

## COMMENT

# CONFERENCE CALL

*It's party conference time – an ideal time to press your MP to declare his or her support to Get Britain Cycling.*

ROGER GEFFEN EXPLAINS

**CTC IS URGING** members to contact their MPs to support calls for action to Get Britain Cycling, in order that the main political parties all commit to the plans and funding needed for substantial increases in cycle use.

The call-out was launched by CTC President Jon Snow ahead of the party conference season. By the time you read this, Jon will have joined with former Olympic gold-medallist Chris Boardman and representatives of British Cycling, Sustrans and the Bicycle Association at receptions at the major party conferences, to be hosted by News UK as part of the Times newspaper's 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign.

CTC is also supporting Space for Cycling bike rides being held at the Labour and Conservative party conferences by the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign and Birmingham Pushbikes respectively.

Key cycle-friendly politicians are being invited to declare their support for commitments in their respective parties' manifestos to Get Britain Cycling. They will include ministers and shadow ministers, as well as members of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) and the many councillors who have supported the Space for Cycling campaign (see page 7).

## DELIVERY PLAN NOT DELIVERED

At the same time as the call-out was launched, the publication of the Government's much-delayed 'Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan' remained pending. Its publication was due in December 2013, but has been repeatedly deferred. As Cycle went to press, a launch date was expected in September.

MPs are hoping for a further opportunity to debate the plan, following the enormous cross-party support for action to Get Britain Cycling demonstrated by two previous parliamentary debates. The first, attended by

73 MPs, took place soon after the launch of the Times's 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign in February 2013, after one of their journalists, Mary Bowers, was left grievously injured and unconscious following a collision with a lorry.

The second debate, last September, involved around 100 MPs. It concluded with an unopposed vote of support for the 18 recommendations of the APPCG's Get Britain Cycling report. These include targets to boost cycle use from 2% of trips to 10% (roughly German levels) by 2025 and to 25% of trips (nearly Dutch levels) by 2050. It also called for spending of at least £10 per person annually on cycling, rising to £20 as cycle use increases.

Other recommendations include actions to: improve cycle-friendly design standards; tackle the risks faced by cyclists (e.g. by strengthening road traffic law and enforcement and by improving lorry safety); promote cycling positively for people of all

ages, backgrounds and abilities (e.g. cycle training and other activities for women, health patients and others from disadvantaged or under-represented groups).

All this will require commitment from several Government departments and a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, locally as well as nationally. In short, it requires leadership and commitment.

Jon Snow, Chris Boardman and others in the cycling lobby have repeatedly called on the Government to show leadership and provide the funding needed to Get Britain Cycling. If we want Space for Cycling, this will require long-term, consistent funding. If they can do this for High Speed 2 and a £24bn roads programme, they can do it for cycling.

## TAKE ACTION

Call on your MP to demand Space for Cycling and Funding for Cycling. Visit [ctc.org.uk/space4cycling](http://ctc.org.uk/space4cycling). ●



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