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

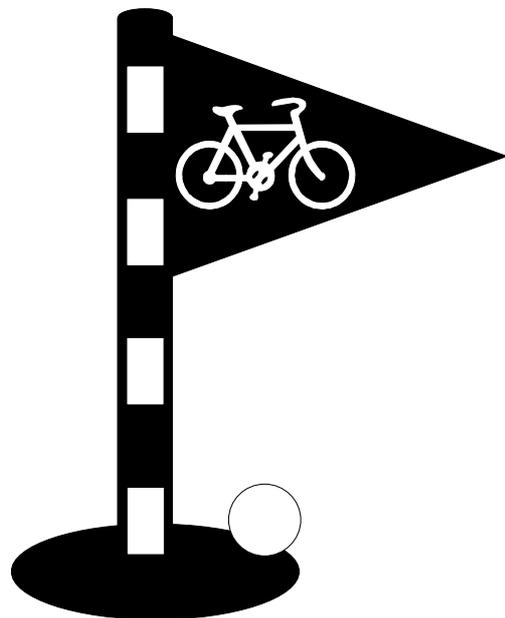
June 8, 1997. Embargoed until June 10, 1997.

Cycling Campaign plays "Pothole Golf"

During National Bike Week (this week), Cambridge Cycling Campaign is highlighting the problems poor road surfaces pose for cyclists, by playing "pothole golf". On Tuesday June 10, at 1.30 p.m., Campaign members equipped with golf clubs and flags will be putting balls halfway along Regent Terrace (the west side of Parkers Piece, and part of the S.E. Cambridge Cycle Route).

In the meantime, we can reveal that signs which have been appearing around the City (see right) over the last week mark out the Cycling Campaign's 100-hole pothole golf course which cyclists wish did not exist. Each sign is positioned near to a hole or split in the road which is at best uncomfortable, and in some cases could damage a bike or bring a cyclist off.

Campaigner David Earl said: "Earlier this year the County Council cut its road maintenance budget, and put the bulk of the cuts on the roads most used by cyclists and pedestrians. They cut by well over a third the resurfacing and reconstruction budget for cycleways and footways. At the same time the only major highway cuts were a trivial 3% in bridge repairs.



At the time Liberal Democrat Councillor Geoffrey Heathcock said: "we are building up problems for future years and we are unable to improve the

alternatives in order to reduce reliance on the private motor car." And Labour Transport Spokesman David Kelleway said the cuts were "likely to have very serious consequences". [1]

Cambridge Cycling Campaign now calls on the new County Council to redistribute the burden of cuts more equitably and back up its policies of encouraging cycling and walking in its attitude to road maintenance.

Campaigner David Jordan said: "a bump or hole that would mean nothing to a car can be disastrous for a cyclist. The Council defines a dangerous pothole as over 50mm deep - that's two inches - and much smaller gaps can cause problems. In fact, the worst problems seem to be not plain holes, but sunken drains and manhole covers, and old repairs which split along the edge."

The two streets which showed up worst were Queen Ediths Way in the south of the City and the bus and cycle lane in Hills Road. Lyndewode Road, on the S.E. Cambridge Cycle Route, also gets a mention because, while not holed, the surface has melted into a treacly mass.

Utilities must also take some of the blame -

Cable TV, gas, electricity and telephone often dig up the road, and their reinstatements are not always done in a way that lasts.

ENDS

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[1] County Council press release 35/97, January 16, 1997.