

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning launches 'Pedal Ready'

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning has launched the new 'Pedal Ready (Gibraltar)' initiative, which aims to promote safe and responsible cycling in Gibraltar in line with STTPP.

"One of the key factors that encourages bicycle use is user confidence," said a statement from the Ministry.

"Having the necessary skills that permit one to feel in control of their surroundings when cycling, understanding road signage and learning correct road positioning is key to promoting the bicycle as a sustainable alternative means of transport," the statement added.

Pedal Ready (Gibraltar) will offer cycling proficiency courses to help improve cycling skills, affording those that attend the course, the necessary basic skills via 4 structured levels.

Level 1 concentrates on perfecting balance and control.

Level 2 introduces cyclists to the urban environment using quiet road and junctions.

Level 3 finally empowers individuals to be able to ride independently and safely within a realistic urban environment including busy roads and junctions.

These courses are based on the 3 levels of the National Cycle Training Standards as set out by the Bikeability Trust in the UK.

As part of this initiative a Level 0 will also be incorporated which will aim to assist those that have

never cycled before learn to ride for the first time exploring the most basic skills of balance.

This is not limited to children and adults who have never cycled may also be able to learn, a skill that many take for granted today.

To this end, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning arranged for bicycle instructor-training courses which were attended by six trainees.

A four-day course was conducted which comprised of classroom-based learning and practical activities. Furthermore, two of these provisionally qualified instructors undertook an intensive three week course in Cambridge and successfully attained qualified status.

These six participants are now able to deliver the course successfully to schools, youth clubs and to members of the public who may be interested in developing and/or cementing their cycling skills.

"The main aim of Pedal Ready is to promote cycling by empowering individuals with the necessary skills required so that they may be able to consider adopting this excellent and healthy activity as a mode of transport," said a statement from the Ministry.

"Even when used recreationally, the bicycle is an excellent way to keep fit and healthy. The initiative also aims to promote the safe use of bicycles and encourage adults who have never had the opportunity to learn as children, to be able

to do so," the statement added.

This initiative will be rolled out slowly over time. Initially, level 1 will be the first part of the course that will become operational. Announcements will be made of further levels in due course.

Members of the public are invited to obtain more information on Pedal Ready this coming Saturday, when the Pedal Ready Team together with the Ministry for Infrastructure and Planning will be collaborating with the Gibraltar Cardiac Association in their Walk the Miles Event.

"The Government of Gibraltar is committed to promoting and encouraging cycling in Gibraltar as a real alternative sustainable means of transport," said the caretaker Minister for transport and cyclist Paul Balban.

"Pedal Ready (Gibraltar) is but one of the many exciting initiatives and improvements that will continue to be rolled out in the future. Pedal Ready (Gibraltar) will be joining with the Gibraltar Cardiac Association on the 28th of September in their "Walk the Miles" event, and also with the Cancer Research UK, Gibraltar Branch on the 5th of October in their "Walk for Life" event."

"Pedal Ready will be manning a stand on both of these events where members of the public may come to obtain more information on this new initiative. Redibikes will be available to member of the public who may wish to participate but do not own a bicycle or simply would like to try out a bicycle on these occasions," he added.

Picardo and Cortes sign 'Made by Dyslexia Pledge'



The caretaker Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, accompanied by caretaker Minister for Education and Environment Dr John Cortes, signed the 'Made by Dyslexia Pledge' at No 6 Convent Place.

This follows the seminar 'Diversity and Inclusion: The positive impact of dyslexia in the workplace' held at the John Mackintosh Hall on Tuesday.

Also present at the signing were Founder and CEO of Made By Dyslexia Kate Griggs and members of the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group, Stuart Byrne (Chairperson), Karin Orsing (Vice-Chairperson) and Joanna Hill (Treasurer).

"We will do everything neces-

sary in Education to keep to this pledge," said Dr Cortes.

"We have already increased the time available for assessment by having full time SENCos and are training teachers to recognise and assist with dyslexia".

"We are also committed to scan all our schoolchildren for dyslexia so that we can better support them in realising their full potential," he added.

Mr Picardo stated he was delighted to sign the Made by Dyslexia pledge.

"It is important that as an inclusive society we value dyslexic minds and provide the necessary support for dyslexics to thrive," he said.

Comprehensive students to embark on hairdressing training course

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Education Dr John Cortes met with the students yesterday in Commonwealth Park and was joined by other executives from his department.

"As you know I started a little something called an education revolution a couple years ago and one of the things we wanted to do is to give the opportunity for young people to do a variety of subjects that they could not traditionally do in school, vocational studies," said Dr Cortes.

"We have now been able to start that and we are doing hairdressing."

"This is the first group of young people in Year 10 from both Bayside and Westside, boys and girls, who are doing our vocational hairdressing course."

He also noted that the course will be the first of many that the Government aims to provide.

"At first people said 'well maybe these courses will not be a success, the success is these 25 young people who have gone for it for the first time," said Dr Cortes.

Education Advisor Chris Gomila has been instrumental in bringing the course from an idea to reality.

"These students are embarking on a Level 2 technical award in hair and beauty studies that will open up doors for them because once they complete that they can go onto Gibraltar College to do something more

specific," said Mr Gomila.

"They can go into hairdressing, they can go into barbering, they can even go and extend that into a Level 3 in the future .That is our hope."

Sarah Carreras, owner of Mayfair on Main, together with two members of her team met with the students.

"At this level it is more of an introduction into the world of hair and beauty," explained Ms Carreras.

"They learn the basics and they learn a little bit about the history of the industry from both the hair and beauty angle. So this is a good starting point for them to see if this is something or not they want to look to develop into a career path way."

The course will also contain some elements of practical work.

Ms Carreras hopes that the course will inspire the students to pursue a career in the industry by going on to the next stage and gain further qualifications.

The course will be delivered in Bayside.

"We will be teaching in the stunning new facility in Bayside and the reason that Bayside has been selected is because hairdressing was seen to be seen as a predominately female role and what we wanted to do is break that concept because it is actually a rewarding career pathway for both girls and boys," said Ms Carreras.

"When we set up Mayfair on

Presentation on Vocational Traineeships

Stakeholders from the Trade Unions and Business participated in a presentation hosted by the Department of Education on the subject of Vocational Traineeships, a new custom made scheme that capitalises on the significant investment in education infrastructure, both current and projected, by the Government.

The Department of Education's vision encompasses a clear and progressive pathway for vocational education between the ages of 14 to 19 within the school environment.

At Level 2, when students typically complete their GCSE courses, students with a desire and flair to pursue craft and vocational studies will be able to do so within the comprehensive school environment.

At Level 3, the post-16 stage of education, students will be able to continue their vocational studies through a range of traineeships centred around the Gibraltar College.

It is envisaged that these will be delivered in partner-

ship with and with support from local business, to ensure that our learners are able to develop the skills required to increase their success of employment in their chosen sector.

These courses will run in parallel to the established academic route, leading to recognised qualifications in each course's respective field. Subjects covered will include hairdressing, hospitality and catering, automotive, digital technologies as well as the more traditional trades.

The presentation was delivered by Education Advisor Chris Gomila, who explained the background in preparing this scheme, and stressed the amount of work done in preparation for this. Present were representatives Unite the Union, Gibraltar NASUWT, the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce and the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses as well as the Department of Education, the Industrial Relation Office and the Gibraltar College who will lead on delivery.

These stakeholders, members of the Vocational Training Working Group, contributed to

the discussion by highlighting the needs of industry and focussed attention on the aspirations of those individuals that might want to pursue a craft or vocational profession in lieu of an academic route – valuable input that helps shape the future projection of vocational training in Gibraltar.

"The Government is committed to offering a pathway for those individuals who want to follow a vocational career, or who want to train in vocational subject in addition to, or in lieu of, the academic," said Dr John Cortes, Caretaker Minister for Education.

"This education programme will equip young people, within school and outside, with the toolset and accreditation that will make them competitive in the job market, in pursuit of their aspirations, and importantly, meeting the needs of our community. This is a major part of the revolution in Education and will be welcomed by educators, unions and employers alike."

Main you will know that many of the industry leaders and educators we brought over are actually male. We look to be setting an example that it is cross

gender and hence we feel that placing the actual working salon within Bayside helps break that idea."

She also wants to highlight

that hairdressing is an art form and a very creative industry and not just a mundane role for people who perhaps are not academic.