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P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN

01223 504095

Fax 0870 063 3150

camcycle@pobox.co.uk

www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/camcycle

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

For immediate use

Cycling exceptions in one way streets

Cambridge Cycling Campaign today welcomes Cambridgeshire County Council's introduction of experimental exceptions for cyclists in some one-way streets in Cambridge. Two years ago, Cambridge Cycling Campaign published a Position Paper suggesting the Council do this.

Typically one way systems are introduced for traffic management reasons which have little to do with cyclists. Often there is room for cyclists to pass motor vehicles when two cars cannot pass each other.

There are already many examples in Cambridge where one way streets have been made two way for cyclists. But until recently Government rules have made this expensive because of the need to construct an island. This also is difficult in areas where there is not much road space to spare. While they've been introduced for all sorts of reasons and in an ad-hoc way, County research and our own experience show they work.

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Campaigner David Earl said: “one way streets can add a long distance to the law abiding cyclist's journey. We don't condone law breaking, so we sought to get the rules changed. The Government recognised the issue a couple of years ago by making exceptions easier to introduce.

He continued, “We very much welcome the new schemes and look forward to more of them elsewhere in Cambridge. In the Netherlands, universal exceptions are the norm. We think that this should be the case here too. A few streets really do need to be one way, but these can then be the exceptions.”

E N D

For further information contact:

David Earl	07977 500014 (m)
Clare Macrae	07968 836749 (m)

See Cambridgeshire County Council press release 209/01 of March 22 – County Council contacts Richard Preston 01223 717780 and Glenn Thwaites in the Press Office on 01223 717115