

**WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE EVENT TO TAKE PLACE IN CLACTON ON
JULY 19 WITHOUT SUPPORT OF COUNCIL OR POLICE**

The organisers of a World Naked Bike Ride are going ahead with plans to stage the event in Clacton on July 19 – but it will not have the support or backing of Tendring District Council (TDC) or Essex Police.

Both the Council and the Police made strong representations on behalf of the local community for the ride to be cancelled.

Although the request has been rejected the route has been changed so that it is not solely concentrated on the main town centre roads.

There are no powers available to ban the event - and as it stands no offence is being committed.

The ride will be monitored by the Police and any incidents or complaints will be responded to accordingly.

Mick Page, Leader of TDC, said that the Council is disappointed that the organisers have decided to continue with the event but pleased that the route has at least been altered.

"We, along with our partners at the Police, had hoped the organisers would reconsider their position but that has not been the case," he said.

"It is not an event we want to take place in Tendring in the town centre of our largest visitor resort, in the middle of the day, on the first weekend of the school holidays when a large number of people will be about.

"Considerable discussions have taken place and advice sought and we have to accept this will now happen and we cannot stop it – but that does not mean that it has our backing."

Cllr Page added that the Council is making people aware of the details so they can avoid those areas where the riders will be going should they wish to do so.

"We have been accused in some quarters of being out of touch for not wanting this event in our District but we believe we are very much in touch with the views of the vast majority of our residents," he said.

"It is a matter of opinion and we know the opinion of our residents."

The riders are due to meet at the Toby Carvery in Marine Parade West at around 1pm. They will set off at 2pm along Wash Lane, Arnold Road, Wash Lane, Old Road, Pier Avenue, Rosemary Road, High Street, Carnarvon Road, Wellesley Road, Oxford Road, Valley Road, St John's Road, London Road, Oliver's Road, Old Road, Rosemary Road, Beach Road, Marine

Parade East and back to the Toby Carvery.

The event is billed as a protest against global warming and to raise awareness of the vulnerability of cyclists.

There were a number of objections from residents when the ride took place in the town for the first time last year with no evidence of a protest or any environmental message.

Initially organisers told the Council they would not be going ahead in 2014 but later changed their minds following a meeting.

Clacton's Policing District Commander Cat Barrie said that Essex Police officers had worked closely with TDC to respond appropriately to this year's event.

"No Police attendance is planned but we will work with partners to ensure this event takes place safely and peacefully with minimal impact to local businesses and the public," she said.

"Whilst we will facilitate the right of peaceful protest we will also deal swiftly with any acts of criminality and public disorder that may occur.

"We will respond to any complaints accordingly and while we also would not have wished the event to take place in Tendring, as it stands no criminal offence is being committed."

Anyone who has a complaint or concerns on July 19 should contact the Police on 101.

9/7/14

NEWSDESKS

For further information on this press release contact Nigel Brown, Tendring District Council's Communications Manager on 01255 686338.