

CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

NI cycling Initiative welcomes the letter from Fiona Norris (BT Friday 19th May 2006) highlighting the inconvenience to pedestrians of people cycling too fast on pavements.

Most cyclists only use pavements when they feel insecure on the road.

Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative is lobbying for three things to remedy this problem:

1. Separate cycle paths along strategic cycle routes
2. Speed limits of 20mph to make cycling on the road safer
3. Training for cyclists of all ages to make them feel more secure on the road.

Cycle-friendly countries that have introduced 20mph speed limits have found that up to 40% of journeys are by bicycle and childhood obesity is much lower than the level in Northern Ireland.

Yours etc.

Sally Liya
Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative Steering Group

Beware, bikers

20 April 2006

Rule 54 of the Highway Code states: 'You must not cycle on a pavement.'

Sounds perfectly clear to me and, I'm sure, most other people. Even the ones who blatantly persist in breaking it, on a daily basis, where I live in Coleraine.

So is there any chance the powers-that-be could see their way to actually enforcing it?

It's got beyond a joke - when the simple act of going for a walk, for the sake of one's health, becomes a hazard-fraught nightmare.

Please get off your padded chairs and act now, before the pavements become covered in floral tributes to what will surely be the first fatality as a result of this danger.

After all, not everyone is nimble enough to jump out of the way - and why should we have to?

FIONA NORRIS Coleraine, Co Londonderry

Please take care around cyclists

15 March 2006

In response to Driver (Writeback March 8), as a cyclist, I feel that he and I are at totally opposite ends of the spectrum of road users.

Where I live, in east Belfast, there are no cycle lanes and one is often taking one's life into one's hands, in spite of wearing fluorescent gear, having proper lights, etc.

I find that, generally, drivers just do not allow for cyclists and one is often forced to cycle on the pavement for safety, which may or may not be legal.

Cars parked on the main road block one whole lane, so cyclists have to share the remaining lane with traffic from two lanes.

I also drive a car and obviously take special care around cyclists.

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