



Report from the Chair, 2015-16

I'll start my report for the last year with a quick review, in no particular order, of some highs and lows the last year.

Highs

- Top of the list has to be that our volunteer, activist-written strategy was nominated and then shortlisted for the best strategy award at the National Cycle Planning Awards. We didn't win but every other nominated strategy was written by professional consultants and we earned an honourable mention from Dr Rachel Aldred. I think we can be pretty proud of that.
- We had face to face meetings with both city MPs about progressing A City to Share.
- We delivered six well attended open meetings. This started with last year's election meeting where we had speakers from all five parties and support from across the political spectrum, including all party leaders and both city MPs. We had ESCP talk about flood defences, TRL talk about road layouts but the high point is surely Rachel Aldred's talk to a standing-room-only audience in the Richmond building – our best ever attended meeting with 80 people in the room.
- We partnered with Portsmouth City Council on the first Pedal Portsmouth event. This was a huge success and the cycle forum got some great exposure on South Today.
- We now routinely have discussions with Portsmouth City Council on new developments – before they are at planning stage; consult on road layouts at junctions and roundabouts; and are consulted on planning applications.
- We successfully pushed for a wider path on the Milton sea defences
- We gave a detailed response to the SWT franchise consultation, supported the Hayling Ferry, responded and made deputations on numerous traffic regulation orders.

Lows

- The leader of the council, Cllr Jones, has failed to deliver on her support for A City to Share, preferring to focus on professional cycle sports events rather than day to day cycling. These are great for the city and, as a cycling fan, great for me. But they do nothing for the everyday cyclist on the street. In transport terms the car is very much still king with parking still paramount.
- Portsmouth continues to have one of the worst rates of cycle accidents in the country.



- We have not been able to fully exploit the opportunities presented by engagement with MPs and to follow up on ACTS.
- The committee has struggled to maintain momentum and long standing stalwarts struggle to maintain the commitment of time with other life commitments.

Going Forward

Portsmouth Cycle Forum is campaigning for politicians and officers to commit to halving road casualties by 2020. We have asked all candidates to support this in the coming election.

The key issue will be to show the economic benefits, that it makes more economic sense to reduce congestion and boost cycling than it does to squeeze in more parking.

Thanks

Thanks must go to Cllr Ken Ellcome since he is the best T&T cabinet member for many years and, despite not making always decisions in favour of cycling, he has made it his business to attend our meetings and has created the Transport Liaison Group which, if nothing else, has brought the key players together in one room. I have to say that before these meetings I'd never had a sensible conversation with a representative from the taxi industry. I was also able to speak to reps from the bus industry regarding Donna's bus lane decision. Plus, when Ken becomes Lord Mayor we should be in good stead for tea in the LM parlour.

Thanks must also go to some committee members who have decided to stand down this year. Thanks to Chris Ballingall, Rich Boakes and especially to long standing committee member Chris Cheetham who bore our eccentricities in the heart of his home for many years. Thanks Chris, Chris and Rich.

Thanks also to all our continuing committee members, who have all worked hard this year. Thanks especially to Roger, who has done many times his fair share of work this year.