



Robin & Alla Smith

3 August 2010

Dear Editor,

Cycling on Pavements

I have a lot of sympathy, as a pedestrian and an occasional cyclist, with your correspondent, Margaret Feely who complains of cyclists on pavements along the seafront from Tynemouth to Whitley Bay.

The route she complains about is a designated as part of National Cycle Route, No. 1 on cycling maps. This route runs along the broad pavement, starting on the Promenade at the Whitley Bay end. The pavement route ends at Windsor Crescent, north of Cullercoats Bay. From there it runs along the road as far as Tynemouth Castle. There is no route along the pavement adjacent to Tynemouth sands.

Confusion arises because the cycling route is not signposted, and/or otherwise indicated on the pavement. If cyclists are seen to use the pavement, others assume its okay. At the most recent Whitley Bay Area Forum I suggested that signposts and lines along the pavement at the Promenade end of the cycle route are provided, using part of the £50,000 environment fund that is available to each of the four Area Forums this year.

At an Area Forum in North Shields (February 2009) a Sergeant Best of Northumbria Police "confirmed that it was an offence for adults to cycle on pavements and the Police/Community Support Officers (PCSOs) should report anyone doing this." It is also an offence for youths to cycle on pavements. Where there is off-road provision for cycling it should be clearly marked as separate from the path for pedestrians. A good example of this runs along the north side of Monkseaton Drive. The only pathways for use by both pedestrians and cyclists are those of the Wagonways.

What I find irritating are adults and small groups of youths who cycle on pavements in Whitley Bay town centre, and an increasing number of cyclists jumping traffic lights, including dodging on and off pavements to avoid waiting at traffic lights.

Northumbria Police are now running a poster campaign promoting “tolerance” and “consideration” as two complementary attitudes; currently the local neighbourhood policing is too tolerant of inconsiderate cyclists.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Smith

To:
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