

## PoP Aberdeen – Pedal on Parliament

25 April 2015

### Departing Hazlehead at 1200 and riding to Marischal College, Broad St

At Hazlehead we will assemble on the running track to the north side of Hazlehead Avenue. Start time is 1200 so please try to arrive ahead of that (1130 – 1145) to allow time for people to get organized, form up, and chew the fat with your fellow cyclists.

Depending on numbers on the day, we may phase the departure at short intervals to make things easier at junctions. We will also segregate into those who are happy to ride through all the roundabouts, and those who wish to dismount and walk around.

Remember the aim of the ride is to ***increase the visibility of cycling in Aberdeen***, so we are not in a hurry, and we will aim to ride at around 10 – 15 mph (this will be easy because it is gradually downhill).

**Please also remember that this ride is a *peaceful demonstration* of our right to ride. We do not intend to cause unnecessary disruption to other traffic, or to disobey any of the rules of the road. Please respect this.**

**There are no marshalls, no road closures or any other traffic management. You are responsible for your own behaviour and your own safety at all times.** The notes appearing below are intended to assist anyone unfamiliar with the route but are advisory only.

#### **Hazlehead Avenue**

Off we go! The running track feeds on to Hazlehead Avenue – mind the barrier, and watch for traffic coming from the right. At the roundabout we are taking the **THIRD** exit onto Queens Road, so we go most of the way around the roundabout.

To avoid the roundabout it would be necessary to dismount and cross the road as a pedestrian. There are no conveniently located signal-controlled crossings here, but there is a traffic island / pedestrian refuge just to the city side of the roundabout. However visibility of traffic isn't good due to the vegetation on the roundabout itself. Another alternative could be to walk down to the junction with Springfield Rd and use the signal-controlled crossing there.

#### **Queens Rd to junction with Hill of Rubislaw**

There is a marked cycle lane for most of this section, except that it fizzles out approaching the traffic lights at Springfield Road. As with much of today's route, the

surface is poor in many places and there are potholes, drain-covers and other hazards to watch out for, even if you are in the cycle lane.

Approaching the traffic lights at Hill of Rubislaw, the cycle lane markings end and the east-bound carriageway splits into two marked lanes. The near-side (i.e. left) lane is marked for traffic turning left only – but we go **STRAIGHT AHEAD**.

### **Queens Road to Anderson Drive**

After the junction the marked cycle lane begins again as we round the bend past the famous Hill of Rubislaw quarry. Between here and Anderson Drive the cycle lane comes and goes, but there is also a bus lane in places. (Remember: most bus lanes are only part-time, and we will be outwith the time when it is active, so other traffic may be using this lane too.)

Approaching the roundabout, those who don't wish to ride through it have a bit of a detour. To walk around, stop at the traffic lights at the junction with Queens Parade (the entrance to the Kepplestone development) and cross the road here. Then walk along the pavement on the south side for about 100 metres and round the corner on to Anderson Drive. Cross using the signal-controlled pedestrian crossing, then walk back up a short distance to Queens Road where you need to then take a further signal-controlled crossing to get back on to the correct side of the road. (This is necessary because there is no signal-controlled crossing for pedestrians on the north side of the roundabout).

For those riding through the junction, take great care as it can be very busy! There are three lanes going on to the roundabout, and both the left and centre lanes are marked for going straight ahead. We are taking the **SECOND** exit (i.e. straight ahead).

### **Queens Road to Queens Cross**

On this section of Queens Road there is no marked cycle lane. The road is plenty wide, but there is also on-street parking and numerous driveways to watch out for. There is one roundabout at Queens Gate (junction with Forest Road) and again we take the **SECOND** exit to go straight on.

For the roundabout, anyone wishing to dismount could walk around the corner into Forest Road and cross as a pedestrian on the signal-controlled crossing there..

Next we come to Queens Cross roundabout which has **FIVE** roads coming into it. We will take the **THIRD** exit onto Albyn Place. Again this is a busy and awkward roundabout so please exercise great caution. There are two lanes going onto the roundabout but no markings to indicate which you should use.

To walk around, this time it is possible to use a controlled crossing to the north side, in Fountainhall Road, and then one over Carden Place. To do this, dismount before the start of the railings on the approach to the roundabout.

### **Albyn Place to Holburn Junction**

The road here is similar to the last section of Queens Road – there is no marked cycle lane, and there is on-street parking to watch out for.

We will pull over on Albyn Place (opposite Harlaw Academy) to meet any cyclists who are joining us from here [suggest you assemble by the fountain], and to wait for everyone to catch up. Then it's back onto Albyn Place and Alford Place towards Union St. There is a marked cycle lane in places here but it ceases before we reach Union St at Holburn Junction.

### **Union St to Broad St**

Union St has a bus lane for most of its length, and on a Saturday afternoon we can expect it to be busy with buses, so please be patient. Other traffic may also be in the bus lane because again it is only part-time. Also note that in several places the bus lane ends quite suddenly and traffic is allowed to move into it from the off-side lane if they are turning left, and sometimes the lane is marked as a left-turn only lane. This is very awkward for cyclists at the best of times so please be careful. At all junctions until Broad St we go **STRAIGHT AHEAD**.

### **Broad St**

From Union St we turn **LEFT** onto Broad St. To reach Marischal College we need to cross and this can be done either by making a **RIGHT** turn into Queen St, or by dismounting to the left and using the signal-controlled crossing.

Once into Queen St, dismount and move on to the plaza in front of Marischal College.