

connected

Welcome

By Malcolm Shepherd

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Welcome to Connected



Welcome to the summer edition of Connected, full of news and information on the progress of Connect2, a Sustrans project working in 79 communities UK-wide to enable many millions of people to walk and cycle more for everyday journeys.

Earlier this year Sustrans hosted a series of conferences with partners across the UK to re-connect everyone involved in the project with the aspirations behind the project. Sustrans' patron and well-known designer Wayne Hemingway got proceedings going at each event with a video-presentation that focused on the concept of liveability, and the opportunity that Connect2 offers to bring greater liveability into all Connect2 communities.

What does liveability mean? In a nutshell it is those qualities that influence people to want to live in an area. One key part of this is the quality of public space and the built environment that surrounds us. When we walk out of our front door, for example, do we find an environment that makes us want to linger, chat to our neighbours, let our kids play, or do we find an environment that encourages us to get away as quickly as possible, or simply shut the door and retreat indoors?

Every year lists of the most liveable cities are released, and whilst European cities appear frequently in the top 25, UK cities are more noticeable by their absence. This year was no exception – Monocle magazine's top 25 included 15 European cities, with Zurich topping the table and Copenhagen, last year's winner, coming second.

What unites these two cities is the quality of their public transport, and their welcoming of those travelling on foot and by bike. In both cities trips by car account for a quarter or less of all journeys – public transport, walking and cycling account for 3 in every 4 journeys. In Copenhagen nearly 60% of journeys are made by foot and bike in a city of 500,000. In three typical British towns where Sustrans conducted extensive travel behaviour surveys, by contrast, the situation is almost the reverse. Two thirds of trips by car, and a third are by public transport, foot or bike.

We've got a long way to go, before the UK can proudly hold its own in the liveability stakes. But Connect2 is a start upon which we can build. The public, after all, chose Connect2 to win funding from the Big Lottery Fund in a television vote. They showed that they wanted to begin the long journey to more liveable, more sustainable, more pleasant towns, villages and cities. They showed that they wanted greater investment in walking and cycling, to the benefit of people's health, environment and quality of living.

As we move further into the delivery stage of many Connect2 schemes, Sustrans will be discussing with our many partners what more can be done to put liveability at the heart of our communities. Sustrans and others have many practical ways of extending and developing what Connect2 begins. We hope that in the coming years we can work with all of you to ensure every neighbourhood becomes the liveable, accessible, people centred places we know they can, and should, be.

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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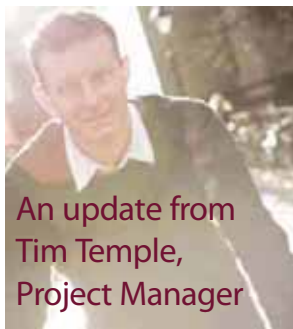
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LOTTERY FUNDED



An update from Tim Temple, Project Manager

As I write, I'm surrounded by bridge designs for Connect2 schemes in Rhyl, Worcester, Derry and Tintern and work has begun in Worcester, Leicester and Sale, so I'm delighted to be able to report real progress on Connect2.

Also fresh in my mind is the atmosphere of the six regional conferences we hosted across the UK this spring, where I met councillors, engineers, community volunteers and project officers all of whom have been working hard to drive their local schemes forward. It was an invaluable opportunity for everyone involved to meet people, to learn, share and be inspired all over again by the great opportunity presented by Connect2.

Wayne Hemingway, popular designer and Sustrans' patron, talked via video at the conferences about the importance of liveability, and what needs to be done to create cities, towns and villages designed around people travelling under their own steam. He challenged us all to think about how Connect2 schemes could be designed to inspire people to use them everyday, whether pushing prams, using wheelchairs, walking or cycling. He urged us to grasp this opportunity to make it easier and more convenient for people of all ages and abilities to get to work, to school, to the shops, and to visit each other, without having to run the gauntlet of busy, congested roads. Watch him talk online [here](#).

Another much debated topic was funding, which is more difficult to come by in the current economic climate. Despite the recession, schemes are still making real progress to close their funding gaps and some are fully funded just a year into the programme. In Wales, match funding has been identified for many schemes from the Welsh Assembly Government Convergence Funding through the Valleys Cycle Network; and Cardiff City Council identified the majority

of the required partnership funding for their Pont y Werin Bridge from its recently announced Sustainable City status.

The conferences also reminded me of how far we've come. We've been signing legal agreements with partners, negotiating land and giving technical advice on designs. In anticipation of measuring the 60 million trips we anticipate will be made by foot and bike as a result of Connect2, we are drawing up monitoring plans and installing people counters across the project. All of these take time, but are essential to future success.

But let's not forget our roots. Connect2 has reached this point because of the support that Sustrans received in winning the public vote. Continuing to engage with communities and those who voted for individual schemes is crucial for their ongoing success. We are helping schemes to establish local steering groups and Sustrans will be providing support for community events each year as part of our annual Change your World with Connect2 campaign in the first week of July each year. To get involved and find out more visit: <http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/>

We continue to work hard with all our partners to ensure that it won't be too long until you see activity local to you. In the meantime we'll keep you up to date on progress via our website and do all we can to make sure that your Connect2 scheme becomes the best that it can be.

Latest news



Ministers unveil Derry~Londonderry's peace bridge

Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, and Social Development Minister, Margaret Ritchie, unveiled the designs for Derry ~ Londonderry's new Peace Bridge. Sustrans and Derry City Council are working to connect people in the west and east sides of the city through the Connect2 network of walking and cycling paths which converge on the bridge. The paths complement the bridge to open up the city for everyday journeys by people on foot and by bike, ensuring it's a living and breathing asset to the City.



New Diglis Bridge unveiled

New designs have been unveiled for the proposed walking and cycling bridge which will span 60m over the River Severn.



New foot and bike bridge unveiled for Rhyl Harbour

The proposed multi-million pound bridge for walkers and cyclists in Rhyl Harbour has been unveiled. The landmark

foot and bike bridge will create a new crossing over the Foryd Harbour and link into a network of new and existing walking and cycling routes in the heart of Rhyl.

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To find out the latest news on any of the 79 Connect2 schemes across the UK visit: <http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/news/>



Diverting a river – all in a day’s work at Connect2 in Dartford

The first part of reconnecting the people of Dartford to shops, schools and green spaces has been completed – and all it took was the redirecting of the River Darent.

Until recently a busy road was making it difficult for the people of Dartford to get to nearby places on foot and bike. Now a tunnel previously occupied by the River Darent has become a new walking and cycling route under the Princes Road.

The ‘Princes Tunnel’ was officially opened in March 2009, and additional work has also been completed to ensure the route continues to run alongside the River Darent under the railway bridge, another long-time barrier to pedestrians and cyclists. Both of these developments form the first phase of the Connect2 scheme in the area.

As Jeremy Kite, Leader of Dartford Borough Council, says, these innovative works are part of a multi-million pound programme to improve Dartford Central Park. “Central Park is a vital green space for Dartford residents and we want it to stay that way by increasing its size, bringing back traditional facilities and making it easier to use.

“These works are significant as they create better links both to and from the town centre to the fantastic Brooklands Lakes. The River Darent has been hidden from view for too long and these new pathways make it much easier to appreciate this hidden gem on a walk through to the lakes and the countryside beyond.”

The Connect2 scheme is part of a longer term project with the Department for Communities and Local Government and Sustrans to improve Central Park, the Darent Valley Path and surrounding routes. The new paths in the tunnels at Princes Road and Mill Pond Road will benefit thousands of local people on their everyday journeys to school, workplaces and shops, as well as providing what will be a popular link to the Darent Valley Path for leisure trips to the countryside south of Dartford and the River Thames to the north.

Dartford Borough Council have been awarded £2.2 million from the Thames Gateway Parklands fund for this project, and the scheme also falls within the regeneration opportunities offered by the development of the Thames Gateway. As a result the Council and its partners are pursuing a series of opportunities to give the people of Dartford daily access to the major green spaces that surround them.



Families and friends enjoying a walk to celebrate Connect2 day

What does this mean for Dartford?

- thousands of residents will be able to access local green spaces, the Darent Valley, Thames Gateway and beyond
- people will be able to get to large areas of open (but currently inaccessible) land in the heart of Dartford town centre
- there will be 3.5km of new improved paths for cyclists and pedestrians linking in to over 13km of existing paths
- there'll be a Visitor Hub information point within Dartford Greenheart to promote its use and enjoyment by 50,000 people a year, encouraging people to explore the Darent Valley

Is Connect2 changing your world?



First trees planted on a Connect2 scheme in Northern Ireland

Youth Club members from Whiteabbey Community Centre, Translink and Newtownabbey Borough Council staff and Sustrans volunteer rangers worked together to establish a native fruiting hedgerow on a section of the Connect2 route at Bleach Green viaducts, Newtownabbey.

Do you live in or near Dartford or Newtownabbey, or any of the 79 Connect2 schemes? 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/

Heartlands Project

Sustrans' Connect2 is not the only project funded through the Big Lottery Fund. Here we take a closer look at the progress with Heartlands Living Landmarks project in Cornwall.



Taking shape in the heart of Cornwall, Heartlands will be a new place to live, work, learn and play. A sustainable development, an educational playground and a feast for the senses, Heartlands will celebrate Cornwall's tradition of creative innovation, stimulate local enterprise and nurture new talent.

The Heartlands Project in Pool is planned to transform Cornwall's most derelict urban area into a truly inspirational cultural landscape. The project became a reality last year after receiving a £22.3 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks programme, the only project in England to be awarded this funding with the Helix in Falkirk, Scotland and Connswater Community Greenway in Belfast, Northern Ireland being the other successful recipients. Sustrans Connect2 project, whilst funded through Living Landmarks, was funded as the result of winning a public TV vote.

Cornwall Council is delivering the £29.5 million Heartlands Project with additional funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, the National Regeneration Agency, and the Council itself.

The development will create a unique setting for a range of activities that are essential for the area's social regeneration. Specifically, Heartlands will offer a UNESCO World Heritage Site Gateway and exhibition and events centre, garden areas, one of the largest adventure playgrounds in the south-west, artist studios, a restaurant, residential housing and will also provide a hub for cycling networks.

As a result the intention is that Heartlands will be a thriving centre of the community connecting local residents, businesses and visitors with Cornwall's historical, natural and cultural resources.

Heartlands will be a spectacular cultural playground, offering year-round exploration of Cornwall's unique landscape with nature trails and cycle hire for those wishing to discover more, perfect retreat for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

As part of the development of the project two members of the team are mapping the south-west cycle networks which currently connect to Heartlands. It is hoped that Heartlands will become a centre for the promotion of cycling throughout the region, linking to the National Cycle Network and other Sustrans projects in the area.

The cycle hub facilities will offer bicycle hire, storage facilities, information and interactive technologies as well as improving the physical links to the local trails and towns, creating new routes for those on foot and bike.

The adventure playground will be a paradise for children keen to practice their climbing and swinging skills. Adults and children alike will be able to take an amazing interactive journey through Cornwall's heritage and culture in the World Heritage Site exhibition centre.

Major building work at Heartlands gets underway in summer 2009 and is due to be completed in summer 2010. In line with the key aims of the Living Landmark funding the Heartlands build will preserve the important Grade 2 Listed historic buildings at its centre, restoring and adapting them as focal points for the completed development.



Find funding through your community

One clear discussion that took place at the conferences in April was finding funding in the current economic climate. Here we share stories where local steering groups found funding to support their Connect2 schemes.



Community fundraising project

More than one hundred highly decorated life-size fibreglass pig sculptures were displayed throughout last summer around Bath and beyond. 'King Bladud's Pigs' was a public art event to celebrate Bath and provide residents and visitors with artistic enjoyment. The pigs became the talk of the city and raised £200,000 when auctioned in December 2008, to the benefit of the Two Tunnels greenway project.

Sustrans has pledged £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund and Bath and North East Somerset Council has offered up to £400,000 but there was still a funding shortfall. Now this gap has been halved, thanks to the impressive amount raised by the pigs - fundraisers and ambassadors for the scheme.

Gitte Dawson, the mastermind behind the project, motivated a team of talented artists to design and decorate more than a hundred fibre glass pigs. Gitte says: "It's been great working on such a fun popular project at the same time and it benefits my favourite project, the Two Tunnels scheme."

With the majority of funding in place now, partners Sustrans and Bath and North East Somerset Council are set to confirm their continued commitment to the project by signing the memorandum of understanding. Sustrans has already appointed a project engineer to oversee the reclamation of two disused tunnels and a viaduct.

With overwhelming support from people in and around Bath, the virtually flat route along the old Somerset and Dorset Railway Path will bring together the communities of Bath, Midford and all the places in between.

Tea, flapjacks and tyres

Over £12,000 has been raised through events and donations for the Harrogate Connect2 schemes.

Malcolm Margolis, Gia Margolis and Martin Weeks are active campaigners in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. In May 2006 they founded the Wheel Easy cycle group, which now has over 160 members, many of whom are Sustrans volunteer rangers. They are keen fundraisers for the scheme and part of the steering group.

Three specific fundraising events came about as a result of a 'Tea, Flapjacks and Tyres' session organised by Martin Weeks in July 2008. The event was a great success (instructions on how to change and repair a puncture - in return for tea, flapjack and a contribution to the Connect2 project). A sponsored bike ride was held in the autumn and a Connect2 Ceilidh in January 2009 which raised over £500! In total £12,000 has been raised and more events and fundraising is on the way.

Connect2 route for £1!

When Knowsley's Steering Group and councillors discussed match funding for the Connect2 scheme, they never anticipated that they'd end up acquiring a key piece of the Connect2 route for just £1.

Following their discussions, Knowsley Borough Council pursued an alternative strategy in its land negotiations and this meant they saved thousands which they can put into another element of the route.

"The community engagement aspect of Connect2 has really helped us," said Bernie Maloney - the project lead at Knowsley "developing relationships with key stakeholders such as the police and local interest groups has meant that issues that looked quite challenging to me at the outset have proved remarkably easy to deal with."

The route will connect Harrogate's railway path to the village of Ripley which is currently isolated by main roads and hills. Once the gap is overcome many wonderful walking and cycling routes will be opened up from Harrogate to Nidderdale and will play a large part in the development of sustainable tourism in the area.

The portrait bench – who will be in yours?

Sustrans has been commissioning public art for 30 years now as a key way of making public space more inspiring and enjoyable for those who walk and cycle, and Connect2 is no exception.

Whilst every Connect2 scheme is different, each one will include a Portrait Bench to be completed and installed by March 2013, funded through the wider Connect2 project.

The bench will provide a focal point for each scheme, as well as a unifying theme for the project as a whole, and will combine art with practicality, giving people a destination in its own right, and a place to sit and enjoy the view.

The Portrait Bench is also a great opportunity to involve the people who will benefit from Connect2 in its creation, since each bench will feature life-size steel cut-outs of people who could be nominated by the local community.

Whether these figures are local heroes, fictional characters, or sporting legends, it's an opportunity for local people to choose who they want to sit in front of in the years to come.

For those schemes keen to pursue a wider arts programme, including landscaping or planting schemes, interpretation of the local area, gateways or other seats along the way, then please get in touch with Sustrans' Art and the Travelling Landscape team. (See box opposite.)

Several Connect2 schemes are already working to appoint an artist to consider the local area and to create distinctive landmarks that people can enjoy.

Those keen to see more art works incorporated will need to find additional funding, so get in touch with your local authority arts officer to discuss ideas and look for ways to secure this funding.

These costs can be included in applications for the whole project, or might be accessed through community involvement, cultural development and interpretation.

All the images on the following pages show different ways that art has been used to enhance public space - in this instance, the National Cycle Network.



Genome Stripes by Katy Hallett & Sir John Sulston
To mark the 10,000th mile of the National Cycle Network.



Boston Pendulum - a viewing platform by eminent Belgium architect Paul Robbrecht takes people up above the flat Lincolnshire landscape to see the area from a different perspective.



Irish Elks by Sally Matthews stands on a rise silhouetted against the sky in Leicestershire.



And then there are benches of all varieties along the length of the National Cycle Network. This clever design based on the weave principal; one over one under has been reproduced many times on different paths across the UK. Simplicity Bench by Yumiko Aoyagi.



Cycle Seat - This high quality hand forged design by well known artist blacksmith Alan Evans. It is a cantilevered seat which pays homage to the bicycle wheel, and is one of a series of ten seats carefully positioned to take advantage of the best views along Spen Valley Greenway.



So how can we link all Connect2 schemes together and yet make them distinctive and individual? This artwork; Reflective Space by Leigh Roberts was the starting point for the Portrait Bench. Here individuals step up into the picture frame and become part of the artwork.



As the Connect2 vision developed, Katy Hallett - Sustrans' Director of Art and the Travelling Landscape, prototyped the idea for a Portrait Bench working with three different figures using profile cut 18mm thick plate steel. Every bench will feature portraits special to the area, but all of the benches will have a degree of uniformity - a UK-wide installation will be the result. The chosen images, photographs or drawings, will be reduced to light and dark, black and white, but; even with this tonal reduction the characters will still be easily recognisable. They will be life size and installed with a low bench in front so that people can sit or stand with the portraits, whilst admiring the views and the great space that is the Connect2 scheme itself.

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Contact Sustrans Art Director Katy Hallett, katy.hallett@sustrans.org.uk once you know who your portraits will be. Sustrans will be commissioning the work, and will discuss with each scheme a timetable to work to. We are happy to advise individual schemes on the possibility of developing a wider arts programme, although we won't be able to support programmes financially ourselves. Visit Sustrans webpage for further ideas about the potential for including artworks. www.sustrans.org.uk/arts

Visit the Connect2 website and download Katy Hallett's presentations on the Portrait Bench. http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/resources/Connect2_Conference.php

Get fit and healthy this summer

As the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, Sustrans has always worked to deliver tangible, practical solutions that give people the opportunity to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment.

This summer why don't you think about the way you travel to work, school, to the shops, or the park by getting more active and healthier? We have some great ideas that will inspire you to get active for the summer.

To help you get fit for summer Sustrans has just launched a new and improved online mapping service that seeks to put people at the centre of their local area. There are options to access schools, shops, green spaces, work and other local amenities, as well as giving wider information on leisure walking and cycling routes and visitor attractions.

The new mapping includes:

- Detailed mapping for all 12,000 miles of the National Cycle Network, as well as other local walking and cycling paths
- information on local public transport, bus stops and train stations
- an application that allows you to work out the average distance and time to walk or cycle any journey.

So keep yourself fit and active this summer, whilst reducing your carbon footprint. Why don't you visit the Sustrans website: www.sustrans.org.uk



Ring the changes with Bike Belles

A recent survey commissioned by Sustrans found that whilst 44 per cent of women have access to a bike, three quarters never cycle at all. Women's reasons for not cycling range from concerns about safety on the roads to helmet hair.

In an attempt to re-dress the balance we have created a website aimed at encouraging and inspiring more women to take to the saddle.

Bike Belles is packed with information for new and returning women cyclists, featuring useful advice such as choosing the right bike for you, cycling with children, staying safe and what to wear.

It's regularly updated with topical news items and details of upcoming events around the UK and features blogs from our Bike Belles, a panel of women from all over the UK with varying levels of cycling experience.

Visit www.bikebelles.org.uk and join the discussion today.



Conquer the castles and make the most of the coast

home run around Arthur's seat to the finish line.

Not only will you be challenging yourself, getting fit and having a fantastic

The Coast & Castles Challenge is a three day sponsored ride which leaves Gateshead on Friday 25th September and arrives 176 miles later in Edinburgh on Sunday 27th September.

Following National Cycle Network Routes 1 and 76, the ride will take in some of the most stunning countryside and coastline in the UK and features exclusive highlights such as a tour of medieval Alnwick Castle, filming location for the Harry Potter films and a traffic-free

adventure, you will also be raising money to help Sustrans continue our work, helping people in communities across the UK to choose travel options which benefit both their health and the environment.

Prices for the ride start from £120, with a minimum sponsorship limit of £500.

For more information including details of how to book, visit www.sustrans.org.uk/challenge

Sign up for Free Your Bike and receive a FREE information pack. If you want to know where to cycle this summer, visit www.freeyourbike.org.uk and sign up for a free information pack.



The pack contains details of great cycle routes in your part of the UK, including routes on traffic-free paths which are ideal if you need to build up your confidence in safe surroundings or for taking the whole family on a day out.

The pack also comes with lots of practical advice about choosing and looking after your bike that will inspire you to dust off your bike and get cycling!

Celebrating Connect2 at six conferences across the UK

This spring, hundreds of people responsible for making Connect2 schemes happen across the country got together to reconnect to Connect2. Councillors, engineers, community volunteers and project officers joined Sustrans staff at six national and regional events to learn, to share and to be inspired all over again by the great potential of Connect2.



Looking at the challenges for walkers and cyclists locally and the town's regeneration – Omagh

Wayne Hemingway, popular designer and Sustrans' patron delivered a video message at the conferences about the importance of liveability, and what needs to be done to create cities, towns and villages designed around people travelling under their own steam. Wayne challenged delegates to think about how all Connect2 schemes could be designed to inspire people to use them everyday, whether pushing prams, using wheelchairs, walking or cycling. [Download Wayne Hemingway's virtual key notes.](#)

Katy Hallett, Art Director for Sustrans, talked via video from the foundry where the pilot portrait bench was designed. Katy's vision is that the portraits for each scheme are inspired by the community, the characters and the history of each location. In Bristol, for example, there is the possibility of Wallace and Gromit sharing the bench with Brunel, and in Tintern, the bench may be flanked by the monks who used to occupy the abbey, talking in the shade of a tree. The hope is that the possibility presented by the portrait bench will inspire steering groups all over the UK to take up the challenge, to run competitions with local schools and newspapers and generate ideas for the characters to be immortalised on the bench. [Download Katy Hallett's Portrait Bench video](#) (beware of the background noise - it was filmed in a foundry!).



Interesting discussions in London

The workshops gave everyone the opportunity to talk about their schemes, and discuss issues like funding streams and how to best engage steering groups. Delegates discussed who should be on the steering groups to make them a success and to ensure that people with the right skills were involved in the right areas of the project. Many schemes had sub-groups which worked on specific areas such as community involvement or sharing information.

Sustrans' technical design team challenged the engineers in the room to give priority to walkers and cyclists and unveiled the latest version of the Greenway Design Guide which pulls together 30 years of Sustrans' learning in one document. Download ["Better By Design"](#) by Huw Davis Sustrans' Technical Director and [Sustrans' Greenway Design Guide.](#)

The community involvement team reminded us all of the roots of Connect2 – the public vote and the ownership communities feel for their local project. Many schemes went away thinking about how to celebrate Connect2 day - an annual summer event - as a great opportunity to get out and about and inform and celebrate with the local community.

Hundreds of people are celebrating Connect2 day, their own local transport revolution with all kinds of community events including wildflower walks deep in urban London; open-days at closed disused railway tunnels which will soon be at the heart of a new scheme; storytelling walks; bike breakfasts; bike rides and neighbourhood fetes.





Better by design

What does public space, with liveability for people at its heart, look like? Not an easy question, for sure – but this is the challenge faced by all 79 Connect2 schemes.

Wayne Hemingway, in his video presentation to the Connect2 conferences, highlighted two key priorities;

- bold and stylish design
- priority for pedestrians and cyclists

He highlighted examples of cities and towns throughout the world, including some in the UK, where designers have grasped the opportunity to design for people and communities, and where their vision has led to the creation of iconic, even prize-winning, spaces and structures.

But how might this apply to Sustrans' Connect2? By using imaginative solutions to designing streets, by giving space to people walking and cycling, by including trees and planting design elements, and by creating spaces for children to play.

Getting the right balance is not easy, and requires careful and subtle design, but the rewards in terms of numbers of users will be huge.

Sustrans has packed a whole wealth of good ideas, based on experience of creating public space for pedestrians and walkers over the past 30 years, and drawing on best European practice, into one document - Sustrans' Greenway design guide is now available on the website available to download:

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





Some advice from our designers:

- Get a second opinion. People from different disciplines will look at an environment with very different eyes, and come up with ideas of what could be done with a space that might be quite different to what you initially had imagined.
- Create a multidisciplinary design team. For example; a landscape designer, an urban designer, an architect, and a highway designer. It can be an interesting and creative process, and will most certainly lead to very imaginative solutions.
- Try and walk or cycle through your Connect2 scheme. try without stopping, from end to end, registering obstacles and where pedestrians and cyclists don't yet have priority. Don't stop to write notes as you go, but use the route as you would when it's complete – take pictures while you cycle or walk, record notes on your mobile phone.
- Streets with slower traffic and low traffic volumes can be ideal shared space with walkers and cyclists when designed as a quality space with their needs uppermost in your minds. And you can do this by re-aligning sight lines using trees, planters or art, and by creating meeting spaces or mini-play areas, rather than adding signs and humps.

Were here to help... Martin Philpott Connect2 Senior Engineer



Earlier this year Martin Philpott, Connect2 Senior Engineer, joined Sustrans' technical team in Birmingham. Martin is a Civil Engineer, coming from a background of "the space between the houses" in new residential developments, i.e. essential walking and cycling links, road connections and public services. He will be visiting

Connect2 sites and helping develop engineering solutions wherever necessary. He can be contacted on martin.philpott@sustrans.org.uk

Martin's expertise includes urban design, highways and Greenways, specialising on designing for pedestrians and cyclists.

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...

Path problem solving on the Bristol to Nailsea route

Jamie Edwards reports on the learning opportunities of his Connect2 day out



After a busy month spent arranging conferences the Connect2 team were pleased to get the opportunity to head out of the office to visit one of the 79 schemes.

After much debate we decided to visit a local scheme in Bristol. When it is finished it will help us all get around the city in a quicker, safer and more enjoyable way.

Bristol is a welcoming city for walking and cycling and already features a lot of good facilities to help people get where they want to go. The problem comes in south Bristol where the river, combined with a complicated system of busy roads, difficult crossings, subways and narrow bridges, cuts everything off from everything else. The result is that getting around south Bristol or getting from the city centre, to school, to the shops, Ashton Court Estate or Bristol City football ground can be problematic without a car.

We spent the morning battling our way around all the busy roads, difficult crossings, subways and narrow bridges to get a really good idea of what the 'before' and 'after' of Connect2 looks like. The main difficulty of this part of the route is

where the river cuts south Bristol off from the city centre and forces pedestrians and cyclists to take either a long detour, clamber across narrow lock gates or brave a dual carriageway flyover. It's here that Connect2 will create a traffic free crossing over the river that will make for a safe and convenient link in an out of south Bristol. The plan is to either restore a gorgeous old (but now abandoned) bridge that was designed by local hero Isambard Kingdom Brunel, or to bolt a completely new crossing onto the side of an existing road bridge. Both are pretty amazing feats of engineering and regardless of which option is chosen it will make a massive difference to people's everyday journeys.

After a quick stop for lunch we rolled out into the countryside to see how Connect2 would also benefit the numerous villages that lie within a few miles of Bristol. These are all within cycling distance of the city but are serviced by busy main roads. Forced to contend with fast moving cars, traffic jams and very few cycle lanes it's no surprise that people in these villages struggle to walk or cycle the short distance into Bristol. The Connect2 scheme will mean they can easily get into the city on a

completely traffic free, direct and more pleasant route. We were able to use a small section of the route that has already been built - a great contrast to the busy main road that everyone is forced to use until the rest of the scheme has been finished.

We spend a lot of time planning and mapping out the Connect2 schemes at Sustrans but there's no substitute for actually getting out and exploring the routes to see why they will make such a big difference to the way we all travel everyday. As a resident of south Bristol and someone who will benefit from the new scheme it was reassuring to see that there weren't actually any surprises on the route. The difficulties experienced by walkers and cyclists that we looked at were similar to those many put up with everyday as they cycle to work or walk down to the shops. It was great to see that the Connect2 routes have been brought forward to meet the needs of local people, many of whom want to get around much more on foot and bike.

Sustrans combines Connect2 with our Links to Schools work



Following on from the success of the Rural Safe Routes to Schools Project in 2008, Sustrans schools team in Northern Ireland will be working with five new schools over the coming year to reduce car usage and increase the number of children who walk and cycle to school.

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has funded Sustrans to work with four schools, and The South Eastern Education and Library Board in Northern Ireland have commissioned Sustrans to work closely with one school.

Three out of the four schools are in Connect2 areas, and will give the schools team the opportunity to make links with the Connect2 schemes. St James Primary

School in Whiteabbey is one of the schools in a Connect2 area which has been working with Sustrans on Safe Routes to Schools work. The school has been holding walk to school days and some children have been cycle trained to Level 2 of the National Standard.

Feedback from parents, teachers and pupils was well received and the project has had a strong impact on parent's views of their children's school journeys. A parent at the school attended the recent Connect2 conference in Northern Ireland in Omagh representing the local community group, where he learned more about the work we do, and how projects such as schools and Connect2 overlap.

Do you want to get involved with your local Connect2 route?

Tell us your story and get in touch via email direct link http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/contact_us/ and we will connect you to your local Steering Group.



10th Anniversary for Sustrans' volunteer rangers

2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Sustrans volunteer rangers. Sustrans is extremely lucky to benefit from the support of over 2,500 Rangers, people who give their time free to act as our eyes on ears on the National Cycle Network. Each ranger takes responsibility for a section of Network within their community, and work with Sustrans and, often, the local authority, to clear overgrown plants and branches, put up signs to help people find their way, litter pick, and lead rides and walks for local people.

Rupert Douglas, volunteer ranger says, 'With the help of volunteers, Sustrans has managed to create and improve a vast network for healthy and environmentally-friendly travel. It's a lasting legacy that will continue to benefit people across the UK for many years to come.'

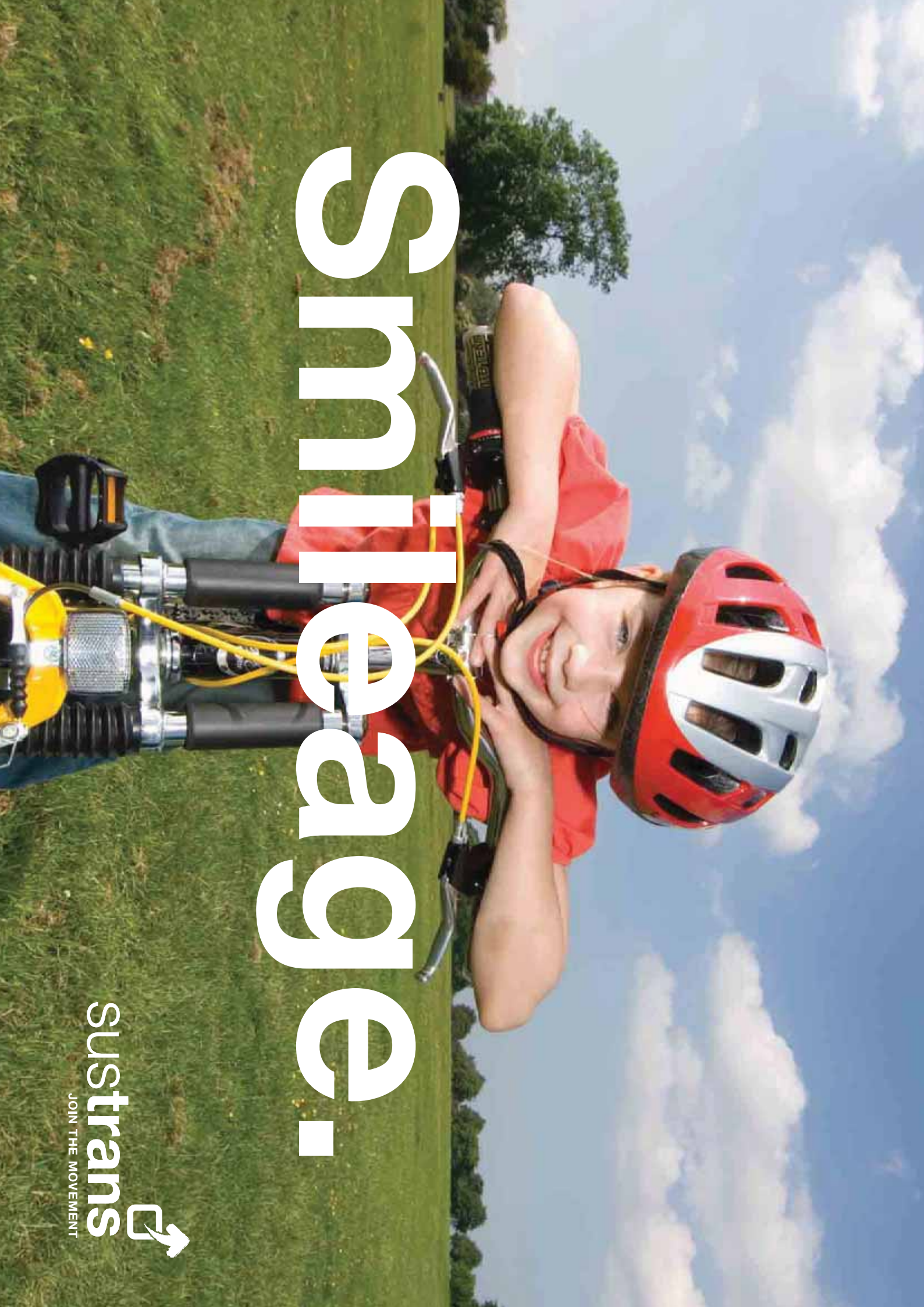
Already within many Connect2 schemes there are active steering groups with committed individuals organising events, walks and cycle rides. As more and more networks of routes are completed, Sustrans would be delighted to support any volunteers keen to be involved in maintaining and developing their own individual scheme. Visit our volunteer pages to find out more about being involved with Sustrans.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/support-sustrans/get-involved/volunteer-rangers>

Connected+

Would you like to become a volunteer ranger or help with Sustrans' project work? To find out more about the volunteering opportunities in your area, email

http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/contact_us/ and we will connect you to your local Steering Group.



Smile again.