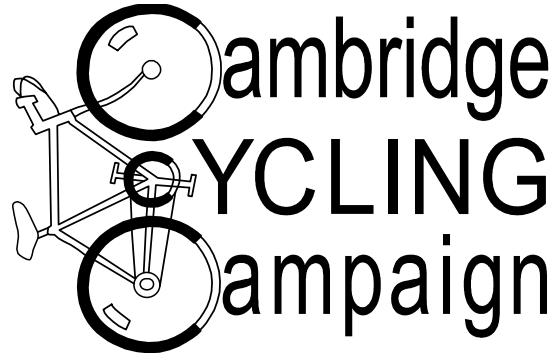


September 9, 2006

Our ref: C 06 017

Your ref:

The Officer having responsibility for the
'E-Cops' scheme,
Parkside,
Cambridge,
CB1 1JG.



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN
01223 690718 (phone & fax)
contact@camcycle.org.uk
www.camcycle.org.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

E-Cops (East Chesterton): cycling offences

One of our members who is registered with the E-Cops e-mails wrote to inform us of the receipt of the following message in July:

CYCLING OFFENCES: Following on from the area Committee meeting a number of Neighbourhood Priorities have been set, the only one that affects East Chesterton is going to see a greater number of cyclist prosecuted for minor offences such as riding on the pavement, not stopping at red lights etc. We know this is the sort of thing all cyclists do from time to time, so be warned, and don't blame us if you get caught.

We understand that cycling offences, along with issues relating to speeding on Kings Hedges Road are currently being singled out for particular attention.

As you may be aware, Cambridge Cycling Campaign welcomes increased levels of traffic enforcement, applied in a fair and reasonable manner, for all categories of road user – including cyclists, as our own position paper on Responsible Legal Cycling¹ makes clear.

However, we take exception to the apparent statement that such offences listed in the e-mail are the “sort of thing all cyclists do”, thus tarring all cyclists – even those who act responsibly – with the same brush.

Please could you kindly confirm:

1. That the statement issued as part of the e-cops scheme is a correct quotation; and
2. Whether the above statement represents the view of the constabulary, or whether the wording can instead be regarded as an unfortunate error on the part of the Officer issuing it.

¹ <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/campaigning/papers/legality/>

We do hope that the latter applies, and that if so, you would provide assurance that such sweeping and incorrect generalisations will be avoided in future.

Once again, on behalf of the Campaign, I should like to reiterate our advocacy of responsible, legal cycling. We believe this is in the best interests of cyclists themselves and of the wider community.

We look forward to receiving your kind confirmation of the above points.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator