

Active Travel Report – CSG 10.5.21

1. The Link Road opened and a lovely time was had by all riding on the road and the cycle path until everybody got to Radnor Roundabout. This is where the walkers and cyclists route is going to be routed along the Back Lane West to Black Firs Lane, to Chelford Road and then into Sandy Lane to reach Sandbach Road. People were rightly confused because the Back Lane West bit was closed off, had not been finished and had no signs directing cyclists and walkers to this 'quiet' route. As we go to press the signs have still not been erected: Grahams have apologised for this oversight. Cheshire East have not said a word!
2. ATC have received funds to create cycle facilities in Congleton using the money that CE received from DEFRA for the Air Quality improvement scheme, some years ago. If you recall certain voices in the town council and CE said that this money had been returned to DEFRA. It had not! ATC have agreed with CE that the money will be spent on three projects: 1. A 'Bike Buddy' scheme to help new and returning cyclists find their way around town without having to use the AQMAs. We think this would have great benefit for the new residents in the estates around Congleton, 2. More cycle parking in places around town such as Lawton St and the Park, 3. Signage to help people walk and cycle to shopping areas and schools without using cars. ATC have identified routes in Mossley/Hightown and West Heath. None of those areas are hilly and the shops are never more than 1 mile from any house: why then do people continue to drive to the local shops?
3. ATC have been researching a 'Rickshaw' project. The aim of this is to offer a free ride to residents of care homes and sheltered accommodation to places that they used to live at or used to spend time in. (We may suggest that the clients make a donation). We have been in touch with all the care homes in Congleton and the overwhelming reaction has been 'YES PLEASE, LET'S HAVE THIS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY!'. This is why ATC cannot be at the CSG meeting this morning as we are meeting with the management of a home to put a bit of flesh on the bones. We are still in the process of getting funds to buy this Rickshaw and we are going to approach businesses in Congleton to see what can be done. If anyone in CSG can offer advice, or funds, please get in touch with Peter Hall or Ant Bolding.
4. ATC will have a stall at Congleton Green Fayre.