

Bicycle Mayor of Cumbria elected

Newly formed Bicycle Mayor support group elects Richard Ingham as Bicycle Mayor

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- Election held following a public call for candidates
- Mr Ingham was elected following a presentation to the group
- The Bicycle Mayor is a voluntary role, independent from both the public and private sectors

The idea originates from Amsterdam and the Cumbria Bicycle Mayor will be the first in the UK, joining Bicycle Mayors from such places as Sydney, Milan and Rio de Janeiro.

Mr Ingham said “There is so much to be gained by switching from car to bike for the thousands of daily short journeys we do. Benefits to the individual in terms of health and saving on fuel and parking. Benefits to employers and schools in having healthier and better-motivated staff and students. And, most importantly, benefits to the county’s air quality and carbon footprint”.

Mr Ingham is the first to admit that Cumbria has a big challenge to make cycling for local journeys the norm. He added “Most households have a bike in the shed. The challenge is in convincing people that those bikes can be used for the many local journeys that we currently do by car – to the local shop, to work or school. But, to do that we need much more cycle parking and more protected cycle tracks. People need to feel safe on a bike”.

In the coming weeks he will be getting in touch with local councils and major employers to discuss what actions they can take that will make a real difference.

Cllr Derek Brook, Official Spokesperson for Sport for Barrow Borough Council said “as a cyclist myself I am extremely supportive of the initiative, the Council is keen to work in partnership to reduce short car journeys and improve cycling infrastructure in the borough”

Members of the public and organisations who wish to find out more should contact the Bicycle Mayor, Richard Ingham, e-mail richardc.ingham@hotmail.co.uk

Ends

The Bicycle Mayor (BM) is a global initiative coordinated by BYCS, a community interest company in Amsterdam. More information may be found at <https://bycs.org/our-work/bicycle-mayors/> BYCS hosts an annual gathering of the world’s BMs to facilitate sharing of best practice and new ideas in achieving 50 percent of all trips undertaken by bike by 2030

The Bicycle Mayor of Cumbria Support Group is a voluntary group with a constitution. It called for candidates publicly and elected a Bicycle Mayor on 29th June for a two-year stint. The purpose of this group will be two-fold: to agree the Mayor’s annual action plan and review progress; and to apply for funds to assist the Bicycle Mayor to fulfil the voluntary role.

Richard Ingham is a transport planner by profession and attended a summer school course at Amsterdam University on Planning the Cycling City. He is married and lives with his family near Carlisle.