



Tour of Britain in Cropwell Bishop 2018

Last Monday, around 20 people met at the Old School to find out more about the Tour of Britain day (Sat 8th Sept) and brainstorm ideas of how we can make this unique visit a memorable one for Cropwell Bishop people.

It will certainly be a busy Saturday morning. Based on current information, we anticipate the cyclists coming through Cropwell Bishop at about 11.15am. In the hour or so before this, a large number of official cars will pass through, together with around 50 police motorcyclists who will methodically man every road junction and close the route to through traffic. Any vehicles left parked on the route will be removed.

The people at Monday's meeting recognised that the event provided two great opportunities.

First, it would enable use to promote the village of Cropwell Bishop to the rest of the World. The race will be televised live by ITV4 and viewers will see the images of cameras on following motorbikes and a camera in an overhead helicopter.

Second, it would allow everyone living here to have fun and enjoy the occasion.

We generated a large number of ideas: here is list of those that currently appear good:

- Encourage everyone to wear yellow or green (these are the theme colours suggested by Rushcliffe BC)
- have a number of yellow painted old bicycles on prominent display on the route through the village (Kinoulton Road, Nottingham Road, Church Street, Cropwell Butler Road)
- have 25 yellow posters on display (purchased for Rushcliffe BC)
- Use yellow and green balloons to wave or 'wear' (long, thin, bendable modelling balloons). These would be given free to all children on the morning of the event (and 10p each to adults)
- Face painting on the morning (yellow and green streaks on each cheek: as seen on World Cup spectators)
- Wear cycle helmets. Competition for decorated ones.
- Encourage occupants of houses on the route to decorate them in yellow and green or with a cycling theme
- Children standing on the St Giles corner holding large banners spelling out "CROPWELL BISHOP etc."
- Have "field art" on the Memorial Hall field and the School field. Whilst not on the route, these would be clearly visible from the helicopter. If you are unfamiliar with such "art", you might like to watch highlights of a few stages of the Tour de France which are currently being shown daily at 7pm on ITV4. Bales of straw, mechanical contraptions, people in formation, etc., each village trying to outdo the next one.
- Encourage everyone to cheer loudly and generally make lots of noise as riders pass by

These are just our initial ideas and we welcome more— especially from those who were not at the meeting. You can email them to Tony Jarrow, or the Parish Clerk. Input from racing cyclists could be particularly useful.

We are hoping that one consequence of the race coming through Cropwell Bishop is that most of our pot-holed roads will be made good (really good!) by race day. However, beyond this, there will be no fresh money coming to the village for the event. Hence, our pursuit of low-cost, value for money materials. Nevertheless, the best ideas are very often low-cost or even home-made.