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P R E S S R E L E A S E

For immediate use

Can Cambridge Double Cycling by 2002?

As part of its National Bike Week activities, Cambridge Cycling Campaign is holding a public discussion meeting (open to anyone) to consider the question "Can Cambridge Double Cycling by 2002?" The meeting will be held at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Lensfield Road (near the R.C. Church) at 7.30 p.m. on Friday June 13.

Before the start of the discussion proper, we will be announcing the results of the Golden Bell and Chocolate Chain awards that we invited people to make nominations for last week.

The discussion question is motivated by the National Cycling Strategy. This document, produced by the Conservative Government last year and supported by the present Government, sets a target to double cycling across the country by 2002.

In Cambridge the challenge is different from most places because of the already high levels of cycling. On one hand, doubling means getting people onto bikes in far higher numbers than in other parts of the country. On the other hand, Cambridge already has a cycling culture, is very flat, and has



NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY

generally little rain, so some hurdles that other places face are not a problem here.

That it could be done is demonstrated by Gröningen in Holland. It had levels of cycling comparable with Cambridge but made a concerted effort to increase cycle use, and it now stands at around 50% of journeys. They did this through a combination of building infrastructure, traffic management and integrating public transport and cycling.



The County Council's Cycling Strategy promotes a more limited vision. It would like to see a 25% increase in cycling in the County in five years (one percentage point a year on approximately a 20% base).

Cambridgeshire's contribution to the National target is important because the national figure is so much influenced by a number of key places: Cambridge, York and Oxford.

ENDS

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