

Velo Birmingham

Jon Fraser at the County Council writes as follows.

Dear Parish Councils,

I am writing to update Parish Councils regarding the Velo Birmingham closed road cycle event on September 24th 2017. This is a general email that I have asked CALC to include in their latest newsletter to all Parish Councils however officers and members have also had discussions with many Council Clerks and/or Chairmen, have attended meetings or have future meetings in the diary. There will also be further specific communication with individual Parish Councils in the near future.

Please allow me to set out the current position:

Route Change

Following recent discussions between Worcestershire County Council, the event organisers CSM, and other adjacent local authorities, the route of the event has been changed, in the following ways:

- The route no longer goes any further west than the Parish of **Great Witley**, meaning that it no longer passes through the Parishes of **The Shelsleys, Stanford with Orleton, Hanley, Eastham, Lower Sapey, Clifton and Martley**. It also no longer goes into the County of **Herefordshire**, this section being
-

- replaced with a route through the County of **Staffordshire**.
- There are also changes to the route through the Parishes of **Churchill & Blakedown** and **Wolverley & Cookley**.
- The original route from **Droitwich** no longer uses the A442 northbound, meaning it no longer passes through Parishes of **Elmbridge, Elmley Lovett** and **Rushock** and is much reduced through **Hampton Lovett** and **Chaddesley Corbett**. The route now will pass through parts of **Dodderhill, Upton Warren** and **Dodford with Grafton** Parishes.

Road Closure Timings Change

Due to the fact that the route will now go into Staffordshire before Worcestershire and no longer into west Worcestershire and Herefordshire, road closure timings have changed, being a little longer with a later road re-opening time on the earlier part of the circuit. We have also asked CSM to reduce closure times as much as possible and in some locations they have been able to achieve this – details will be explained later.

Communication

Several Parish Councils have made it clear that there are many areas where people are unaware of the event and where there appear to be gaps in communication. This has been discussed at length with CSM.

A second newsletter will start to be distributed next week from CSM and a copy is attached. This is a generic newsletter which mentions the route change and revised closure timings and will be delivered via the Royal Mail.

In areas where we believe there may have been gaps with previous communications this will be supplemented by a manual letter drop. WCC will be assisting with this at CSM's expense.

Safety Issues

Many comments have been made regarding the safety of the event however WCC are satisfied that CSM have put in place the necessary traffic management, stewarding and monitoring arrangements to enable the event to proceed safely. The event has specific Safety Advisory Groups (with representation from emergency services and local highway authorities) specialising in safety of events for both the region and the county and both of these groups are currently satisfied with planning and progress to date.

For information CSM are the also organiser of the Ride London-Surrey cycle event which takes place this Sunday. This mass sportive event is similar to Velo Birmingham. This event has a professional element to it which this year has been promoted to World Tour level. There is TV coverage this Sunday from 3:30pm to 6:30pm on BBC1 should you wish to take a look.

Continued.....

Access Mitigation

In several areas along the route, CSM in conjunction with WCC, have been developing local solutions which allow additional access during the closure times.

These currently include **Wolverley, Great Witley, Holt, Ombersley, Droitwich** and **Belbroughton**, although there may be additional places.

As well as the generic newsletter mentioned above, all of these areas will also receive a more detailed newsletter which shows these access solutions. These are still being finalised and will be shared with Parishes within the next week or so before being distributed locally.

Where individuals or businesses contact CSM using the route@velobirmingham.com address, they will attempt to find access solutions. As well as providing managed access, examples have been managed crossing points, escorted access where achievable, and alternative parking arrangements. We are monitoring this closely and CSM will continue to work on these issues right up until the event date. There will not be a solution for everyone, however.

Formal Road Closure Order

Having regard to the efforts made by CSM in developing access solutions, the County Council will now proceed with the formal road closure temporary traffic order (TTRO)

This will be advertised in the near future in local newspapers and on the roads to be closed. Parish Councils will be sent a copy of the Order.

There will be the opportunity for comments to be received when the TTRO process commences. The Council will consider any comments as they are received. While we cannot fetter our discretion, we are minded to proceed unless any major showstoppers are revealed in this period.

Going Forward

As I have mentioned to many, I am willing to attend local Council meetings where possible. CSM are also happy to attend and/or set up a drop-in session in local areas where individuals may discuss personal access issues.

I hope that the above information sets out the current position with regard to Velo Birmingham and I look forward to further communication and discussion as we progress. Please feel free to contact me as necessary.

Regards,

Jon Fraser

Worcestershire County Council

County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

Tel: 01905 822058

Email: jfraser@worcestershire.gov.uk