

# Cycle Seahaven

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## 7th Annual General Meeting

Baptist Church, Seaford  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Campaign Report

Last year saw huge successes with cycle infrastructure in the Seahaven area, built on the groundwork we did in 2013. With so many projects completed in 2013 we had to address our campaign strategy for the 2014.

We continue to attend consultations and receive planning notices for the Seahaven area. As part of Cycle East Sussex we regularly meet other cycle clubs to review strategy and share experiences and ideas. We have extensive contacts with local councils and authorities, and we regularly post findings, updates and requests for ideas & feedback on our website.

## Exceat Hill

Since late November 2014 Exceat Hill has had an official off-road alternative cycle route, designated NCN(2). The rough dirt and churned-up brick surface still makes it suitable for off-road bikes. We have approached Sustrans to recommend an all-weather surface be applied, but no action has been taken, despite unofficial rumours.

## Seaford Promenade

The prom on Seaford had temporary Share With Care signs installed over a year ago, and this flat and wide prom remains a safe route for all users, including skateboards, dog walkers, the less able and cyclists. Cycle Seahaven endorsed the new permanent signs designed by East Sussex County Council and these have now been installed.

## A259, Newhaven to Peacehaven

Our proposal to fill in the gap between the subsidence barrier and the footway, thus creating a wide cycle way, have now been partly completed. Many club rides now use this safe and wide shared route alongside the A259 from The Fairway to the junction with the Highway. We don't yet know what will happen with the unconverted sections.

## NCN2 Alternative through Newhaven

**No Change from last year:** Cycle Seahaven ride leaders often use Valley Road and The Fairway to cross Newhaven. It links up to the existing cycle network by the swing bridge and uses quiet back street (past a school) to link up to Brighton Road, avoiding the treacherous climb out of Newhaven. We have asked the Transport planners to make this an official route but so far we've had no luck, despite the excellent links it provides to schools, the Egrets Way, a local pub and the existing cycle network. Cycle Seahaven will continue to raise this suggestion wherever possible.

Footpath Peacehaven 12 is a track between the A259 and Ashington Gardens, allowing users to avoid the narrow and blind corner for the A259 and Downland Avenue. This dirt track had a formal notice to change designation from a footpath to a cycle track, allowing shared use. It expired on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 but we are unable to get confirmation of the new status. We continue to ask nicely, rather than force an answer with freedom of information requests.

## Newhaven to Lewes

Egrets Way continues to be dogged by delays. Previously we've enjoyed the opening of the Kingston to Lewes section, the Partly surfaced Rodmell to Southease section and a newly surfaced section off Ham lane (by the local tip). This year we've seen a new path installed from Southease going South to Dean's Farm. This has recently had new gates installed and additional works to counter flooding. We don't yet have an opening date on this latest section, but it's likely to be in the Spring.

## Alfriston to Berwick

**No change from last year:** Part of a segregated cycleway already exists on the Berwick Road, but the lead up to it is narrow and uneven. Implementing improvements to the existing footway would make this section of NCN2 much safer for cyclists, and give Cycle Seahaven members an alternative to ride north out of Seaford. It would also provide better access to Drusillas Zoo park for those using the Old Coach Road bridleway. Such a proposal has been sent to the Transport and Environment department at East Sussex County Council, and is now on 'their books' for consideration.

## Newhaven Development

A couple of new infrastructure developments have been proposed in Newhaven, and Cycle Seahaven has raised the fact that cycling provision is severely lacking in both cases.

☑ Parker Pen site development. **No Change from last year:** Cycling is part of the development statement but is poorly implemented on the proposal documents. Cycle infrastructure needs to be provided to link up to the existing network so that door to door cycle journeys can be undertaken safely by people of all ages and abilities. We are now in contact with Newhaven Town council regarding all local development and the governments requirement for better cycle infrastructure.

☑ Drove Transport Hub. The design statement said this scheme is designed for better bus, train, ferry and taxi provision at The Drove, Newhaven, incorporating improvements for the new University Technical College. Cycle Seahaven requested a redesign of the layout to better cater for cyclists, but the original design went ahead. Cyclists now need to cross four roads to get from the train station to the swing bridge. We are sorely disappointed with the lack of consideration for cyclists on what is a designated cycle route. We and Cycle East Sussex continue to raise these issues with the planning and transport departments.

## Railway Stations

We contacted the Sussex Community rail Partnership to see if cycle facilities could be improved in our area. We were delighted to find that our local stations had already been earmarked for substantial improvements, including covered cycle shelters and public maintenance stands & pumps. Not all of these have been delivered, with the notable exception of Brighton and Lewes cycle hubs, so we continue to make sure we have not been forgotten.

## Accessible Transport Seaford

This has since ceased active campaigning, but remains as a Facebook page. Cycle Seahaven continue to monitor input from this and other sources, including the planning applications lists and highways changes.

## Cycle East Sussex

We attend the regular meetings with other East Sussex cycle groups to share campaign information and strategies.