

UK & Ireland

Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the latest issue of our CIVINET UK & Ireland newsletter.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all those who presented at our Cycling Workshop held last November. It was extremely successful, and welcomed by all the delegates – many of which weren't current CIVINET members – so the event was a valuable opportunity to spread the word about our network. CIVINET was also represented at two events in December last year – Cycle Networks Fit for Growth in Leeds, and the Mainstreaming Smarter Travel LSTF national conference in Manchester.

Our next event is our Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for early July – we will of course let you know more when we have more details.

We're committed to keeping you informed, and have been issuing more regular "Newsflashes" to ensure the information we provide is the most up-to date. Our future newsletters will be a little shorter as a result – please let us know if you like this approach.

Just a quick mention on membership fees – I am pleased to announce that they will remain unchanged for 2014/15. Invoices will be sent out in early 2014/15.

Finally, I'm sure many of you have been very busy recently putting together the latest round of LSTF bids. The deadline for the first call of the CIVITAS CAPITAL fund has also just closed – and we hope that some of you have taken the chance to bid for funds. If not, there will be more opportunities coming up with the next call due in September.

Mike Kirby

Chair of the CIVINET UK & Ireland Network and Director of Transport and Environment, Lancashire County Council



Cycling Workshop – A Hit!



Last Autumn we held a workshop sharing cycling successes from across Europe. Presentations included Transport for London on cycling in London, and the opportunity to learn from the Dutch and European experience from Velo Mondial. There were also case studies from Dublin City Council about reawakening a cycling culture in Dublin through the dublinbikes hire scheme, and from the London European Partnership for Transport on their involvement in EU cycling

promotion projects involving schools and personal travel planning.

Delegates were also treated to a guided site tour of London's cycle hire and cycle superhighway.

Thanks to the Department for Transport for hosting the event. Presentations may be accessed in our members' private area on www.civitas.eu/taxonomy/term/248/private-downloads.

The feedback was very positive and we're pleased that our first dedicated cycling workshop proved to be such a success.

Your Management Committee

The CIVINET UK & Ireland network is governed by a Management Committee which is responsible for managing activities and budget. The Committee is elected by network members at each AGM, normally held in the spring. Any network member may be nominated for election. The Local Government Association and the DfT are observers. The current membership is:

- Colin Rees, Bath and North East Somerset Council
- Mark Prior, Brighton & Hove City Council
- Alistair Cox, Bristol City Council
- Andy Wren, Hampshire County Council
- Mike Kirby and Chris Hadfield, Lancashire County Council (National Network Manager)
- Jon Barnard, Norfolk County Council
- Andy Watt, Norwich City Council
- Paul Mathieson, Southend on Sea Borough Council.

More information about the remit and organisation of the network can be found in the terms of reference, available online at www.civitas.eu/civinet/civinet-uk-ireland. An important new development is that CIVINET UK & Ireland will have access to additional resources via the CAPITAL project. An annual activity and business plan sets out proposed core and additional network activities in 2014. This can be viewed in the members' private area at www.civitas.eu

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

■ Southend on Sea Borough Council

Paul Mathieson talks us through Southend's sustainable transport activities.

Southend on Sea Borough Council has been a member of CIVINET and its Management Committee for several years. They see their membership as a key opportunity to share their experience of European projects, network with other UK and Ireland partners and keep abreast of funding and potential projects.

Over the past five years, many projects have been implemented through the "Better Southend" programme and more recently the LSTF funded "Ideas in motion" campaign improving travelling to, from and within the borough. These projects have covered cycling, walking, public transport and driving. The Council has successfully bid and received funding not only from the LSTF but also the Better Bus Area Fund. It has set up a social enterprise and a cycle hub called the "Comfy Saddle", which is leading on community projects, recycling bikes and training.

The Council is also active at a European level, and is currently a

partner in the EU (Interreg 2 seas) "Bike Friendly Cities" project. Seven initiatives are already taking place in Southend as part of the project including a resource hub for local cyclists, bike friendly cafes and shops, integrating cycling into the school curriculum and trialling use of electric bikes by Council staff and businesses. Earlier this year in February, a party from Southend – students, teachers and Cycle Southend instructors – visited another partner in the project, Middleburg in Holland. The aim of the visit was to get an idea of the different cycle culture in Middleburg and the Netherlands in general, and to inspire changes in Southend.

Through guided bike rides, the group experienced for themselves the different types of infrastructure and other measures in place. Dedicated cycle routes are available on most busy routes, as well as separate lanes on roundabouts and underpasses. Some areas have speed restrictions for motor vehicles and cyclists have priority under national law. Local students also gave presentations about checking their bicycles and safety initiatives.

The main lesson learnt was that cycling is part of everyone's daily life in the Netherlands; grandparents, parents and children all cycle. No special equipment is required and



segregated routes allow continuous journeys by bicycle.

Paul Mathieson says, "Now the challenge is to learn from this and see how we can apply this in Southend with different road conditions and infrastructure. Two wholly segregated routes in Southend (Prittle Brook Greenway and Seafront Cycle Route) offer a pleasant ride and are encouraging people back to cycling in conditions that prevail in the Netherlands. We can see that if the right infrastructure is provided, together with encouragement and support, people will cycle more frequently and further".

To find out more about this EU project and other sustainable transport initiatives please visit:

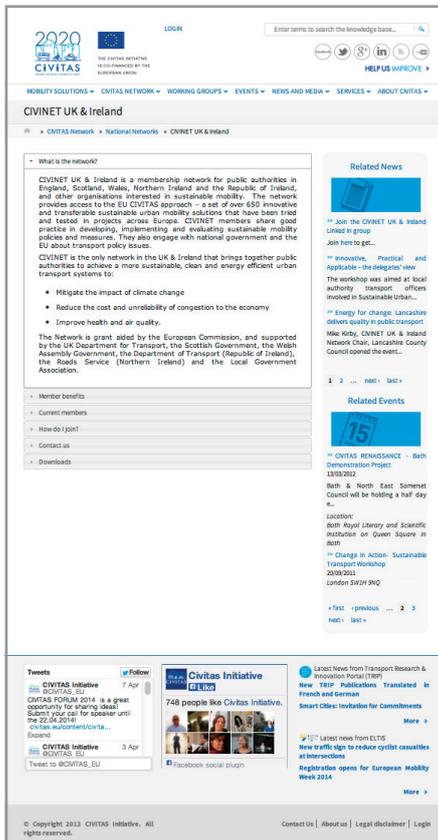
www.bikefriendlycities.eu
www.cyclesouthend.co.uk
www.ideasinmotionsouthend.co.uk
www.comfysaddle.co.uk



New Look Website

CIVINET UK & Ireland has revamped our web pages. Take a look at www.civitas.eu/civinet/civinet-uk-ireland where you will find a current list of members, information about membership benefits and governance of the network. News items and details of events will also be posted here.

Further resources are available in the CIVITAS parent website, www.civitas.eu and also in the CIVINET UK & Ireland's private member area. We intend to add slides from event presentations, special members briefings and reports. Please let us know what types of resources you would find useful.



Members' area

1. Create a user account, by clicking on the "log in" sign available at the top of all pages within the website.
2. Email Sam or Marcia (sam.jones@ttr-ltd.com or marcia.daniels@ttr-ltd.com) and we will add you to the CIVINET UK & Ireland private online group.
3. Access the members' only resources under "private downloads".



CIVITAS Forum Conference 2014 – Registrations now open

Registrations have just opened for the 12th edition of the annual CIVITAS Forum Conference will take place between 23 - 26 September in Casablanca, the economic capital of Morocco.



Casablanca will be the first non-European city hosting the CIVITAS forum conference. The choice of Casablanca as CIVITAS forum 2014 host officially seals the cooperation in the urban mobility field between the EuroMed transport project stakeholders and the CIVITAS Initiative.

The CIVITAS Forum is an annual event organised as part of the EU CIVITAS 2020 Initiative to bring together the representatives of the CIVITAS Forum Network's member cities and of the EuroMed region: policy makers, urban planners, mobility experts and politicians to present and discuss transport measures and policies towards sustainable urban mobility, accessibility and socio-spatial inequalities.

The main theme of the CIVITAS Forum 2014 will be accessibility and social inclusion which are key factors in urban mobility and city planning, especially when looking at the coordination of urban mobility, spatial planning and institutional governance.

All CIVINET UK & Ireland members are invited to attend the conference - register at www.civitas.eu/node/34675/register. It will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, close to the Medina, the historical city centre of Casablanca.

CIVITAS Forum 2015

A call for Cities interested in hosting the forum in 2015 has been launched online. For more information, please visit: www.civitas.eu/content/host-next-annual-civitas-forum-2015

COMING UP

The next AGM is expected to be held in early July at the DfT in London.

We hope to run a sustainable mobility event later in the year.

Watch out for further announcements!



Getting Greener Fleets

The fleet recognition scheme ECO Stars continues to grow across the UK and celebrated its fifth anniversary last month.

The free scheme, established by local authorities in South Yorkshire in 2009, has grown to 11 schemes nationwide with a further six in Europe representing a total of almost 300 members in the UK. It is designed to help local authorities tackle their air quality issues, by encouraging fleet operators of all sizes to improve efficiency and reduce fuel consumption and emissions. This directly helps improve local transport related air quality.

Barnsley Central MP Dan Jarvis and Councillor Roy Miller (Cabinet Spokesperson for Development, Environment & Culture for Barnsley Council) helped mark ECO Star's 5th anniversary by presenting special awards to the first ECO Stars member, Clipper Logistics and the

latest – and 75th member in South Yorkshire, Airmaster.

ECO Stars has been especially successful in Scotland – where there are now four schemes – North Lanarkshire, Dundee, Edinburgh and Falkirk with interest from several Scottish Local Authorities.

Sharing best practice is fundamental to ECO Stars and a Fuel Efficiency Workshop held recently in Falkirk proved very popular. An open discussion allowed free exchange of ideas and best practice, as well as providing an opportunity for dialogue with the council over local transport planning concerns. For more information, please contact the ECO Stars team on ecostars@ttr-ltd.com.



Join a Civitas Thematic Group!

The EU-funded CIVITAS CAPITAL project, is capitalising on CIVITAS sustainable mobility measures already demonstrated in over 50 cities across Europe. CAPITAL provides support for national networks like CIVINET UK & Ireland, with members benefiting from a range of initiatives.

In the CAPITAL Thematic Groups, cities and their expert mobility professionals can meet each other, discuss hot topics, exchange ideas, post interesting sources and learn about how to transfer successful measures to their own areas.

Ten topics are covered:

- integrated planning
- clean fuel and vehicles
- collective transport
- demand management strategies
- mobility management
- safety and security
- car-independent lifestyles
- urban freight logistics
- transport telematics
- public involvement.

To participate, visit www.civitas.eu and use the log in link to create a profile and request membership of the Groups you are most interested in. Once you are a member, you can view profiles of other members, get in contact, start or participate in discussions and post documents, news or events. Thematic groups are also organising various activities, including webinars, training and site visits, so keep an eye on the CIVITAS website for further news.



For more information about the Civinet UK & Ireland Network and how to become a member please contact Sam Jones on: +44 (0)1543 416 416 or email: civinet-uk-ireland@civitas.eu



EUROPEAN COMMISSION