



## **INTRODUCTION**

As organisers of Vélo South, CSM Active thought it would be useful to summarise the most common questions we are asked about the event and answer those questions for you all.

## **WHAT IS VELO SOUTH?**

Vélo South is an amateur 100-mile, closed road, 15,000 rider cycling event that is open to participants of all abilities. In its inaugural year it will represent the second biggest amateur cycling event in the UK. The event starts at Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit and takes in the beautiful countryside of West Sussex. The route of the event will be on closed roads, both for the safety of the riders and to ensure a spectacular experience that befits one of the UK's leading cycling events.

## **HOW HAS THE EVENT BEEN PUBLICISED?**

The event has been advertised across West Sussex in the press, on the radio, on TV and via social media. In addition over 20 local engagement meetings have been held and promotional leaflets were distributed in spring 2018 to 160,000 residents and businesses along the route. This first leaflet drop was carried out three times due to a number of residents reporting that they had not received a leaflet. Impacted services and businesses have been contacted by telephone or email and over 1,000 enquiries have now been answered. On 13<sup>th</sup> August CSM Active commenced a second round of leaflet drops, which contain specific access plans for impacted towns and villages along the route. Further press activity is planned prior to the event to boost awareness.

**Closer to the event date signs will be erected on the route to warn motorists of the upcoming road closures**

## **HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THE ROUTE DETAILS?**

A detailed route map of the entire 100-mile course, along with road closure times, can be found on the event website – [www.velosouth.com](http://www.velosouth.com). Residents and visitors will also be able to use Google maps or Satellite enabled/live update GPS to navigate around the road closures as the route and road closures will be updated live.

## **IS THE EVENT SAFE?**

Vélo South will be managed by over 1,200 staff on the day of the event. This includes event professionals, the emergency services, professional stewards, security, motorcycle marshals and volunteers.

Approximately 700 professional stewards and security personnel will form part of the management of the route on the event day. They will be positioned at all road closure junctions and can provide information on how to navigate around the closures.

West Sussex highways will be carrying out a number of inspections of the route prior to the event and any defects found that meet the intervention levels will be rectified to ensure that the roads are safe.

## **HOW WILL WEST SUSSEX BUSINESSES & RESIDENTS BE IMPACTED?**

The Vélo South Route Team will continue right up to event day to help businesses and residents who get in touch with any access challenges they face and help them plan for the event day. This includes providing alternative routes and providing additional resource to those individuals who need to cross or travel along the route in a motor vehicle whilst the road closures are in effect, such as care providers, farmers, equine centres or vets. In order to provide advice, the team need to be



contacted with specific information on the route needing to be taken. They can be contacted on [route@velosouth.com](mailto:route@velosouth.com) or by answer machine on 01243 935359. From experience, solutions can be found for the vast majority of access issues raised.

In the case of an emergency, the priority immediately becomes that of the emergency services. In order to provide a safe and quick passing of any emergency vehicle, the stewards and event professionals will manage the movement of the cyclists on the route accordingly. In addition to this, participants will be briefed in advance of the event on the protocol if they see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching and should always be alert.

All emergency services have been involved with every step of the planning of this event and are fully satisfied that they can operate as normal with the plans in place.

#### **WHAT ABOUT LOCAL ACCESS & PARKING CONCERNS?**

Vélo South have created a number of local access plans for areas along the route with restricted access. These plans aim to reduce the time in which the road closures will affect those who live in their vicinity. They are detailed plans that will be managed by professional staff on the day of the event and have now been agreed and communicated to the parishes that are affected. They include Ashington, Fernhurst, Funtington, Hole Street and Wiston, Ifold, Itchingfield, Lavant, Lordington, Loxwood, Milland, Southwater and Partridge Green. Further work has been undertaken to improve place local access on the north side of the route, including the addition of an additional set of traffic lights on the A283.

Parking information has been circulated and leaflets will be placed on vehicles along the route leading up to the event to ensure that residents are fully aware of the restrictions and alternative parking available to them in their location on the day.

There are a number of factors that are taken into consideration during the planning of these routes and the safety of all users must take precedence.

#### **WILL PEDESTRIANS & NON-PARTICIPATING CYCLISTS HAVE ACCESS?**

Access is not restricted during the event, but members of the public are urged to take extra care and remain vigilant. They can cross the route on foot and by bicycle, taking the same level of care as they would when crossing a road with motor vehicles on. In cases where non-participating cyclists must travel along part of the route, we will advise that they must travel in the same direction as the cyclists for safety. Unregistered cyclists cannot join the event at any stage along the route.

#### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE EVENT TO WEST SUSSEX?**

It is understood that an event of this scale brings with it a degree of inconvenience, however the reason the event has been supported by West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and Horsham District council is that major events also bring many benefits to the region.

**Economic:** Around 80% of the event's riders come from outside of the County and the majority will book local hotel accommodation the night before the event. In addition, each rider will on average have around 2 spectators accompanying them, all of whom will spend money in the county and be encouraged to visit again in the future.

**Charity:** There are currently 20 local and national charities who have riders fundraising for them by participating in the event. Their riders, as well as many others who chose to fundraise



independently, are set to raise considerable amounts of money for these charities to benefit great causes.

**Profile:** Vélo South will be an opportunity to showcase West Sussex and its surrounding areas to a whole new group of visitors in the run up to, during and after the event. West Sussex will be introduced to a whole new audience.

**Health & Wellbeing:** In line with the objectives of West Sussex County Council, and Chichester and Horsham District Councils, Vélo South aims to inspire more people to cycle by encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle. Post-event rider surveys at previous Vélo events indicate that 62% of participants and spectators were inspired to cycle more regularly and 34% said they would replace short car journeys with their bike.

#### **WHAT IS WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT?**

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) has been asked by CSM Active to make an order that in effect closes the roads to all traffic except the event on the day. A series of road closures will then be implemented along the route during the day and lifted once the cyclists have passed by. Sections of the route will be open again to all traffic by 11am with the last sections of the route opening to traffic by around 7pm. The Council's Highways Team received a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) application for this event from CSM that has been accepted in principal. The route is subject to on-going discussion and engagement with stakeholders as part of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process to ensure it is suitable and having due regard to the safety and convenience of alternative routes suitable for traffic that will be affected by the Order. Any access issues and the objections of those who may be affected must be considered by WSCC – just like the many other temporary road closures that are requested every year by those organising community events. Please click [here](#) for details of WSCC's temporary road closure process and costs.

#### **WHAT IS A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TTRO)?**

Legally a TTRO can be made restricting or prohibiting traffic on a road to facilitate the holding of an event, to enable members of the public to watch an event or reduce disruption to traffic likely to be caused by an event. The procedural regulations for the TTRO require that intention to make the legal Order is formally advertised by way of a statutory notice published 28 days before an event takes place. This is a noticing procedure rather than a consultation and a subsequent statutory notice will be published by WSCC confirming the proposed Order has been made.

#### **WHAT ELSE IS BEING DONE TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS?**

Vélo South has now received a number of applications for its [Community Celebration Fund](#). The Community Celebration Programme provides a platform for the event to support local businesses, residents and community groups in making the most out of the event day. The deadline to apply for funding is midnight on 31 August 2018.

#### **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

West Sussex residents can get involved through either participating, volunteering, spectating or staging a celebratory event on September 23rd.

The Spectator page on the Vélo South website will be updated shortly with details on where best to watch the event from on the day. This includes a host of local villages who are opening their doors to all to watch the event as well as the finish line at Goodwood Motor Circuit.