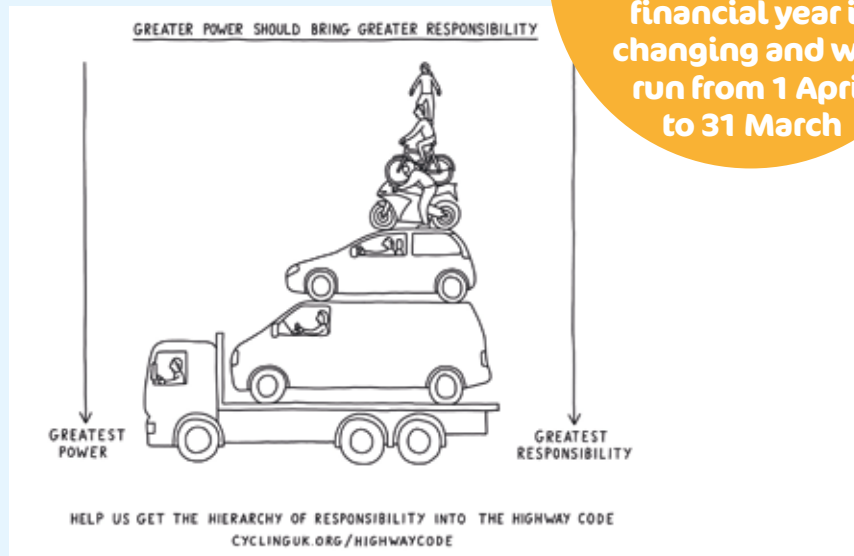




31/03
Cycling UK's
financial year is
changing and will
run from 1 April
to 31 March



Left: Dave Walker. Right: Wayne Fox

CRACKING THE CODE

*A Highway Code that protects vulnerable road users such as cyclists is within our grasp. **Duncan Dollimore** explains how you can help make it happen*

We've been lobbying the Government and campaigning for a review of Britain's Highway Code ever since I joined Cycling UK five years ago, so I was relieved at the end of July when the long-awaited consultation on proposed changes to the Code was finally published.

Clearer rules and guidance on overtaking distances and car-dooring were central to our Too Close for Comfort and Dutch Reach campaigns, but it was your support for our 'Cycle safety: make it simple' campaign in 2018 that finally made the Department for Transport (DfT) commit to the first major review of the Code in 13 years. Over 10,000 people supported our suggestions, including a key change to junction priority rules: that vehicles turning at junctions without traffic signals give way to pedestrians or cyclists going straight ahead across their path, unless traffic signs or markings indicate otherwise.

Over the last two years we've worked with the DfT to influence many of the changes set out in the consultation document. The one that could make the

most difference for all vulnerable road users is a hierarchy of responsibility. Road users most at risk in the event of a collision would be at the top of the hierarchy: pedestrians – in particular, children, older adults, and disabled people – followed by cyclists and horse riders, then motorcyclists.

This wouldn't remove the need for any road user to behave responsibly but would mean that people in charge of the largest vehicles, with the potential to cause the most harm in a collision, bore the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to others. So a lorry driver would have a greater responsibility to those driving a car or motorcycle, and cyclists would have more responsibility than pedestrians.

Over 8,000 people have already emailed the DfT to support this and other important changes. We are expecting objections from motoring groups before the consultation closes at the end of October. So if you haven't responded yet, visit cyclinguk.org/highwaycode to send an email to the DfT and help us secure a Highway Code that's better for everyone.

Inclusive cycling

DIVERSITY MATTERS

Cycling UK has been promoting rides to mark the festivals and religious celebrations of members from minority groups. In July, the focus was the Buddhist festival of Dharma Day and the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha. Future rides will recognise Diwali, as well as traditional UK calendar dates like Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Christmas. Email ideas to volunteering@cyclinguk.org.



Covid-19

GUIDANCE FOR GROUPS

Advice for safe cycling in all four nations of the UK during the coronavirus pandemic continues to be regularly updated on the Cycling UK website. As we went to press, the rules – which had been loosened – were tightened again for England and Scotland. Outside of specific, risk-assessed situations, the limit for group rides in both countries is now six cyclists. For the latest advice, visit cyclinguk.org/coronavirus.

Website

PACKED WITH INFORMATION

Cycling UK has built up a library of bikepacking-related content online, much of it appearing first in Cycle. It includes group tests, great rides, guides, and tips. Find out how to set up a tarp using your bike, which lightweight stove is best for camping, or learn more about our latest trail, King Alfred's Way, all at cyclinguk.org/bikepacking.



Find out more online about bivvy by bike

Governance

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

It's election time again for Cycling UK's Board of Trustees. You'll find statements from the shortlisted candidates, as well as a voting form, on the insert included with this issue of Cycle. Details for voting are on the form. If yours is missing, please contact Cycling UK's membership team during office hours on 01483 238300 or alternatively email membership@cyclinguk.org.

• £15 •

Price of our new 6-month membership package. See cyclinguk.org/back-your-bike



Big Bike Revival centres like Glos Bike Project are now providing 'pop up' repairs

Near left: Susan Keywood. Far left: Robby Spanning

Big Bike Revival

BRINGING BIKES BACK TO LIFE

Cycling UK is running two new schemes to fix up people's bikes and get them riding.

The Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme is providing free £50 repairs to people across Scotland who couldn't otherwise afford to get their bike into shape. Thanks to Scottish Government funding, we're working with over 280 bike shops and mechanics to provide repairs to 30,000 people.

Accessing the scheme

is simple: people contact their nearest participating bike shop or mechanic to get their repair booked in. Since launching on 3 August, interest in the scheme has been massive.

In England, bikes are being given a new lease of life by the Big Bike Revival Pop Up Repair Service. Free repairs and maintenance are on offer to communities across England, thanks to 'pop-up' Dr Bike sessions in 150 locations. The scheme is

funded by the Department of Transport.

Bikes are given a full safety check and minor repairs, with those needing more work being signposted to the nearest independent bike shop participating in the Government's £50 Repair Voucher scheme.

For more details, visit cyclinguk.org/ScotCycleRepair and cyclinguk.org/big-bike-revival-pop-repair-service.

Transport

NO TIME FOR SELFIES

Since 2017, there have been more than 160 near misses with cyclists at level crossings across Britain's railway network. That's 160 too many: there are clear signs in place across each of the 6,000 crossings to keep everyone safe. Cycling UK has teamed up with Network Rail to create a guide of how to keep safe at level crossings. Most of it is common sense, like "no selfies". (It does happen!) Find out more at: cyclinguk.org/level-crossings.

Crossing diagonally? Walking may be best





Left: Robby Spanning. Right: Peter Cornish

Engagement

PUMPED UP

Our new campaign provides inspiration and support for new and returnee riders to prevent the UK's cycling renaissance from sputtering out. **Adrian Wills** explains

To build on the bike boom we've seen this year, Cycling UK launched its Pumped Up campaign in August to celebrate the joy of cycling and to remind people about the fun and freedom it unlocks.

We began by travelling the length and breadth of the UK to capture images and stories of people for whom cycling has become a way of life. Our Pumped Up Portraits featured people who ride for their health, those who inspire others to ride, and cyclists who use their bike for fun and freedom.

Pete Fitzboydon, Interim Chief Executive, said: "Pumped Up is all about capturing that spirit of what cycling means to us and why we all love it so much. We want to share that enthusiasm and inspire even more people to get in the saddle. Our Pumped Up Portraits demonstrate the range of backgrounds and diversity of people who cycle in the UK."

Cycling UK followed up Pumped Up Portraits with the launch of its Pumped Up Crew at an event in Manchester at the beginning of September. Described as "the AA of cyclists", our volunteer crews can be found across the country offering safety tips, local knowledge, advice and support

for new cyclists looking for that little bit of encouragement.

Jenny Box, Cycling UK's head of behaviour change and development in England, said: "With a 146% increase in cycling since March, it's never been more important to help new and returning cyclists feel welcome and supported on the road."

Crew member Vicky Palethorpe, from Warwickshire, said: "A lot of people might feel a bit nervous if they're new to cycling so we're here to help. If you see us we can help with advice, fix a tyre (if it's not too damaged), or just give you some socially-distanced high-fives!"

cyclinguk.org/pumpedup



Ideas to improve town centres:
cyclinguk.org/article/ten-ways-create-ten-minute-town



Family cycling

NEW FOREST CYCLING WEEK

While most of Cycling UK's events this summer were cancelled, the New Forest Cycling Week at Avon Tyrell at the end of July went ahead. With appropriate hygiene and social distancing measures in place, riders of all ages cycled in small groups to the beach, cafés, and other destinations. For next year's event, see: cyclinguk.org/local-groups/new-forest-cycling-week.

Cycling UK

NEW CHIEF EXEC STARTS

Cycling UK has appointed Sarah Mitchell as its new Chief Executive. She joins from Heart of the City, a social business, and takes over from Interim Chief Executive Pete Fitzboydon in mid-October. Sarah is keen to encourage people from all communities to cycle more, not only to improve the nation's health and the environment but to enrich their lives. Former Chief Executive Paul Tuohy stepped down in April.

