

Welcome to the First Newsletter of 2024

14th January - This is an occasional newsletter focusing on local cycling: I've altered the title to 'in and around North Fife' as many of the items here and on the linked website cover adjacent areas such as Dundee City, Angus, Perth & Kinross as well as other parts of Fife.

This edition focuses on some local cycling groups and projects, looks into potholes, and, like any cycling trip, coffee and cake is available. So on a cold winter day let's head off to a warm fire at SweetNix Cafe, Monikie...

(If these newsletters are no longer of interest to you there is an unsubscribe button and my email at the end of the page. Mailerlite, the free host application, is just changing its basic system at the end January so if the unsubscribe click is not working just email me at tturvey1@gmail.com).

[Link to Cycle North Fife website](#)





SweetNix Cafe Monikie

Offer on Itison

A short cycle ride from Dundee in Monikie village is SweetNix Cafe. This family run cafe won a 2022 award as the Best cafe in the Dundee area and is popular with cyclists. The food and drinks offer is takeaway or sit in by their toasty fire to warm up.

Open Thurs- Sat.

Itison offer <https://www.itison.com/Dundee/deals/sweet-nix-coffee-cake-sh...>

Route suggestion 25 miles - Starting at Dundee Cycle Hub Cafe (and public toilets) this mix of coastal path and minor roads takes you to SweetNix. After that its

downhill back to go along the newest section of the coastal path including the Dighty Bridge <https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2488729?units=miles>

SweetNix Facebook page for opening times etc.



Taycoasters

139 followers • 10 following

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NFC North Fife Cycling group & Taycoasters Social Group Rides

NFC held its AGM in December. 2023 was a quiet year for the group, the main activity being the associated Taycoaster rides from the Tay Bridge area and also Cupar. With luck these will restart in March and are a great opportunity for newer or less confident cyclists to have a safe social cycle with like minded people. We are looking for more Cycle Ride Leaders to make sure we can provide a full programme of rides. If this is something you'd be interested in then please get in touch. Full training will be organised for any new leaders.

The group is also supporting the Wormit Newport nature trail and the proposed Cupar to Guardbridge cycle route and hope to see some progress in both this year. If you have any ideas you think the group can help you with, or would like more information on Taycoasters, do get in touch through iancookson@hotmail.com.

Link to Taycoasters Facebook Page where you can sign up for information about the rides

Fife Active Travel Consultation

A91 Guardbridge - Cupar Route

Fife Council have various active travel projects across the Kingdom. Open for public comments is the first step in developing route options between Guardbridge and Cupar to avoid cycling on the busy A91.

This public consultation is open till 20th January

- use the Quick Link below.

The specific survey for this route is 'embedded' in the wider Fife Council / SESTRANS / Sustrans regional plan (which does take some navigating to get to the relevant page)

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-p...>

*Arup are the company developing this project: 'As we are at an early stage in the project, we do not have any plans for the route at this stage **as we are looking for the engagement that we undertake to help inform this**. The route is to connect Cupar and Guardbridge but the start/end points and alignment of this can be influenced through the engagement process. We would be keen to hear your thoughts around this. On the consultation, here is a link to the survey which is also embedded within the room: <https://ovearup.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sestran-fife>.*

Quick link to the Cupar - Guardbridge route survey

Fife Council Active Travel Plans

Public Consultation expected in 2024

Look out for this so you can have your say

SESTRANS, Sustrans, FLHR, what do they all mean?

Well I'll leave FLHR till another newsletter - I spent an hour this morning testing mine on the indoor trainer.

Cycling, Commuting, Climate Change and Congestion reduction are all part of Active Travel - a useful aim or a conspiracy to trap people?

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/10/shift-from-1...>

Transport is a devolved responsibility of the Scottish Government. Active Travel has been mainly focused on commuting and climate change. the national strategy can be found here <https://www.transport.gov.scot/active-travel/active-travel-f...>

and is linked to other policy areas <https://www.gov.scot/about/who-runs-government/cabinet-and-m...>

SESTRANS is the regional transport area that includes Fife and the regional plans include some cycling projects <https://sestran.gov.uk/>

(on the other side of The Tay TACTRANS is the regional transport area including Dundee <https://tactran.gov.uk/>

Within these broader plans for investment and development Fife has its Active travel plan covering cycling <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-p...>

Consultation on the next draft plan in 2024

'Public consultation on the draft strategy will take place in early 2024. It will cover all aspects of active travel in all areas of Fife'.

[Link to Fife Council Active Travel page](#)

Living

The Active Way

Connecting St Andrews
with better paths and safer streets



The Active Way

The Active Way

226 likes • 254 followers

[Sign Up](#)

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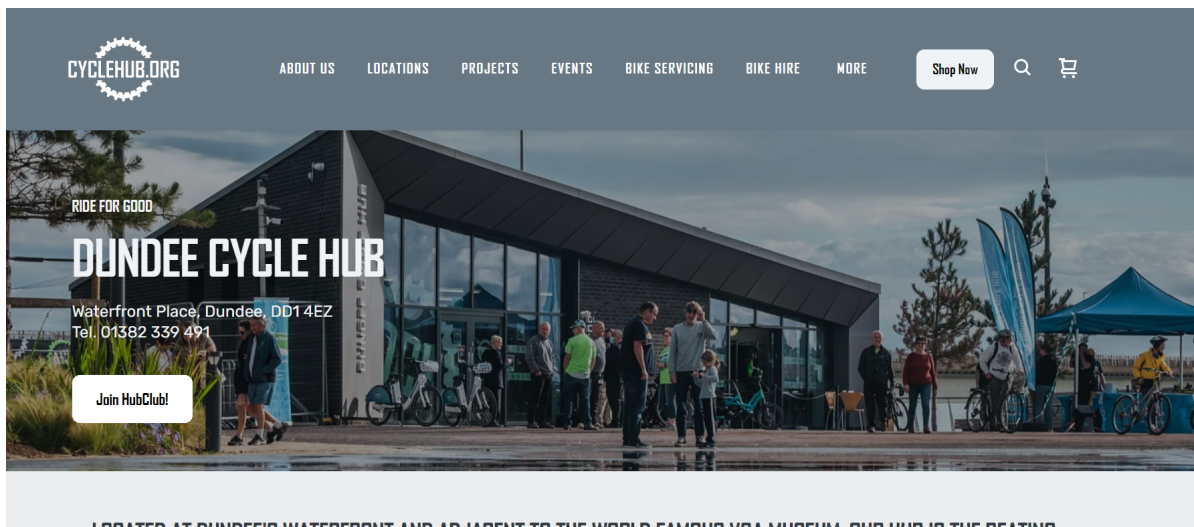
[Message](#)

SASC

St Andrews Space for Cycling

SASC is a long standing local cycling campaigning group. With Fife Council & others they have established The Active Way as a project and the button below gives you more details.

[The Active Way website](#)



Dundee Cycle Hub

The Hub offers a great range of services - see their website - link below

And the cafe now opens earlier for a pre ride coffee..

'Whether you have just cycled the NCN1 or just need a break from shopping you are guaranteed a warm welcome and great food at the DCH Cafe! Come for our house blend speciality barrista prepared coffee, freshly baked treats and stay for the amazing views across the waterfront and River Tay. We are located inside Dundee Cycle Hub at the Waterfront, adjacent to the V&A museum'.

[Link to Cycle Hub website](#)

Dundee Cycling Forum

Hello! We aim to promote cycling as an everyday activity in Dundee. We are open to anyone who cycles regularly, cycles occasionally or would like to start cycling.

Watch this page for events and issues. Also, follow our Facebook and Twitter for the very latest information, including cycling-related posts from further afield that have caught our attention.

We are mainly thinking about cycling as transport for work and leisure. Anyone who has been to the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, or even some cities in the UK will know that cycling works great as basic transport - it is quick, cheap and good for you. Dundee is a compact city and reasonably dry and sunny (for Scotland!) so it is an ideal place to join this 21st century revolution. There is a lot of work to do to catch up with the best cycling cities. The Netherlands started in the 1970s and Copenhagen in the 1990s. If we learn from their experiences we can catch up. It means changing the roads and changing minds.

So that is why we are here - to help Dundee join this healthy, practical, enjoyable trend. Which is not to say we will ignore our more-sporty friends - we are all part of the big cycling picture that is the future for communities throughout the world.

To Join (its free) https://www.dundeecycling.co.uk/join_dcf.php

[Link to Dundee Cycling Forum website](#)



Potholes

Potholes and other road defects can vary from being a nuisance to being a major hazard and cause of accidents.

In the 2023 UK ALARM (Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance) survey it found that 'that local authority highway teams in England and Wales only received around two-thirds of what they needed to stop our local roads from further deterioration and that more than £14 billion – £68,000 for every mile of local road – is now needed to fix the backlog of carriageway repairs'. Link <https://www.asphaltuk.org/alarm-survey-page/>

The Scottish situation on the state of road repairs and lack of funding is likely to be very similar - plenty to complain about if you want to contact your local Councillor or MSP.

While resources are limited and it may not seem as if its worth the effort the Council can only check potholes / road defects if they are reported to them. Minor roads you use may be routinely surveyed infrequently. Pothole reporting can be important in any accident claims as Councils duty of care may only extend to defects they know about <https://www.cyclelawscotland.co.uk/>

FIFE COUNCIL - POTHoles AND ROAD DEFECTS REPORTING

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/services/form-pages/report-a-road-or...>

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/news/2023/fife-council-fighting-the-...>

Nationally - Cycling UK campaigns for better roads for cycling and promotes the 'Fill That Hole app' that you can download and take with you on your mobile phone to use to get a report about a road defect to the relevant local council

<https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/>

Fill That Hole - Cycling UK links

Cycle North Fife

12 Birkhill Avenue, Wormit, Newport-On-Tay United Kingdom



Unsubscribing - sorry to see you go but I hope you continue to enjoy cycling here from time to time.

If you have any difficulties unsubscribing or any other comments please contact me at tturvey1@gmail.com

[Link to the unsubscribe page](#) | [Update preferences](#)

