

# this is cycling UK



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## Bikelash legal battle

Popular pop-up cycle lanes are being arbitrarily removed. **Sarah Mitchell** outlines what Cycling UK is doing to try to reinstate them

**C**ampaigning is in the lifeblood of Cycling UK. It is thanks to our campaigns that cyclists' rights to use the roads were confirmed in 1888, and ever since then we have fought for cycling to be safer and more accessible for both our members and future generations of cyclists.

Last year we were bowled over by the impact that quieter roads had on the numbers of people cycling. When government funding enabled local authorities to create temporary cycle lanes, it was fantastic to see so many more families and newer cyclists getting about by bike in many of our towns and cities. I for one was delighted that so many friends, neighbours and colleagues suddenly started to understand why we at Cycling UK are such passionate advocates for cycling.

It's been disappointing to see some of those cycle routes dismantled, at the same time as traffic increased on our roads. That's why Cycling UK decided to take a stand by taking West Sussex County Council to court for the removal of a popular cycle lane in Shoreham. Used more than 30,000 times in its short life, this cycle lane connected schools and nurseries and was also popular with commuters. Our campaign to reinstate the cycle lane is important not just for Shoreham residents, but we also hope to create a precedent that will deter other councils from ripping out publicly funded cycle lanes without evaluating their effectiveness.

The pressure to remove cycle lanes in Shoreham and elsewhere has come from a vocal minority. We are keen to amplify the voices of those who support cycling at a local level to ensure that all views are heard. The upcoming



elections are a great opportunity for Cycling UK members to help. This year is a bumper year of elections, with voting underway in May in Scotland, Wales, and regionally and locally across England. Cycling UK's campaigns team has been working hard on resources to help you campaign locally and to assess the commitments of your local candidates.

Don't forget there are also opportunities to join our Campaign Advocacy Network (CAN) volunteers across the nations and regions, and you can also help support legal challenges such as the Shoreham case by donating to our dedicated Cyclists' Defence Fund.

Beyond local campaigning, I am really looking forward to the biggest event in our upcoming cycling calendar: Bike Week. After the speedy transition to a virtual event last year, we are hoping that this year's event will be a welcome opportunity for us all to get back out on our bikes for some social rides. This year we really want to capture everyone's imagination and enthusiasm for cycling, which we've seen grow significantly through the pandemic. The week runs from Sunday 30 May to Saturday 5 June, kicking off with our second World's Biggest Bike Ride on the Sunday.

We'll also be asking you to get involved in our #7daysofcycling challenge, suggesting ways to reunite with friends and family and enjoy some great rides together. However you celebrate the week, the most important thing is showing support for cycling and reminding the UK how life-changing riding a bike can be.

May  
30

World's Biggest  
Bike Ride takes  
place on this  
Sunday.  
Save the date

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