

# this is cycling UK



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Be in the know on all things cycling related. If you'd like to hear more about Cycling UK's work – our projects, training, campaigns and fundraising, and how you can get involved – sign up to hear more: [cyclinguk.org/subscribe](https://cyclinguk.org/subscribe)



## Ringling the changes

A new UK government to lobby, a new Cycling UK strategy to enact and new proposals to improve how our board of trustees operates. **Sarah Mitchell** can't wait



Cycling UK is 146 years old in 2024. Over the decades we have evolved to embrace change, from ever-evolving cycle technology to developments in society. Sometimes change is slow, like gradually increased traffic, sometimes very fast (Covid lockdowns!). We have survived as a home for all who cycle because we adapt and continue to be relevant.

In June we launched our new strategy. I was delighted to be joined by so many members online and then by 150 people our launch event. The new strategy is the culmination of 18 months of listening and thinking, and it signals the change we need to make to ensure that Cycling UK not only survives but thrives in a rapidly evolving world. You can read all about it on our website ([cyclinguk.org/strategy](https://cyclinguk.org/strategy)), where there are also details on how to get involved.

In the coming year we'll kick the strategy off by laying its foundations with lots of behind-the-scenes planning. Members can look forward to a new programme for member engagement; a new route financed by generous donors; new volunteering opportunities; and, of course, lots of influencing work.

### General election aftermath

This is a crucial time for our influencing work. Following the July general election, we need to get cycling on the agenda of the new UK government. In the coming months, we want to secure an increased budget commitment for active travel in the Spending Review and a legislative programme that supports road safety.

Building on our general election supporter action, immediately after the election we wrote to new ministers, shadow ministers and backbench MPs. We now have a busy contact programme arranged for the autumn to help build these relationships.

### Cycling UK AGM

We are seeking your support for important changes to our governance at the AGM in September. These changes will help our charity to run more smoothly and more equitably.

In recent years we have struggled to secure a choice of potential trustees for members to vote for who have the skills and diversity we need. To run effectively, the board must include a range of professional skills and experience to enable it to make decisions on our charity's work. Due to the restrictions placed on trustee applications the diversity of applicants is limited, and trustees must rely on short-term co-opted positions to secure the skills needed. We all agree that we want to see more people cycling and a broader range of people doing so. However, our board does not reflect the diverse people

we now work with outside of our membership. The Charity Commission's Code of Governance also requires trustees to review their efforts to diversify the board.

To tackle this, we consulted with members, experts and the wider cycling community, and as a result the trustees propose changes to our Articles. You have received these proposed changes with your copy of Cycle. It's a lot of paperwork but we're legally required to provide this to you.

The trustees want to be as transparent as possible about these changes and the opportunities they represent for our future. That's why they summarised the changes in enclosed Amendments to Articles of Association 2024 booklet. We will publish a Q&A and invite members to a Q&A session with the trustees in late summer.

I strongly encourage all our members to take just five minutes to vote in support of these important changes. They will enable the charity to operate much more smoothly, while ensuring that members retain their decision-making role at the heart of our charity. ●

