

## Campaigning

The year started off with the East Sussex County Council Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan consultation. We were asked to initially look at the plans and comment before it was opened up to wider consultation later last year. This coincided with the Department for Transport asking local authorities to bid for funds to support safer walking and cycling during the pandemic.

We asked the membership for ideas then, working with Lewes district Council, we submitted suggestions. Unfortunately most of the schemes in East Sussex were turned down due to complaints, lack of support or limited time for consultation. Some other local areas implemented changes without consultation - with mixed reaction. Where councils held their nerve there was definite increases in cycling. If you build it, they will come! I would like to thank Carolyn Lambert for her support in expressing our disappointment to the County Council at the lack of action locally.

One thing we did achieve from the government funding was new cycle parking in Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford. I'm particularly pleased with the rack being installed at the bottom of Broad Street, Seaford. I really didn't think this would happen. Ian Cairns deserves particular praise for his persistence with the council to help achieve this.

On behalf of the committee I have attended many meetings with Cycle East Sussex and the newly formed Lewes District Walking and Cycling Forum. These are both great ways to find out what's going on and work together.

This year we have also:

- Offered support to groups working on improving safety on the C7.
- Collaborated with Councilors from Peacehaven and Seaford on projects they are working on to improve cycling.
- Supported Cycling UK's campaign to change the Highway Code for safer cycling.
- Collated the clubs response to the new Exceat Bridge consultation.
- Worked with other local cycling groups to discuss the possibility of 1.5m safe passing signage.

I will be leaving the committee this year, but will continue to support the committee and the club's cycling campaigns. If you see a campaign or consultation on the website be sure to comment. The government has targets to increase cycling to improve physical and mental health, air quality and reduce our carbon emissions. There has never been a better time to push for safer cycling.