



Cheltenham & County Cycling Club

EST.1921

Weekly Road Ride Safety Review Process

Each week, the **Road Captain** is responsible for assessing the forthcoming Saturday¹ road rides, particularly in terms of **weather** and **road works** or any other risks that may need changes to, or cancellation of, the published rides.

Risk Triggers

Consider Re-route	Consider Cancellation ²	Cancel Ride
Flood warnings or Road works	Met Office Yellow Weather Warning, or Forecast/Weather on the day includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature below 3 degrees • or Wind gusts over 30 mph • or Snow 	Met Office Amber or Red Weather Warning or Forecast/weather on the day includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground temperature is freezing • or Wind gusts over 40 mph • or Snow

Weekly Process

- Recognise that forecasts change – there won't normally be enough certainty to cancel until the day before, but a heads up can be given to stakeholders, and members, that cancellation may be considered
- Recognise that risks vary with multiple factors, and the above triggers are only a starting point. E.G. ice risks vary with temperature, wet vs dry conditions, and by route – especially up in the hills.
- Tuesday/Wednesday – review the forthcoming rides, forecasts, and any other sources for possible risks. If changes look possible, kick off discussions with others.
- Thursday/Friday review decisions & cancel or re-route if required
- Saturday morning – if worse than forecast, review conditions before riding & cancel if necessary

Who should be involved?

When risks are triggered, the MTB Captain should be engaged early to make an equivalent decision for MTB rides. Sunday Ride Leaders should also be engaged early where possible. The Road Captain will probably want to seek input from any other sources they see fit from whatever information sources they choose – see resources below..

The Road Captain should arrange for a deputy if not available.

Review on the morning

If conditions have deteriorated overnight on Friday and there is concern expressed that rides may not be safe, then the Road Captain (or any committee member in their absence) should review on the morning in consultation with the ride leaders.

¹ Other rides are not covered by this procedure – these are small enough to be managed by the relevant ride leaders, but hopefully the metrics can be used as a useful guideline.

² Re-routing is considered viable for flooding and road works, but not, in general, for bad weather, which is usually late in the week, and late route or café changes are not desirable.

Resources

- Met Office³ Weather forecasts <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/gcnx0z9e5>
- Will it Rain Today (good for next 24 hours) <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/will-it-rain-today/#?tab=map&map=Rainfall&lon=-2.58&lat=52.11>
- Gov.uk flood warnings <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>
- Local flood warnings for Haw Bridge <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/2031>
- Local flood warnings for Mythe Bridge <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/2041>
- Road Works <https://one.network/>
- Local knowledge – particularly useful for (e.g.) floods and road works

Recording decisions

If any of the risk triggers occur, decisions should be recorded in the “Comments” column on the Ride Spreadsheet whether or not the ride is to be cancelled or re-routed.

Communication channels

Re-routes can be announced via the Ride Spreadsheet and club Facebook group. Cancellations should be announced through multiple channels⁴, including some or all of:

- The Club Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CheltenhamCC/>
- The Club Strava Page <https://www.strava.com/clubs/cheltenhamandcounty>
- The Ride Spreadsheet (so linking to the Ride Calendar and Club Website)
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/109VSJ1yGwp9KtYxO0su83d_GT8kuvGtSi4NZRNeKc8/edit?pref=2&pli=1#gid=2

How to Communicate Cancellations

Cancellations can be contentious. There will often be members who think we should go ahead. Should members choose to ride, we need to emphasise that it is at their own risk. An example wording is shown below.

Saturday and Sunday (15/16 Feb) Rides Cancelled

Given the worsening forecast for Storm Dennis, the committee have reviewed and all club rides on Saturday and Sunday (15/16 Feb) are cancelled. Any riders choosing to ride may do so at their own risk. However, the club cannot be held in any way responsible for any event arising, as it will no longer be a club ride. Please take extra care if you choose to ride.

Tony, Payne, Road Captain.

Revised April 2021

³ Other forecasts are available, but the author has a particularly poor view of the BBC in particular.

⁴ A cancellation needs to be communicated to as many club members as possible to avoid members turning up unaware, a re-route is not so critical.