

Clyne Common and Cyclists

An increasing number of people are cycling across Clyne Common, many of them on their way to or from work or to go into Swansea for one reason or another. Sharing the busy B4436 is not ideal either for cyclists or for motorists. A quality cycle path is needed.

Such a path was first proposed more than a decade ago, but it got nowhere; mainly I think for lack of local support. Now there are more cyclists and also the support of the Welsh Government in the form of the Active Travel Act (Wales). This became law in 2013. Its purpose is to get people out of their cars and, instead of driving, walk or cycle for utility journeys. The benefits which would result are well known: better physical and mental health, less obesity, etc. This should lighten the load on our cash-starved NHS, not to mention leaving more space on our roads for those who need to drive.

As well as catering for adult cyclists a route across the Common would provide a safe route to Bishopston Comprehensive for children who live in the West Cross/Mayals area.

Two options have been proposed: one a path close to the south side of but separate from the B4436, and the other from the top end of West Cross Lane to Reigit Lane. As can be seen from the map below the latter is much shorter than the former. Note that the latter, although partly on road, is suitable for cyclists, including children trained to Bikeability Level 2. This is because traffic is obliged to drive slowly on Manselfield Road since it is narrow and twisty.



Wheelrights (the Swansea Bay cycle campaign group) first proposed these two routes (They did not express a preference for one over the other.) to Swansea Council some time ago, most recently last October when it had the support of councillors Nick Davies (Swansea Cycle Forum chair) and Mark Child (Cabinet Member for Healthy City and Wellbeing.)

I'm now in my eighties. I wonder if I'll be around to see a quality cycle route across the Common, and perhaps even cycle on it?

David Naylor