

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign hosts a special presentation:
“Going Dutch: New homes, New travel arrangements in the Netherlands”

By Richard Armitage CMILT, Chair of the Cycling Forum, Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport.

We outgrew the original room, so please note new date of Tuesday May 1st 2012.

Transport consultant Richard Armitage is a member of SUNN, the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network. In autumn 2011 SUNN hosted a study tour of three Dutch cities to see how active travel opportunities can be designed into new developments.



Richard explains the background:

“Over two years SUNN arranged for a group of 60 professionals involved in new residential developments - designers, architects, urban planners, developers, housing association managers, and one transport specialist (me) - to tour new developments around England. This was a fascinating and instructive process, showing the good, the bad and the sadly indifferent in modern residential areas. And at the end, we went Dutch...

In the Netherlands we viewed three cities: Amersfoort, Houten and Almere. The new homes we saw have many different designs and sizes. The bicycle is frequently the best way to get around - the quickest and most direct route between A and B, the most pleasant way to travel (traffic-free). Proper cycle storage, hire and maintenance facilities abound. This leaves public transport - mainly rail - to take you longer distances (e.g. to work). Despite high quality building standards, low energy consumption homes, pleasant surroundings and significant transport infrastructure investment, the finances work. Public subsidy is minimal, yet these developments are financially successful.

The car is never allowed to dominate the streets or the view in these new urban extensions but there is still plenty of parking. It is not about ownership but use and management. Meanwhile, Dutch motorway queues are easily as good as ours, so the car has not been banished. The results are obvious to see and Dutch people are queuing up to live in these areas, especially Houten near Utrecht.”

Richard is a popular and stimulating speaker, come and hear what we can learn from the Dutch.
Tuesday May 1st 2012 at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be available from 7pm.
The Main Hall, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS.

To reserve a place and assist catering RSVP to: honsec@gmcc.org.uk

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign is a voluntary group working to make cycling in Greater Manchester quicker, safer, easier and more enjoyable. The Campaign wants more people to use cycles for transport and leisure purposes, whilst appreciating the benefits for our wellbeing, health, climate and economy. We aim to represent, empower and encourage people with our monthly meetings, newsletters, e-mail lists and regular social rides and events.

We have been operating since 1981 and were formerly called Sprocket. Members have campaigned for and supported many improvements for local cyclists, including the creation of “The Greater Manchester Cycling Book” in 1985 (with 27 pages of maps), and the “Manchester and surrounding districts Cycling map” in 1998, revised 2002. GMCC were the first local organisation to offer free adult cycle training - something since offered by 2 of our local authorities, and soon to be offered in all 10 GM regions. We also engage with many national issues, both independently and through our membership of Cyclenation. Although our focus is cycling we also support walking and public transport wherever possible.

Our meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House (close to Manchester Town Hall) on the 2nd Monday of every month, from 7pm until about 9pm. The meetings are regularly followed by discussions in a nearby pub (usually the Waterhouse). Members and non-members are welcome to attend meetings, or just turn up at a social ride or event.

Please visit www.gmcc.org.uk or email honsec@gmcc.org.uk for more information.