profile campaigning for cycle routes and other measures to make cycling safer and encourage more people to take up cycling.

It also used to organise cycle rides and events such as the very successful annual cycling festival. HUB worked with Age Concern to set up a Seniors Cycling Group, winning a National Cycle Projects award in 2006.

HUB played a key part in the successful funding bid to the Peoples Lottery, which resulted in the Bulverhythe Link route to Bexhill being constructed in 2012, which has been extremely well used ever since.

HUB and the local Ramblers were commissioned by East Sussex County Council to carry out a Hastings Walking & Cycling Routes Audit in 2008, which was used to formulate the Hastings Walking & Cycling Strategy routes network adopted in 2014 by both local authorities and is now in the Hastings Local Plan.

HUB was also a founder member of the Hastings Greenway Group.

Sadly as previously active members have retired there have not been enough new members willing to take on organisational roles and unless this changes there is a risk that HUB may not be able to continue.

HUB Meetings & Events

Due to the Covid 19 lock down and restrictions that were applied earlier in the year the last HUB meeting that was scheduled for 17 March was cancelled. While many cycle groups have restarted activities and have been using zoom and team for virtual meetings, HUB has not yet restarted its meetings.

However a considerable amount of work has been undertaken in collaboration with other groups to continue the campaign for safe cycle routes and road safety measures and to represent HUB at forums and in response to consultation on new routes and other active transport initiatives.

HUB has been represented on the Hastings & Rother Transport Action Group, the NHS Hospital Trust Transport Group, the Hastings Desti Smart (EU funded) project and on the Cycle East Sussex Forum.

As the other article on this page makes clear HUB can only continue if more support and active membership is forthcoming

The aim is to organise a zoom meeting for HUB members and contacts who are keen to actively participate in keeping HUB going and helping to rebuild its once well supported and high profile role.

Please contact me if you are willing to help to get HUB going again and want to attend a HUB zoom meeting or want to discuss this issue.

Ian Sier - HUB Chair
info@hastingsurbanbikes.org



East Sussex Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

This detailed plan has been in preparation for several years and has now been released for public consultation. It was the subject of a 2 page article in the Hastings Observer.

The consultation ends on December 11th. The documents and form for comments are available on the East Sussex County Council web site at: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/escclcwip-2020/>

The LCWIP does include a detailed proposed walking & cycling route network produced by Sustrans, which includes all of the Hastings Greenway routes and additional routes, and is welcomed in this respect.

However, the lack of progress made by East Sussex on the routes network that was adopted in 2016 and the subsequent reallocation of £3M of funding for routes in Hastings & Bexhill to a local road scheme gives little cause for optimism about how the proposed routes will be taken forward. A recent example is the poor EAT schemes noted above.

Critical responses have been made by local groups arguing that the County Council has set an extremely low target for increasing the level of active travel, has provided wholly inadequate levels of funding in the past and little focus is given to making roads safer for cycling. Also ESCC has not meaningfully involved local groups in planning and setting priorities.

ESCC is significantly out of step with robust Government targets for increasing cycling travel and commitments to new funding for safe cycle routes.

HUB would want to encourage as many people as possible to make comments on the LCWIP and call on the County Council to take a much more pro active and collaborative approach to constructing the much needed network of cycle routes to create a step change in cycle journeys to reduce car use and improve health and wellbeing