

Bedale and the Tour de Yorkshire; Friday 3rd May 2019

Important information for all Bedale residents

On Friday 3rd May, Bedale is to be the host town for the finish of women's stage 1, and men's stage 2, of the 2019 Tour de Yorkshire cycle races. The riders will come into town from the south, having started from Barnsley and travelled through Harrogate, Ripon, West Tanfield, Nosterfield and Exelby, and the finish line will be next to the pelican crossing on the Market Place.

This will be a tremendous day, and we expect Bedale to be far busier than ever before. An amazing atmosphere will be capped off by some of the world's best female and male cyclists racing into town for what is likely to be a dramatic sprint finish. With the race broadcast live to over 180 countries worldwide, this is an amazing opportunity to show off Bedale and the surrounding area to the world. (Also, with the finish line in Bedale there is no chance of cutting to an ad break this time round!)

Of course there are issues associated with hosting a world class sporting event in our small market town. Race logistics and the number of visitors from near and far will inevitably create disruption to "business as usual". More importantly we have an opportunity to show off Bedale to visitors and a global audience as a place to savour on the day and to come back and visit in the future. The purpose of this note is to let residents know some of the issues and how they are currently being addressed.

When will the races arrive in Bedale?

Timings are not yet confirmed, and will also be subject to the weather and the way the race is run on the day, but the women's race finish is expected between 12 noon – 1pm and the men's finish at 5pm or a little after.

What is happening in Bedale on the day?

The Market Place will be the centre of attention, with race infrastructure including the finish line, presentation podium, cycle team vehicles and media area all sited between Bridge Street and the roundabout. The public is welcome in most of these areas, and being able to mingle with team buses is part of what makes being a host town so exciting. There will be a big screen near Tesco.

Bedale Park, as well as hosting the media and race sponsors, will be a family-friendly area, with food stalls and the races shown in full on a big screen. There will be more activities available which will be publicised nearer the time. Public buildings around town including St Gregory's Church, Chantry Hall and Dales Centre are looking to offer services and activities during the day, and the Station will be open with plans to run shuttle services from Leeds and from up the dale.

In between races, we have the use of the finish line, podium and even commentary facilities, and are hoping to run children's / novelty races – a unique opportunity for Bedale children to use the same finish line as world-class cyclists!

Our local shops, pubs and businesses will be offering special events and activities, and there will doubtless be more fun activities which are not even planned yet!

What road closures will be in place?

The Market Place / North End will be closed to traffic, probably for the entire day. Closures may also be required on South End for the installation and removal of safety barriers. There will be no exceptions other than for race-related and emergency vehicles. So "regular" journeys on the day may not be possible, and there will be travel delays even for those who will be going about their usual business and ignoring the race. Diversion routes will be in place and well signed.

BEDALE TOWN COUNCIL

Nick Reed, Town Clerk
Room 13, Bedale Hall, North End, BEDALE, N. Yorks DL8 1AA
01677 427949
clerk@bedale-tc.gov.uk
www.bedale-tc.gov.uk

What about parking?

No parking will be allowed on the race route or the whole of North End / Market Place, from early evening on the 2nd May through to the evening of the 3rd May. Exact timings are still to be confirmed. There may be additional parking restrictions in place elsewhere in the town.

Plans are being developed to look at alternative parking arrangements for residents who normally park on the Market Place or South End, where vehicles will need to be removed early on the evening of 2nd May. We will let residents know this information as soon as plans are confirmed (probably mid-late March). Both Bridge Street car parks will be needed for race staff and media.

If you live on or near South End or Market Place and have off-road parking to offer, or will be away from Bedale that weekend, you may wish to liaise with your neighbours to help out.

Parking for visitors will be available at BASA, Bedale Caravan Park, hopefully the field by the roundabout, and Bedale High School. We would like to hear from anyone else with access to decent parking, especially hard standing, and especially on the Aiskew / Leeming Bar side of town. All visitor parking will be for a suggested charitable donation of £5.

We are also looking at providing bicycle parking facilities in most of these venues; Bedale is the most northern host town this year and we expect a large number of cyclists to visit from Teesside and the North-East.

What facilities will be provided for visitors and daytrippers?

Hotel / B&B accommodation within the town will be sold out soon if it is not already. We are looking at offering temporary camping facilities, and would love to hear from anyone able to host this.

Of course, with so many people visiting for the day and a long gap between races, there are great opportunities for local shops and businesses to offer extra hours / services on the day, and help make the town look amazing in advance!

What about the emergency services?

The blue-light services are working with event organisers to ensure that on the day they can maintain access and respond to calls for service. There will be additional medical provision to cover the event itself and the extra people in town. Plans are in place to maintain social care services and other critical green light services impacted by the race route and finish areas. In an emergency dial 999/111 as you usually would – the race is big but not bigger than life itself.

Who is organising all this?

The event is organised by Welcome to Yorkshire in partnership with the Amaury Sports Organisation (ASO), who own cycling events including the Tour de France. Traffic management is led by North Yorkshire County Council, with community engagement and crowd management led by Hambleton District Council. Local publicity and logistics are being led by Bedale Town Council, with a large and active Steering Group from local organisations including Bedale and Villages Community Forum, Brand Bedale, BASA, and all three schools in town.

We are also liaising with shops and businesses, to ensure Bedale looks its best before the race and on the day, to maximise visitor numbers, and to show our lovely town off as a destination for holidays, daytrips, and cycling – or all three.

The full race route and details are available at www.letouryorkshire.com, where you can also find information on parking, road closures and diversions as it becomes available

How can I help?

We are looking for Bedale-based volunteers to help the day run smoothly and show the town off. Any help both in advance (publicity, distribution, planning) and on the day (setting up, visitor greeting, clearing up) will be gratefully received!

Welcome to Yorkshire's Tour Makers are essential to the success of the race. To find out about becoming one go to letour.yorkshire.com/information/tour-makers

And of course everyone can help by making your home / shop / facility as bright and appealing as possible – especially if you use the TdY colours of blue and yellow. (BUT please do not use the words "Tour de Yorkshire" or the TDY logo, which are restricted!)

For any further information, if you have questions, or to volunteer to help on the day, please contact Nick Reed, Town Clerk, tel. 01677 427949 / clerk@bedale-tc.gov.uk.