



August 2019 Newsletter

Firstly, thanks very much to you all for your interest and joining Grampian Cycle Partnership!

We have been overwhelmed by the many really kind and supportive comments we have received to date. We are absolutely committed to working positively for cycling across the north east.

GCP truly believe we can encourage more people to take up cycling or cycle more by working constructively together with the army of committed and enthusiastic people already doing some fantastic pieces of work across the City, Shire and Moray.

Over the last few months, GCP has been meeting with partners and other stakeholders on several projects as well as being involved in ongoing cycling issues for the region. We are taking this time to review what's going on and tell you what we have been up to.

We genuinely think it's an exciting time for cycling in the area and GCP's partners have been at the forefront. Please find below some information on what we've been involved with so far.

Westhill to Aberdeen cycle path

An initial open meeting was held with cyclists who use this path to discuss the issues and set up a working project group to document these issues and work with the councils to develop the improvements to this important corridor. This cycle path continues to be among the busiest routes in the whole of the north east.

Stonehaven to Aberdeen cycle path

At our last meeting we committed to form a similar group for the links to and from the City from the south. A safe and direct connection between Aberdeen and Stonehaven, and the communities along the way, has been spoken about for many a year. GCP will strive, along with others, to ensuring these much-needed links can become a reality.

Ellon to Aberdeen cycle path

GCP have been in close discussion with Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Roads Limited (AWPR company) regarding the long overdue development of this route. We are trying to secure funding for the improvement of the section just south of Balmedie for the mid-section of this route so that it can be tarred soon.

The section from Murcar to Blackdog will be going for Aberdeen City Council Committee approval later this year (online consultation now out with deadline for responses of 18th August).

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/place/a92-murcar-roundabout-to-blackdog-proposed-foot-cy/>

The Ellon to Foveran section is currently at the design stage with the next section due to be studied between Foveran and Newburgh and Balmedie.

North East 250 cycle routes

GCP have been asked by North East 250 to help put together a cycle route (or routes) which will help showcase the variety of panoramic views, quiet roads, hills, lovely beaches, coastal villages and sea wildlife from the east and north to the hillier south and west of the region.

NE250 Route Coastal Section

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/836578>

NE250 Route Mountain Section

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/878904>

We are also developing an off-road, gravel route

NE250 Gravel Off-road

<https://www.strava.com/routes/13933732>

We have also been involved in filming with NE250 to help produce a series of promotional videos. Further routes around the remainder of the area will be added in the coming months.

City centre races and the Tour of Britain

GCP members were out in force helping with the support races at the city centre races in May, providing a cycle parking area and helping with our Getabout Partners.

Aberdeen has been lauded as the best of the city centre tour series dates due to the participation and huge support from the cyclists in the area. The 2018 event has just won a tourism event prize.

We have already been in discussions with both City and Shire councils regarding support from local cyclists for the ToB bid process. Watch this space!

GCP - out and about

We are trying to advertise where the committee meetings are and have been out to Huntly, Stonehaven

and Elgin, as well as our regular home of Kingswells to see what cycling developments are ongoing there.

Next venues will likely be Ellon and Banchory, however we are happy to come wherever you'd like us to! Our meetings are open to the public.

Notes from all our previous meetings will be posted online imminently.

Bicycle user groups

GCP supports the set-up of workplace Bicycle User Groups (BUGs). There are several successful established groups in existence, with others being more recently formed including Proserv, University of Aberdeen, NHS Foresterhill Campus and Robert Gordon University.

GCP has developed a framework document to communicate the benefits of BUGs and include advice on how to set one up, whether on a small, medium or large scale. This will be shared on our website. GCP believes that the more employers and workplaces that support cycling the more influence cyclists will have on the development of the area.

Deeside Way improvements

We have been working with others on the Deeside Way (NCN 195) including local elected representatives, the Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber Community Council and other interested groups such as the British Horse Society, Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service and Police Scotland. GCP took part in a drop-in event on the Way for a few hours on a Saturday recently and spoke with many path users.

We gleaned a large amount of views on safety, ideas for improvement and priorities for the future. These have been shared with the council. The collective emphasis was on the need to ensure that all users of the line, whether on foot, by bike or on horseback, respected and considered the needs of others.

The Way really is a spectacularly beautiful and convenient link so we plan to set up a project group looking at how the Deeside Way can be further improved.

Cycle Law Scotland seminar

GCP have been in discussion with one of our partners (Cycle Law Scotland) to hold an evening seminar on cycle incidents, outcome of cases and what to do if you are in the unfortunate position of being involved in an incident. The event will be held at Robert Gordon University, Garthdee on Monday 2nd September between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Although it is free, admission can only be gained with a ticket available via Eventbrite;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cycling-in-the-north-east-collisions-compensation-and-civil-law-tickets-64663011809>

Please make sure you don't miss out, get your ticket now and tell anyone else you know that might be interested!

Aberdeen velodrome

A project group has been set up to look at the feasibility of a velodrome in Aberdeen. A few GCP members were invited to Inverness to be part of their velodrome project discussions. It is very early days on the journey to establishing a facility here. However, we have been encouraged by the positivity that exists. More to follow soon.

School projects

GCP are about to engage with schools in the area to see how we can help with development of active travel plans to, from and around the vicinity of our schools to make them safer while also encouraging children (and parents!) to consider walking, cycling or scooting where possible.

Cycling - code of conduct

GCP are preparing an advisory Code of Conduct for all cyclists, based on views of a wide variety of cyclists throughout the area, outlining their responsibilities and how to conduct themselves on the road, on cycle paths or on off road tracks. This code will also be relevant to other road users on how to react and behave around cyclists.

The Code of Conduct will be circulated shortly.

Meeting with Lee Craigie, Active Nation Commissioner

In March, committee members met with Lee and representatives from Aberdeen Cycle Forum to discuss the current state of cycling in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. Discussions with Lee were extremely positive, and we look forward to welcoming her back to the north east in the near future where we intend picking up on our earlier discussions in earnest.

Events

There are so many fantastic cycling events right across the region throughout the year ranging from full-on races through sportives and shorter charity rides. GCP have tried to collate what is happening onto our webpage; <https://www.grampiancyclepartnership.org/events/>

If you have something planned that you'd like us to help publicise then please let us know

- email GCP at info@grampiancyclepartnership.org
- tag GCP on Twitter (@GCP_JustGoRide)
- add GCP on Facebook or LinkedIn (@Grampian Cycle Partnership)

Ride the North

Neil, who organises RtN, is a GCP committee member and is extremely knowledgeable and passionate on the topic of cycle tourism. Neil and GCP were at the new RTN 2019 kit distribution event in the Duthie Park in June.

Consultations

We are aware that most people dread yet more consultations, consultants, questionnaires etc. but this is the way national and local politics works these days. GCP always recommends you engage with these

when you see them and put forward the case for active travel and cycling.

Recent consultations, which we have reported on, include Aberdeen City Council's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and the Deeside Way at Pittengullies Brae. As mentioned earlier, another one is online until 18 August on the proposed link on the A92 between Murcar and Blackdog
<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/place/a92-murcar-roundabout-to-blackdog-proposed-foot-cy/>

Getting out on our bikes!

GCP are cyclists working for and behalf of all cyclists and we are passionate about getting out on our bikes whenever we can. So, as well as all this project stuff, we are keen to meet up with as many of you as we can for a wee dander around the countryside.

One of the events that our committee will be taking part in as a group is the Kayleigh's Wee Stars charity run on 5 October - a great event for a great cause. Come and join us, hope to see you there!

<http://www.kayleighsweestars.co.uk/site/events/kws-cycle-2019>

GCP partnership

Please share this information with anyone you know who is interested in cycling locally. **Encourage others to join us a partner** so that we can become a truly representative voice for the many, many folk out there who enjoy time on their bike. You can sign up for free either as an individual or as an organisation. We will share regular updates such as this with news of ongoing projects and future plans.

More details on how to join and the benefits that **partnership** can bring can be found at;

<https://www.grampiancyclepartnership.org/join/>

If you fancy finding out more or would like to be part of our committee or help on one of the project groups then please get in touch via info@grampiancyclepartnership.org or one of our social media pages, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

GCP are also on Instagram (more to follow re plans for this platform) and there is a GCP club on Strava.

Outgoing and incoming Chair

The GCP committee would like to express our thanks to Josefine Bjorkqvist who has been our Chair throughout the process of setting up GCP. Unfortunately, Josefine has had to step down from this role due to family priorities. She will be sorely missed.

GCP are currently looking for an individual with the drive and ambition to help lead the partnership committee to the next stage of delivery of safe and exciting cycling infrastructure and facilities for our fantastic area.

Safe and happy cycling everyone!

GCP Committee