

Making Cycling Count

Transport campaigners make their contribution to the region's Local Transport Plan, reports Graeme



Our November Bike Friday ride kicked off our involvement with Local Transport Plan 3. This plan sets the priorities for transport in Greater Manchester for the next 25 years, and naturally this was something Manchester FoE's transport group wanted input into.

While the official consultation was not set to finish until Christmas Eve, we felt it was important to input early into wider discussions as we knew that the ten Greater Manchester local authorities would also be considering what to write in their responses.

Bike Friday participants presented a letter to Cllr Keith Whitmore, the vice-chair of the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority (GMITA), setting out what we wanted in terms of a sustainable transport system for the conurbation. The letter is available at <http://tinyurl.com/686oald>. We followed this letter up with a 41-page document (available at <http://tinyurl.com/6al62lm>) with more detail and supporting research, and an email lobbying campaign using a web interface to enable people to send messages to GMITA and the councillor with responsibility for transport in their borough. This generated over 300 responses, which is around a third of all the consultation responses that GMITA received. The next stage in the process is the formation of Local Implementation Plans, which the individual councils need to produce. We are organising email lobbying actions for each of these.

In February we coordinated a special Bike Friday for National Heart Month on the British Heart



The Make Cycling Count team get their message across to Cllr Ian Macdonald, chair of GMITA

Foundation's 'Wear Red Day' in which participants wore red and raised money to help the BHF's work. Katy launched her new Bike Fabulous blog on Valentine's Day with some stylish 'wear red' ideas. Alongside the blog and Twitter feed, we'll be seeing more Bike Fabulous events this year. We have secured funding to promote Bike Friday across Greater Manchester, and to research the potential for establishing core cycle routes across the conurbation using interactive mapping. We're also continuing to finalise our cycling manifesto. Our pedal-powered smoothie maker has been a hit at events, raising awareness and funds. To get involved with the transport campaign, which includes the Love Your Bike campaign, email Graeme at Graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk.

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(plus a recipe for vegan pumpkin pie!)

Manchester Friends of the Earth Invite You to Dine Out Veg Out

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Help FoE raise money to fight climate change
and have a great two course meal as well!

On **Monday 28th March**, Manchester Friends of the Earth are holding a fundraising event to launch the Meat Free Monday campaign, as eating less meat will make Manchester healthier and reduce our impact on the environment.

Come along to Kro Piccadilly at One Piccadilly Gardens for a two course meal with a range of vegan and vegetarian options, guest speakers, music, comedy and a raffle, all for just £15!

Proceeds will go to Friends of the Earth to help with vital campaigning on climate change.



Tickets available via the website at <http://www.dineoutvegout.org.uk/>
Book yours today before they sell out! The last chance to buy tickets will be Sunday 20th March.

For more information about the event, or about the Meat Free Monday campaign in general, contact rachel@manchesterfoe.org.uk or steve@manchesterfoe.org.uk



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Lower ground floor of the Triangle (the old Corn Exchange) on
Exchange Square, Corporation Street, M14 3TR.

Coming Up

Monday 21st March–Sunday 27th March

Climate Week. Events across Greater Manchester: pick up energy saving tips at Chorlton Library (Tues 22nd), plant an orchard in Gorton Park (Wed 23rd), sow seeds in vegetable beds in Sale (Wed 23rd), find out all about hybrid cars and cycle clubs at the Eco Travel Event in Wigan town centre (Fri 25th and Sat 26th), and much more...

Monday 28th March

Dine Out Veg Out. Fundraising meal for Friends of the Earth's work on climate change – also the launch of Manchester FoE's Meat Free Monday campaign. 7–9pm, Kro Piccadilly, Piccadilly Gardens, M1 1RG. (See page 6 for more information.)

Saturday 16th April

Big Green Festival, St Clement's Church, Edge Lane, Chorlton M21 9JF.

South Manchester's annual celebration of sustainable living – this year's theme will be Bike To The Future. Workshops, stalls, live music and much more. Free entry.

Regular Events

Second Tuesday of the month 6.45 for 7pm.

Full group meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. New members very welcome to come along and find out more about the group!

Last Thursday of the month 6.45 for 7pm.

Campaigns meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. All welcome. We split into groups to focus on our main campaign areas: Fix the Food Chain, Get Serious About CO₂, Meat Free Mondays and Transport.

Last Friday of the month (except April)

Bike Friday. Rides from a range of locations in Greater Manchester to work, college or university. Starting points are Worsley (Worsley Road/Chatsworth Road), Stretford Mall, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station and Prestwich (Bury New Road/Scholes Lane).

www.bikefriday.org

Manchester Friends of the Earth Coordinators and Officers 2011

At our Annual General Meeting on Monday 6th December, elections were held to fill the positions of Group Co-ordinators and Officers for 2011.

The results were as follows:

Group Co-ordinators

Colette Humphrey, Cat Thomson and Alex Lee

Treasurer

Dave Coleman

Newsletter Editor

Damian Cross

We will let you know as soon as we have a new Membership Officer in place, as Jonathan Berens (who was elected) is no longer with the group.

Contact details for the Group Co-ordinators are:

alex@manchesterfoe.org.uk

cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk and

colette@manchesterfoe.org.uk

Many thanks to all the contributors to the March 2011 issue. Please email me if you have any contributions or ideas for future articles (newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk).

Thanks a lot! *Damian*

Manchester FoE is an award-winning campaign group working on issues relating to the environment and social justice. We campaign on issues with a local connection and also lobby for policy changes at local, regional, national and international levels. We work on a diverse range of issues including climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport and aviation, and waste and recycling.

For more information about Manchester FoE and our campaigns, see www.manchesterfoe.org.uk