



Only two of
England's 16
National Trails are
ridable. Donate now
to change this!



Caught running a red
light: not charged. The
cyclist filming was!

Christmas appeal

DONATE NOW FOR TOMORROW'S JUSTICE

The fight for justice for cyclists never stops and we need your help. Please donate now at cyclinguk.org/cdf

An awful lot has happened in the last year. It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating victory in Shoreham and showing councils across the country that there are serious repercussions for unlawfully removing cycle lanes. That win was down to you, thanks to your support and generous donations.

This year we fought to ensure justice prevailed again, this time for Tom Bosanquet. When Avon and Somerset police made the decision to charge Tom for inconsiderate cycling, he contacted us. Through our Cyclists' Defence Fund, we paid his legal costs for defending the case. We felt it was only right to support Tom, one of our members, not only to help him but also to ensure decisions like this don't happen again.

Tom had found himself at the traffic lights next to a driver who was engrossed in using a mobile phone, and then witnessed another

running through a red light. Tom submitted video evidence of these offences, only to be prosecuted himself for inconsiderate cycling because he'd delayed another driver for a few seconds!

The Crown Prosecution Service saw sense when it reviewed the case before the trial date, and rightly took the decision to drop it. Prosecuting a cyclist for delaying a motorist risked setting

a dangerous precedent, potentially leading to cyclists being blamed for other people's impatience or bad driving. That was why the Cyclists' Defence Fund took Tom's case. Yet Tom's experience isn't unique. A police officer in Essex this year stopped two cyclists he claimed were "causing an obstruction" and "causing people to drive carelessly" – a complete misrepresentation of the Highway Code.

Off-road access

It is not just on our roads where we are having to use our Cyclists' Defence Fund to ensure that cyclists' rights are heard.

We were delighted to hear the announcement of a new national trail, the coast-to-coast Wainwright route, stretching from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire. But much to our dismay it was designed to be inaccessible to cyclists – and, for that matter,



Video stills: Tom Bosanquet