

connected

Welcome

By Malcolm Shepherd

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Welcome to Connected

I'm delighted to be writing my first introduction to you as Chief Executive of Sustrans, the charity behind the National Cycle Network, Bike It, Travelsmart, Safe Routes to School and now Connect2.

It is startling to think that just a year has passed since Sustrans hit the jackpot when Connect2 was awarded a £50 million Big Lottery Fund grant after winning a public vote televised on ITV1 in December 2007. Winning was a truly remarkable achievement for the charity itself and the many local authorities, partners and individuals across communities all over the UK who lent their support. Sustrans simply couldn't have done it without everyone's combined efforts. So in introducing the first ever edition of Connected, the Connect2 newsletter, I would like to extend our immense gratitude to every single person who helped lead Sustrans' Connect2 to victory.

Now the hard work of delivering schemes has begun in earnest, and we must not lose sight of the fact that our funding success was brought about by everyone's combined efforts of working together. Sustrans and our Connect2 partners share a commitment to involve local communities at every step of the Connect2 journey and this gives us the confidence to believe that the end result will be 79 fantastic, and well-used networks - networks which work because they take people where they want to go in an environment that inspires and motivates them to travel under their own steam.

A year on and the first scheme has already successfully opened in Dumfries, Scotland. Over the next five years all 79 communities will benefit from a wide range of solutions to overcome the busy roads, rivers and railways that are preventing people travelling on foot and bike to so many local destinations.

The Connect2 project team has been working with our many partners to put in place agreements that will guide the development and delivery of the remaining 78 schemes. We look forward to seeing these become a reality over the next four years and demonstrate the value of creating the right environment for walking and cycling.

Winning the vote showed once and for all, that people want more sustainable travel choices, and that when given the opportunity people grasp active, low carbon travel with both hands. Connect2 provides that opportunity to as many as six million people to the benefit of our health, our energy security, our environment, our communities and our economy.

I firmly believe that Connect2 really can change our world and become the blueprint for a local travel revolution across the UK - I hope you'll agree with me and that you get behind your local Connect2 scheme in the near future.

Malcolm Shepherd
Chief Executive



Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. Our vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. We work on practical, innovative solutions to the transport challenges facing us all. Sustrans is the charity behind the award winning National Cycle Network, Safe Routes to Schools, Bike It, TravelSmart, Active Travel, Connect2 and Liveable Neighbourhoods, all projects that are changing our world one mile at a time.

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LOTTERY FUNDED



An update from Tim Temple, Project Manager

As the person responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of the five year Connect2 project, I am delighted that we are off to a flying start with a popular scheme in Dumfries that absolutely embodies the key principles of Connect2 – people, places and pride.

We are now at the stage where many more schemes across the UK have signed their agreement with Sustrans to guide the development of each individual network. We are continuing to work with those remaining schemes towards agreements that will ensure that the best possible networks are delivered. Together with my colleagues involved in Connect2 in the regions across the UK, I will be working with local authorities and partners over the coming months.

One of the elements crucial to the success of Connect2 is community involvement - if local people feel involved in the process, Connect2 will be even more successful. We have a team dedicated to ensuring that those who will benefit from Connect2 have the opportunity to contribute at every stage of the project. To ensure this we are supporting schemes to establish local steering groups and will be providing support for community events including **Connect2 Day** on Saturday 4th July 2009.

Perhaps an event to mark the completion of part of your network or an opportunity to invite local people

to come and see the latest designs - **Connect2 Day** will be a day for local people to celebrate Connect2 developments. For those schemes that have a completed Connect2 network, it will be an opportunity to encourage local people to swap a car journey and use their local dedicated walking and cycling network instead. If your scheme is not yet built, Connect2 Day can be used as an opportunity for your local community to see and comment upon the proposals and maybe find out more about the Change Your World campaign (see below).

We are working to produce the support materials you need to help make your **Connect2 Day** event a big success so keep tabs on the new resources area of the website: (www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/resources)

So as we all work towards the delivery of Connect2, I'm certain we will create networks that really can change your world by creating a more pleasant environment for everyone living within a Connect2 community. My team and I will be doing all we can to ensure this vision becomes a reality.



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Change Your World is an established Sustrans campaign that invites people during the first week of July, to swap a car journey to one made by foot, bike, public transport or by avoiding the need to travel in the first place. As Connect2 schemes near completion, we are hoping that communities will get involved in Change your World every year as the perfect way to celebrate the new networks of routes enabling people to travel under their own steam for everyday, local journeys. <http://www.changeyourworld.org.uk/>

Connect2 Day Saturday 4th July 2009

<http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/resources/>

Calling all Local Authorities! If your Connect2 scheme isn't built yet then why not organise your Connect2 Day around encouraging your colleagues to sign up to Change Your World? To get support materials and advice send an email to: changeyourworld@sustran.org.uk or visit www.changeyourworld.org.uk

Latest news

Scotland

Congratulations Dumfries! The first Connect2 scheme opens in July

West Midlands

Worcester Waterfront starting to Connect

A step closer to Kenilworth's dedicated walking and cycling network

Connect2 Kenilworth: New bridge over the A429 will be elegant and sensitive

The North West

Northwich Riversdale Bridge update

A step closer to Sale and Stretford's canal path for walking and cycling

The South West

Bath's Piggy Bank raises £200,000 for Connect2 Two Tunnels

Connect2 Weymouth takes a step closer as full funding is put in place

Connect Bristol 2 Nailsea and beyond – walking and cycling network a step closer



Sustrans' and Warwickshire County Council sign the agreement to take forward the Kenilworth scheme

One year on and a step closer for Newton Abbot's walking and cycling network

Nailsea residents to get safer crossing as part of Sustrans Connect2

The South East

One year on and a step ahead for Shoreham's walking and cycling network

Hastings to Bexhill - the dedicated walking and cycling network is now a step closer

Wales

Port Talbot's dedicated walking and cycling network – a step closer

Yorkshire and Humberside

Bradford pockets £1.5m as walking and cycling network becomes a step closer

Northern Ireland

Derry~Londonderry's dedicated walking and cycling network receives £1.2million

Omagh's walking and cycling network now a step closer

Other News

Connect2 campaign in Stockport wins CIPR award

Sustrans' Marketing team scoops Bike Biz accolade for Connect2

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To find out the latest news on all Connect2 schemes as it happens visit:

<http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/news/>

“ I didn't realise how much we were restricted by traffic in our daily lives until we had the path; its so much safer and much more relaxing. ”



Dumfries becomes the first ever Sustrans' Connect2 town

The Connect2 Dumfries project was officially opened by Queen of the South Football Club Chairman David Rae on the 4th July 2008 to become the first ever Sustrans' Connect2 town.

The project connects two railway paths via the picture perfect Queen of the South Viaduct creating a direct link for people to walk and cycle between communities in the east and west of the town.



Television presenter Lorraine Kelly, who championed the Sustrans Connect2 project in the public vote, said, "I was really pleased to be part of Sustrans' Connect2 project last year and of course delighted that we won the £50 million - I'm really proud to hear that the first completed project is in Scotland. Massive congratulations to Dumfries and Galloway and Sustrans for giving people a great cycling and walking network and for bringing a local landmark back to life."

knit together some of the routes radiating from the town, Connect2 Dumfries now provides a linking route stretching from Carlisle to Inverness on National Cycle Network Route 7. Local resident of Maxwell Town Vivienne Mullett agreed: "The viaduct was the missing link. I feel so lucky having this on my doorstep; it has opened up the whole town to me. I used to have to get in my car to go to the supermarket, now I just head out with my dog." She added "I didn't realise how much we were restricted by traffic in our daily lives until we had the path; its so much safer and much more relaxing. You meet all kinds of people on the path, enjoying themselves or simply getting to work. There are parents teaching their kids how to ride a bike, dog walkers and groups from residential homes. What surprises me is there's all this community activity, right on my doorstep & before the path, I just didn't see it."

When initial work began on site back in February, a community event was held to celebrate the start of the construction phase of the first ever Sustrans Connect2 route. This was an opportunity for local people and schoolchildren to see what was happening and provided local Councillors and staff working on the project with the

Connect2 Dumfries has opened up a wider walking and cycling network to Doonhamers by linking the Caledonian and Maxwell Town railway paths via the viaduct. Helping

chance to see their hard work begin to take shape. Some of those who arrived to see the work get underway are now involved in the steering group, consisting of Dumfries & Galloway Council staff, local Councillors and members of the local community including cyclists and walkers.

As the construction work for Connect2 Dumfries progressed the local community had further opportunities to see the work on the path and some even had the chance to begin using the route prior to its official opening.

Pupils at Brownhall Primary School were taken for an educational bike-ride along the path by Dumfries & Galloway Council School Travel Co-ordinator in the weeks prior to the official opening.

The children got to see how the work had progressed and had the opportunity to find out about how Connect2 was making it easier for people to travel under their own steam all over the UK. Parents were also involved in the ride and were introduced to the fun alternative to the school run. Dumfries and Galloway Councillor Roger Grant commented: "Organising a ride for pupils and parents is a really effective way to sell the benefits of active local travel. As we continue to promote the new Connect2 route in Dumfries we intend to work with more local schools on their School Travel Plans by organising more rides." In fact more activities are already arranged for Walk To School week in 2009 with Dumfries and Galloway Countryside Rangers already planning wildlife spotting rides with one school in May next year.

By working in partnership with Sustrans volunteers over the coming months Dumfries and Galloway hope to get more and more schools involved.

Dumfries & Galloway Council also intend to continue with events on 'Connect2 Day' with Connect2 each year to mark the anniversary of the route opening. One such event being considered is a repeat of the Fun Run from the viaduct organised by Dumfries Running Club on Saturday 5th July 2008 which it is hoped may become a regular annual event. The Steering Group is also planning to promote Connect2 Dumfries at local sporting events, school events, and sustainability themed days in local workplaces. Dumfries also has an environment fair each year where the cycle network in Dumfries is promoted.

Connect2 Dumfries is the first of four Connect2 schemes in Scotland to complement the existing National Cycle Network that serves villages and communities across Scotland.

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Sustrans is currently working on a **Connect2 Dumfries map** for 2009 which will be available free of charge locally in Dumfries and available to download from the Sustrans' Connect2 website.

To see the latest on Connect2 schemes in Scotland 'find a scheme' here: www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/schemes

Is Connect2 changing your world?



Vivienne Mullett of Maxwell Town, Dumfries says:

"I didn't realise how much we were restricted by traffic in our daily lives until we had the path; its so much safer and much more relaxing."

Do you live in or near Dumfries? Has Connect2 made it easier for you to travel on foot or bike?

If the answer to these questions is yes we'd really like to hear from you. Get in touch with the Sustrans' Connect2 team here

[\(http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/contact_us/\)](http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/contact_us/) and tell us how Connect2 has helped you to get around under your own steam.

A Legacy of Living Landmarks



Sustrans' Connect2 is not the only project to have hit the lottery jackpot with the Big Lottery Fund – three

other major projects in the UK are shaping up to transform our environment and similarly to Connect2, create a lasting legacy for current and future generations to enjoy.

In September 2008, all Living Landmarks projects met together with the Big Lottery fund at the site of the Heartlands project, to celebrate the Living Landmarks vision. Here we take a closer look at the Heartlands project in Cornwall, the Helix in Falkirk and Connswater Community Greenway in Belfast.



Project: Heartlands, Cornwall
Grant: £22.3 million from the Big Lottery Fund

The Heartlands Project is a community-led vision to transform one of Cornwall's most derelict urban areas into a truly inspirational cultural landscape. It will celebrate Cornish traditions of innovation and creativity and help the former tin mining area of Pool to become a truly great place to live, work and play.

Around 44,000 local residents from Pool and the adjoining towns of Camborne and Redruth will benefit from the project. It is anticipated that the new landscape could attract around 200,000 visitors per year.

The Heartlands Project will benefit both local people and visitors through transforming the physical and built environment in Pool as a place to offer a series of activities that will breathe new life into the area. The project will act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration of Pool which will create more jobs and opportunities for the whole community, once more making Pool a great place to live, work and play.

<http://www.theheartlandsproject.org.uk/>



Project: Helix Eco-Park, Falkirk
Grant: £25 million from the Big Lottery Fund



The industrial landscape between Falkirk and Grangemouth is set to be transformed into a thriving environmental community and tourism asset for

Scotland, thanks to a massive £25 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

This Helix Eco-Park will be created over the next six years to radically transform more than 300 hectares of unused land in the Forth Valley. The Big Lottery Fund grant will create a new section of canal, linking the Forth and Clyde Canal into the Forth Estuary. It will also plant 750,000 new trees and 34 kilometres of paths and cycle ways.

<http://www.falkirkhelix.co.uk/>

Project: Connswater Community Greenway
Grant: £23 million from the Big Lottery Fund



The Connswater Community Greenway is an extensive environmental improvement project costing £30m and connecting 379 acres of public open space, building 43

bridges and 19 kilometres of cycle and walkways. Just fewer than 50,000 people living adjacent to the greenway will benefit from a better living environment and opportunities for leisure, exercise, recreation and supporting healthier lifestyles.

The project will develop this linear park through East Belfast allowing people to travel along the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop rivers, connecting people and places from Castlereagh Hills to Belfast Lough.

<http://www.communitygreenway.co.uk/>

Connect2: Greenway Design Guide

The key to great design is thinking about the needs of people...

So we are about to connect communities, by creating spaces for people to enjoy, routes that inspire people to choose to walk and cycle to school, work, the shops and for pleasure. How exactly can this be done in a way that appeals to as many people as possible? Look no further than the updated edition of the Sustrans' Connect2 and Greenway Design Guide that will be available to download from the Connect2 website in the Spring of 2009.

For those of you involved in delivering Connect2 projects you may have already seen the Draft Connect2 and Greenway Design Guide (available on request from paul.hilton@sustrans.org.uk). Going through all 278 pages might seem a daunting task, but this not your typical design manual. This guide is unique in that it is full of example photos, useful sketches and plain english text, and before you know it you find yourself turning pages, getting inspired by the concepts and ideas. With the exception of the fundamental need to create a public space that is a pleasure to use, There are hardly any "must dos" or "should dos" in the guide. Instead there are tools and building blocks for the reader to use that firmly puts people's need first, 'designing in' suitable gradients, convenient places to stop and useful access points. It is based on 30 years of Sustrans' experience and lessons learnt, and the advice is tried and tested. As Sustrans founder and honorary president John Grimshaw CBE explains the guide highlights the opportunities, best practice and design details needed to create the very best walking and cycling environment.

Greenways

Greenways are more than paths – they are places where commuting becomes pleasure, where a trip to the shop is an inspiring journey, where walking the dog allows meeting the dog-less neighbour and where you can breathe some fresh air while ambling through town. Greenways allow safe travel in a healthy environment – a concept that is described in detail in the Guide.

Joined-up thinking

Recent years have seen the publication of many cycle and pedestrian infrastructure guides (the latest being the DfT's Cycle Infrastructure Design), many of which take ideas from Sustrans' invaluable resource, the "National Cycle Network – Guidelines and Practical Details". The Greenway Guide is more than a technical compendium for a route. It joins up ideas that create exciting spaces, travelling landscapes, bio-diverse habitats and valuable links for people to travel sustainably. The Connect2: Greenway Design Guide should appeal to an audience beyond engineers and decision makers. Planners, designers, architects, city centre / town centre managers, residents and Connect2 Steering Groups will all find it an inspiring reference.

Building blocks

Greenways are linear parks that provide a unique setting for artwork – a place where people go simply to visit art within the travelling landscape - exhibits that can be experienced during a journey rather than in a gallery. But art is more than sculptures and

monuments – the Greenway designers themselves become artists in opening up views, positioning seats and maintaining trees that make up a travelling landscape.

Greenways need not stop at the edge of towns. Continuity of Greenways into the heart of urban areas is possible, and the Guide provides ideas how to transform the layout of road by planting trees, calming traffic and allocating road space fairly to users. Flowcharts are used to illustrate hierarchies of different types of rural and urban highway crossings, indicating a clear priority for the Greenway in both surroundings. Engineers might also want to refer to the Department for Transport's "Cycling Infrastructure Design" for the more technical details of routes on highways, but the Greenway Design Guide is the main launch pad for Greenway thinking.

Assembling funding packages, negotiating land and following the project through the planning process can all be stumbling blocks to getting a Greenway project off the ground, and many good schemes have never been developed because these processes were not successful. The Guide recognises this, and (based on Sustrans experience in this field) gives very realistic advice on bringing projects to fruition. Real project costs are outlined in appendices to the Guide.

These building blocks are set in the overall context, which is a useful reference to remind the reader why Greenways need to be created in the first place. Walking and cycling needs support, and their health and environmental benefits are immense. Greenways create the physical conditions for walking and cycling, an environment that allows the necessary culture change in our transport patterns away from motorised transport.

Christian Ensslin is Sustrans' Senior Engineer

“Greenways are more than paths – they are places where commuting becomes pleasure, where a trip to the shop is an inspiring journey, where walking the dog allows meeting the dog-less neighbour and where you can breathe some fresh air while ambling through town.”

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Look out for future issues of connected where our engineers tackle specific elements of Greenways Design. If you are involved in designing a Connect2 scheme and would like to discuss elements of the proposed network you can contact: christian.ensslin@sustrans.org.uk

Measuring the impact of Sustrans' Connect2

By Dr Andy Cope, Director of Research & Monitoring, Sustrans



Establishing a good evidence base will be at the heart of Sustrans' Connect2. Every one of the 79 Connect2 schemes has the potential to bring about change by demonstrating what is possible given people have the right environment to walk and cycle.

Sustrans' Connect2 is a fantastic feat of fundraising, partnership working, planning, community involvement and engineering. The true value of such achievements however can only be realised once we can measure success. Success for Connect2 will be measured principally in terms of usage, alongside impacts upon physical activity levels, local transport habits, accessibility and environmental and economic performance.

The challenge for Sustrans and partners is to decide upon what should be the benchmark for Connect2 success? How will we determine the effectiveness of the project in terms of individual interventions, and as a collection of schemes?

Here we explore how we will set out to collect the information we need to make the case for Connect2 type interventions to be introduced across UK towns and cities beyond the five year project.

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit is leading the monitoring and evaluation programme for Connect2. There are two main themes to measuring the usage, and impact of schemes. Firstly, we need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the schemes at the

local level, and gauge how successful Connect2 has been on a scheme-by-scheme basis. Secondly, it is necessary to show what the cumulative benefits are across all of the schemes. As well as allowing us to demonstrate the efficacy of the programme to funders and partners, this will also help to grow the evidence base to be able to persuade policy and decision makers about the advantages of sustainable transport interventions.

The rationale for monitoring Connect2 schemes is to seek to answer the following questions:

- What impact does Connect2 generally, and each scheme individually, have in terms of the number of trips made, modal shift, physical activity and accessibility?
- Do the projects represent good value for money?
- Which schemes show the greatest degree of success, what are the parameters that determine success?
- How can interventions of a similar nature be delivered to best effect?

The diversity and complexity of the individual schemes within the Connect2 portfolio make the design and implementation of scheme monitoring something of a challenge. Sustrans has had a

Research and Monitoring Unit for almost a decade. Throughout this period, an extensive knowledge of theory and best practice has been assembled which is now informing the strategic approach to monitoring and evaluating the Connect2 schemes.

The monitoring strategy for Connect2 draws on our experience of monitoring the National Cycle Network (NCN) over the past decade. Many of the tools that form the basis of the NCN Annual Monitoring Reports will be used on the Connect2 schemes, such as automatic cycle counters and Route User Surveys. We will also consider other monitoring tools beyond these 'core' options, using methods such as destination travel surveys and manual counts. In addition, we will be working alongside three Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council funded academic research projects, a particular focus of which is to further develop the suite of monitoring tools that we can use for monitoring and evaluation.

One of the features of the monitoring and evaluation work will be to ensure a degree of consistency between data collection on the 79 schemes, not just for the sake of comparability, but rather to allow a degree of aggregation across the programme. We will report on monitoring and evaluation activity at regular intervals. Reports will be produced at yearly intervals throughout the period of the programme. The first of these annual reports will be published in 2009 and our findings will be presented here in future editions of *connected*.

Our approach to Connect2 scheme monitoring is initiated through the development of a monitoring plan for each scheme. Working with colleagues in Sustrans, and partners involved in schemes, we will start in each case by reviewing existing data and forthcoming data collection itineraries. Detailed discussion of data needs, monitoring objectives (beyond the shared objectives of the portfolio), data collection methods and approaches, scheduling of data collection events relative to intervention timelines, precise locations for data collection, Sustrans and partner roles and responsibilities, and costs will be discussed with partners on an individual scheme basis. A scheme monitoring plan will then act as the blueprint for work undertaken on monitoring and evaluation before, during and after scheme delivery.

The three parallel research projects are iConnect (principal investigator Professor John Preston, University of Southampton), Understanding Walking and Cycling (Professor Colin Pooley, Lancaster University), and Visions of the Role of Walking and Cycling in 2030 (Dr Miles Tight, University of Leeds). iConnect is the largest of the programmes and will have the most direct impact on the monitoring of Connect2.

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Any further questions related to the research and monitoring strategy for Connect2 should be addressed to Andy Cope (andy.cope@sustrans.org.uk).

In addition to an agreement with local partners to undertake usage monitoring to measure walking and cycling rates across the 79 schemes, there will be **pioneering research conducted by our academic partners to assess three distinct themes**. The UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funding in the region of £4m will be used to deliver this package of study.

iConnect: Measuring and evaluating the travel, physical activity and carbon impacts of Connect2

iConnect (Impact of Constructing Non-motorised Networks and Evaluating Changes in Travel) is one element of the research programme, which will be integral to the monitoring process being led by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit. The five-year study, led by the University of Southampton will develop an evaluation framework and will collate instruments currently available for measuring travel behaviour/physical activity/carbon emissions to devise measurement tools, in order to critique their fitness for purpose. The study represents a unique opportunity to determine whether major investments in physical infrastructure or 'hard measures' encourages positive changes in travel behaviour, environmental performance and public health.

Understanding walking and cycling

This research seeks to undertake in-depth analysis of household decision making with respect to short journeys in urban areas. The study will develop a better understanding of the complex ways in which households and individuals make everyday travel decisions about short trips in urban areas; and develop a 'toolkit' that helps planners, policy makers and others concerned with promoting more sustainable travel practices in urban areas to target policies and interventions more effectively. This research will complement the ongoing Sustrans' TravelSmart programme which has benefitted over 100,000 households across the UK.

Visions of the role of walking and cycling in 2030

Visions of the role of walking and cycling in 2030 will provide a third strand to the Connect2 academic research programme. It will examine the suitability of different packages of measures to increase walking and cycling while developing ways in which to improve the experience for those who currently do walk or cycle, and anticipating the quality of walking and cycling experiences in the UK by 2030.

For more on iConnect: www.iconnect.ac.uk

Connect2 the future

The way ahead

Public support to secure £50 million towards Connect2 is a great step forward for sustainable transport across the UK, and a massive vote of confidence for a different future. But building walking and cycling facilities across 79 communities is only the beginning. How might an average 'sustainable transport' town really look in the future?

① Schools

Big changes for little trips

Childhood obesity has reduced significantly in this town, because so many children get an hour's exercise a day simply getting to and from school. Older teachers have noticed the changes in children's attitudes and behaviour in the classroom compared to days when children were mainly driven to school – children seem calmer when the morning bell goes, more ready to learn.

The Bike It programme has changed cultural attitudes towards cycling – a significant number of children cycle to school now, and it seems like this is just the way it's always been. Every child has been through a fun, practical and thorough cycle training scheme, enabling them to become confident enough to ride to school first of all with their friends or family, and eventually on their own. Safe links to schools have been built, giving parents the confidence that it's ok for their children to walk or cycle to school. Meanwhile, walking to school has become the natural choice for the under 8s. All primary school children have the opportunity to join a 'walking school bus' to school, and the vast majority of children do so, freeing their parents from the daily school run. And all these children are building habits to become the next generation of healthy, active low carbon adults - for life.

② Shops

This town has been adapted and redesigned, so that no-one ever lives more than a 5 minute walk from their nearest basic shops. Supermarkets have become a thing of the past, replaced with online shopping and doorstep deliveries, and a new enthusiasm for localism for everyday groceries, which has restored many local shops.

③ Workplaces

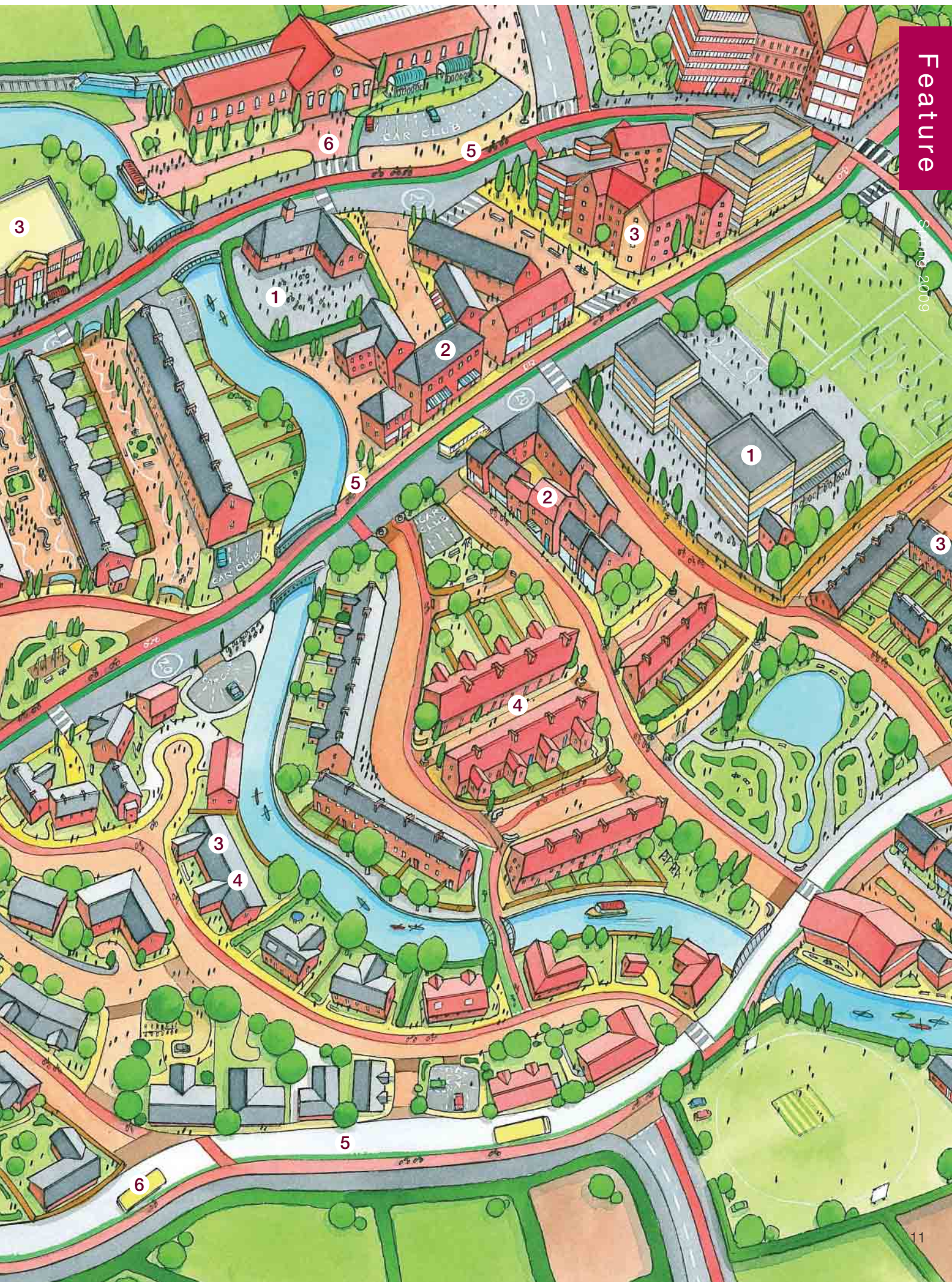
Commuting for hours to work and getting frustrated in endless traffic jams has become a thing of the past, with workplaces usually less than five miles away, and more distant major employment hubs within easy reach of pleasant community (public) transport. Many more people work from home at least one day a week, reducing the need to travel. Carpooling has become popular too, with people who have to travel by car between similar locations being matched up with one another.

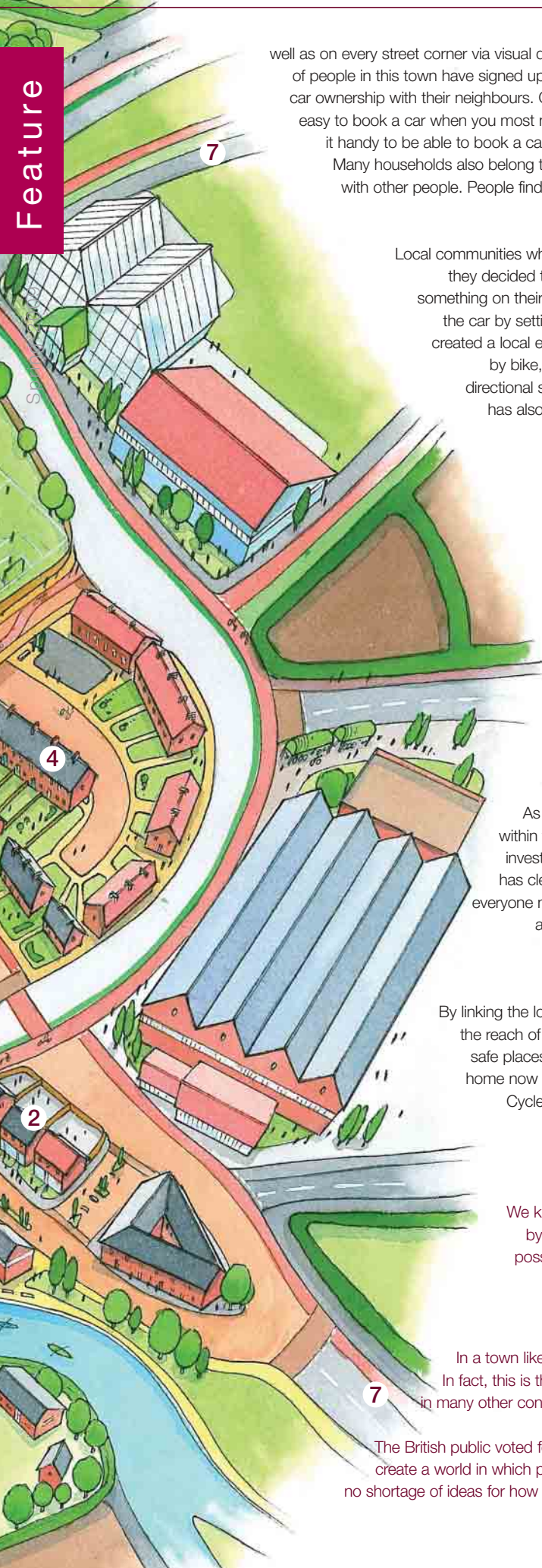
④ Residential areas

Five out of six trips on average start or end at people's front door. Many people leave home now without their car keys because the immediate environment outside people's front door is an attractive one to choose to walk, cycle or use public transport. Streets are alive with children of all ages playing, people walking and cycling, community transport hubs located at regular intervals, alongside communal bike parks, for hiring bikes or locking up personal bikes. Most of the cars in sight are residential car club cars, available for everyone's use with a simple booking system.

TravelSmart gives people tailored information about their local travel choices. Equipped with the information they want, people have reduced their number of car trips dramatically. In this town people have local bus and train timetables as well as cycle maps by their front door. Up-to-the-minute transport information is also available online and, thanks to wireless technology, is available in every room in the house as







well as on every street corner via visual displays. The old fashioned idea of ‘waiting for a bus’ is a thing of the past. And thousands of people in this town have signed up to join their local **car club**, having worked out how much cheaper and easier it is to share car ownership with their neighbours. Car club cars are now located within 150 metres of every household. It’s cheap to join, and easy to book a car when you most need one. Gradually, more and more people have given up owning a car, as everyone finds it handy to be able to book a car club car easily for those trips where they really can’t find a sustainable way to get around. Many households also belong to a **liftshare scheme**, which enables anyone using a car to organise to share their journey with other people. People find it an easy system to use, and they enjoy the number of people they’ve got to know locally as a result.

Local communities who live close to the Connect2 scheme in this town were so impressed with the solution that they decided to make a difference to their own streets too. **DIY Streets** gave them the opportunity to do something on their doorstep, to create a more **liveable neighbourhood**. Space has been claimed back from the car by setting parking limits and by developing more dedicated space for walking and cycling, and it’s created a local environment that’s pleasant again for children to play in, for people to travel safely on foot or by bike, and for local residents to get to know each other again. Beautiful street-level artworks and directional signs have also been introduced to these streets, creating pride and connectivity. This town has also opened up dozens of **Communal Bike Parks**, where people can hire bikes for the day or longer, or they can lock up their own bikes safely, sheltered from the rain.

⑤ Connecting space

Where did all the dual carriageways go?

Roads look different in this town from the future. There are traffic-free lanes for pedestrians and cyclists who travel at slow speeds, and dedicated priority lanes for speedy and confident cyclists, community transport buses, and car club cars. Any remaining private cars have but one lane in most places, and are allowed limited or no access to residential streets, ensuring that the preferred choice for nearly every travel trip is a sustainable one. The layout of these roads is designed so that people are naturally inclined to drive vehicles at a reduced speed, and the need for traffic signs and signals has largely become unnecessary.

⑥ Public Transport

Investment in community transport pays off

As a result of strategies to reduce carbon emissions from transport, the rail and bus networks within this town, and those linking to other towns, have been considerably rejuvenated. The huge investment in smart community transport solutions, paid for from congestion charging schemes, has clearly paid off – **community transport** trips in this town alone make up 35% of all trips, and everyone now takes it for granted that rail, bus and tram services run efficiently, at all times of the day and night when you need them. They’re easy, attractive and affordable to use, for everyone.

⑦ Links to the National Cycle Network

By linking the local Connect2 scheme to the **National Cycle Network**, it’s been possible to further extend the reach of people’s walking and cycling trips. The routes are well-maintained, making them attractive, safe places to walk and cycle for many more journeys. Many more people take their holidays close to home now since the cost of flying became prohibitive. Cycling and walking holidays using the National Cycle Network are some of the trendiest ways for people from this town to spend their holidays!

Ambitious goals

We know from National Travel Surveys that currently, 35% of trips on average are made on foot, by bike or by public transport, with the remaining 65% being car trips. However, it is perfectly possible, with the right political and financial commitment, to aspire towards 75% of trips being active or public transport trips, with only the remaining 25% of trips made by car.

The potential for change

In a town like this a 75:25 ratio is perfectly possible but is this simply an unrealistic vision? We think not. In fact, this is the vision that has already been realised in Basel, Switzerland, and is close to being realised in many other continental cities across Europe such as Gent (Belgium), La Rochelle (France) and Siena (Italy).

The British public voted for Connect2 in their tens of thousands – there is clearly huge public support for change, to create a world in which people can choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. There are no shortage of ideas for how this future can be created. And in places where it’s already happened, it’s paying dividends in many more ways than anticipated.

Illustrated by Andy Everitt-Stewart



All 79 Connect2 schemes will include the design and installation of a portrait bench. Life-size figures will frame each bench to provide a focal point on each Connect2 network - a lasting symbol of each community's participation. The figures could be local characters who encapsulate each Connect2 community - historic characters, mythical figures, members of the local Connect2 Steering Group or players from the local football team.

The art of Sustrans' Connect2

The Connect2 community will have the final say on which life-size figures best reflect the local community. Sustrans has developed a template for the bench, but individual schemes and steering groups will have the freedom to interpret the template in their own way. The bench will also celebrate partners involvement in Connect2 with a commemorative plaque.

Together all 79 benches will create a unique and distinctive collection of public art. Each bench has the potential to be an attraction in its own right, a local landmark, where friends and family can take a moments rest from their journey. For those up for a challenge the portrait bench figures might become collectable images for anyone determined to visit all 79 projects and have their photograph taken at each one.

Several Connect2 schemes are already working with Sustrans to develop wider art programmes. These programmes may

take the form of landscaping, interpretation of the local area, or seating and gateways along each Connect2 route; each programme will be unique and will require additional funding to be developed.

Katy Hallett is the Art Director for Sustrans

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Katy can advise individual schemes how to develop a wider arts programme and how to resource the development of these programmes. Visit Sustrans website for further ideas on artworks.

www.sustrans.org.uk/arts

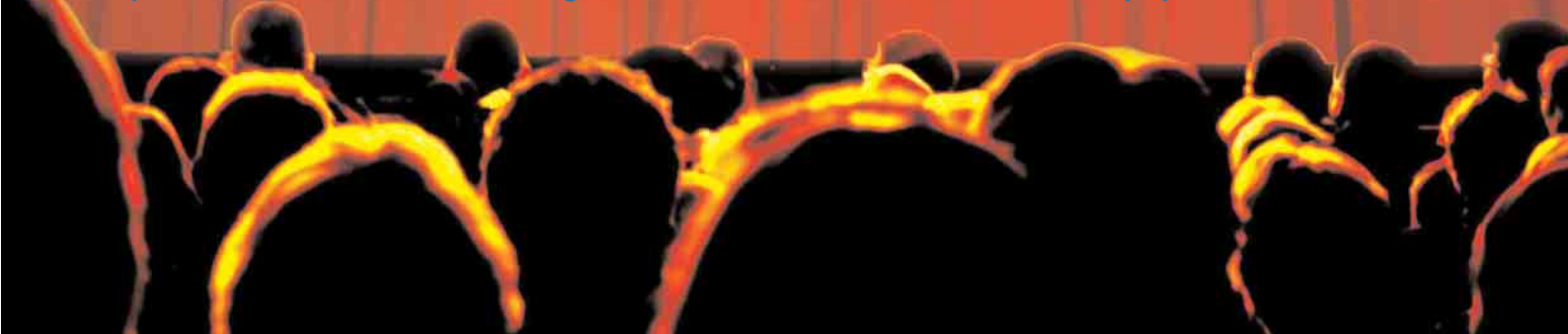
Connect2: National / Regional Conferences for April 2009

If you are the lead project officer for a Connect2 scheme, the Chairperson or elected member who sits on your Connect2 steering group, a local authority school or workplace travel co-ordinator or a local authority's press and communication professional... ..then you should attend a conference near you this year!

An ideal opportunity for celebrating the Connect2 vision, information sharing with other Connect2 schemes and a chance to work towards planning events for Connect2 Day with Connect2 in July 2009.

Register your interest and find out more here:

http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/resources/Connect2_Conference.php



Have your say on Connect2

Got a story to tell about Connect2 or want to start a debate about your scheme? Visit the [Connect2 forum](#) and have your say now...

10 reasons why Connect2 can change your world...

Save money on fuel - the only fuel you will need to fill up on to use Connect2 is food. The majority of journeys in the UK are under three miles, a distance easily cycled rather than driven.

Breathe less pollution - sections of Connect2 routes are away from traffic altogether but even along trafficked sections walkers and cyclists breathe less pollution than those in cars.

A healthier heart - regular cyclists are as fit as an average person 10 years younger. Connect2 is making it easier for you to cycle regularly.

There's no such thing as path rage - walking and cycling to your destination is a way of relieving stress rather than increasing it!

Arrive fashionably early - Your local Connect2 scheme will help you to get where you need to go on time. Judge your journey time to the nearest minute by walking or cycling rather than being held up in traffic.

Take in the scenery - Many Connect2 routes will take you on a journey through new and interesting environments away from the hussle and bussle of busy roads.

Park for free - whether you walk or cycle using Connect2 you won't have to pay to park when you arrive!

Giving your children the independence they crave - with more than one million pupils attending schools within a mile of Connect2 your children can have the freedom to walk or cycle to school and you can have the peace of mind to know they can do so safely.

Become more sociable! - Chances are if you walk or cycle your local journeys you more likely to stop to say hello when you see that familiar face going in the other direction!

Saving tonnes of carbon - Sustrans' anticipates over 60 million trips will be made annually once Connect2 is completed. That's the equivalent of nearly 80 thousand tonnes of carbon emissions.



Volunteers pave the way for Connect2

Back in 2007 scores of volunteer rangers from all over the UK got involved in building support for the Connect2 project that helped secure Sustrans' victory in the People's £50 million contest from the Big Lottery Fund. Through organising publicity events, encouraging friends, family and the people in their local communities to pick up the phone or vote online, volunteers played a tremendously valuable role in gaining votes.



Volunteer Alan Hayward with Sustrans' bridge engineer Simon Ballantine on a site visit at the Connect2 Tintern project.

Alan Hayward, a retired Civil and Structural Engineer and keen walker and cyclist, has been spending some of his free time as a volunteer on Connect2. With a lifetime's experience in specialist bridge design, Alan has provided valuable input into the development of Connect2 projects in Banbury, Tintern and Kenilworth where bridges will become the focal point of new routes. His work producing sketches, preparing cost estimates and advising on bridge design has proved invaluable in progressing design aspects of these schemes.

Alan wrote to our volunteer's team to explain his reasons for lending his expertise "I am finding the work with Sustrans fascinating with the freedom of being involved as much or as little as I want, on what is a thoroughly worthwhile project. As well as enabling me to see some parts of the country I would otherwise not visit, I am meeting some very interesting new people."

Simon Pratt, Sustrans Regional Director for the South of England added: "Alan's expert input has helped us to progress the Oxford project with partners and has brought the scheme to life. Being able to visualise possible designs is so important for the steering group to have meaningful discussions on what the scheme could look like."

Now with funding in place as we enter the delivery phase of Connect2, volunteers are getting involved again in helping to develop individual projects. Those living locally to a Connect2 Project have had the chance to sit on steering groups and offer a variety of skills and expertise to aid the progression of the new routes.

As the routes begin to be realised, volunteers will again be offering their valued time and energy to help publicise the projects locally and by helping to plan the grand openings as schemes across the UK near completion. Some of our volunteers will be lending professional engineering skills and will offer invaluable help in the actual design of projects and route construction.

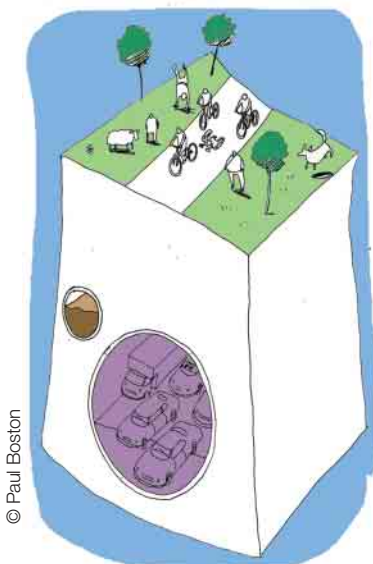
Once individual projects are completed, volunteer Rangers will help maintain routes by clearing overgrown vegetation and carrying

out running repairs. As with the National Cycle Network, our volunteers will become the eyes and the ears of Connect2 ensuring signing is adequate, the path is clear from obstacles such as encroaching vegetation, vandalism and litter and will act to report any major problems.

If you live near a Connect2 scheme and you feel you can help with organising local events, providing expertise to your local Steering Group or by offering practical help to maintain the route once it's completed, we'd be thrilled to hear from you. Get in touch via email www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/contact_us/ and we will connect you to your local Steering Group.

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To find out more about the work of Sustrans' volunteer ranger and to get involved visit: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp?slD=1150127227195>



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Connect2 in numbers

79 communities will benefit from Connect2 over the next **5** years. As many as **6** million people will live within a mile of a scheme. **2800** – the number of schools that will be within **1** mile of a Connect2 scheme. **960,000** – the number of school children attending the **1,800** schools within a mile of a Connect2 scheme.

When complete we anticipate that over **60** million trips every year will be made on Connect2 networks. If each of these trips replaced a car journey, the potential CO₂ saving is over **79,000** tonnes of carbon – the equivalent of **79,000** people's annual emissions from car travel. **25,000** – the number of people who already live within a mile of the completed Dumfries scheme - **17** percent of the population of Dumfries. **100** the percentage of people in Dumfries who, when asked, approved of Sustrans' Connect2.



One small step. One giant leap.