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**We will be holding the following courses in Emsworth, throughout 2008.**

|                                               |                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emergency First Aid for the workplace or home | 4th February<br>7th April<br>2nd June<br>4th August<br>6th October<br>1st December                          |
| Course Price: £70 per person                  |                                                                                                             |
| HSE Approved 4 Day First Aid at Work          | 5th-8th February<br>1st-4th April<br>3rd-6th June<br>5th-8th August<br>7th-10th October<br>2nd-5th December |
| Course Price: £180 per person                 |                                                                                                             |

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The environmental, health and increasingly economic benefits to be gained from walking and cycling instead of using the motor car are well known. Emsworth is becoming more congested, and is likely to become more so if plans for increased house building are implemented. It was for these reasons that Emsworth Community Board recently conducted a survey of the main pedestrian and cycle routes into and around the town – technically known as a Community Street Audit (CSA).

We know from interviews with local residents that more of them would cycle or walk into Emsworth if it were made easier and safer to do so. Therefore, the Street Audit aimed to identify road and path conditions which discouraged walking and cycling, particularly those which represented safety hazards. A complete schedule of the issues identified can be found in the Street Audit report which is available on the ERA and ECB websites.

### Street Audit Findings

Emsworth has already benefitted from recent projects to improve walking and cycling routes through the town; notably the Liveability project funded by Central Government and the Town Access project funded by Hampshire County Council. These have resulted in much improved pavements, subway, A259 crossing and cycle lanes. Nevertheless, the CSA identified many additional problems faced by walkers and cyclists.

### The North-South divide

Travel from the northern parts of Emsworth into the town centre is restricted for the disabled and potentially dangerous for cyclists. The problems posed by the railway bridge in North Street are well known. The consequences are greater car usage and potential loss of business for town centre shops. This situation will worsen as new development occurs in the northern part of Emsworth, although such development might provide funding for improvements.

Some works to improve north - south access could be made relatively easily and have been identified in the CSA findings. However, widening the access under the railway bridge would be a major strategic project and may not be achievable in the near future. For this reason, it is essential that the alternative route using the Washington Road underpass is improved and established as a shared use route for both cyclists and pedestrians. Once this alternative route is established, it needs to be protected against any impediments caused by the proposed A27 (Interbridges West) industrial development. (see page 4)

### Safe Routes to School

The identification of safer routes to and between schools was performed some time ago by parents and teachers. These routes have been agreed by Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council but the works needed to implement them in their entirety still await funding and are long overdue.

Needed improvements include (i) the widening and shared use designation of the path alongside the A259 between Selangor Avenue and Warblington roundabout and (ii) similar work to complete the route to St James' School through Hollybank recreation ground.

### Cycle Lanes

Cycle lanes were implemented along the main access roads into Emsworth several years ago but important sections were omitted at the points of greatest need.

The recent repair and extension of the eastbound A259 cycle lane is much welcomed but in other sections the surface is disintegrating due to lack of maintenance funding. Similar improvements to the west-bound A259 cycle lane are also needed. Another well-known danger point is the missing section of cycle lane in Southleigh Road as it enters Denvilles. The many "reluctant" cyclists will never be tempted out of their cars until such danger points have been eliminated.

### How the audit was performed

The Community Street Audit was managed by members of Emsworth Community Board and supported by a team of volunteers drawn from Emsworth residents. The audit process comprised two activities: (i) the collection of views from residents, including those with disabilities, and (ii) a walking and cycling survey of selected routes in Emsworth.

Views and comments on cycling issues had already been obtained from 22 people who attended a Green Living Fair in November 2006. 24 other people provided comments in response to articles in the local press. These comments were used to help identify the routes to be surveyed, and the types of issue to be included in the audit.



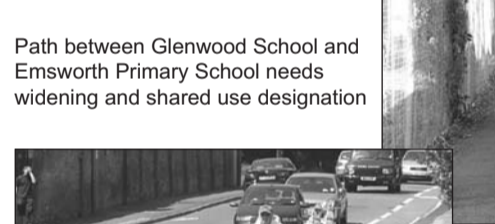
Little room for cyclists under this narrow bridge



Turning right here into New Brighton Road is difficult and dangerous for cyclists



Footpath 71 from Washington Road needs safety improvements and shared use designation



Path between Glenwood School and Emsworth Primary School needs widening and shared use designation



Cyclists and a mobility scooter enjoying the extension of the eastbound A259 cycle lane

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