

Tour de France Grand Départ 2014 - Briefing note for Hyndburn Tier Forum March 2014

Introduction

The first two stages of the Tour de France will be held in the Pennine area of North Yorkshire on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July, 2014. The event is expected to attract significant visitor numbers from overseas as well as from within the UK.

Whilst this will be a great opportunity to see part of the event, recognised as one of the top annual sports occasions in the world, on both days the event will pass close to the Lancashire boundaries and as a result, travel between Lancashire and Yorkshire will be disrupted. Many people will be travelling from the south via Lancashire's roads and motorways. Some visitors are also expected to arrive several days in advance of the race to participate in other events that are taking place around the route.

There are two trans-Pennine (west to east) road crossings that will remain open at all times during the event:

- **North of the event (Cumbria)** - the A66 between the M6 and the A1.
- **South of the event (Greater Manchester)** - the M62.

Our main aim is to ensure the race and dates are well publicised and to ensure that people plan their travel in advance for that weekend and for the days beforehand when large numbers of spectators will be travelling to the area. Advance publicity will allow Lancashire residents to plan to avoid any disruption whilst maximising the benefits of this international event which is happening on our doorstep.

We are working with representatives from adjoining councils to ensure that the event passes with minimum disruption to Lancashire. This involves balancing the needs of spectators, many of whom will want to travel via Lancashire and the needs of individuals who want to continue with their business avoiding the race or any of the associated events.

We are currently identifying which roads need to be closed to allow the race to pass and where there will need to be restrictions for the safety of the public. We will update you with information about road closures as soon as possible to ensure that people have time to plan/amend their activities for that weekend.

The Tour de France route

The race will result in the closure of many cross-Pennine routes from Lancashire to Yorkshire on both days of the event resulting in travel disruption. For safety reasons, the roads that are part of the route will be closed for approximately three hours before the race and for up to three hours afterwards. However, it will not be possible to accurately estimate the time that the race passes any given point due to a number of factors including the weather and the speed of the cyclists.

There will be many opportunities to see the race along with the spectacle of the sponsorship procession in the build up to the race. In addition to this, some communities are arranging events around the main race including Spectator Hubs with specialised accommodation and large screen televisions to observe the Tour de France. The race also coincides with other major sporting events which could be shown on the big TV screens including Wimbledon Finals and the World Cup Quarter Finals.

Residents of Lancashire can keep up to date with further news about the event and road closures by visiting our website www.lancashire.gov.uk and search 'Tour de France'. This will enable people to plan their travel that weekend whether it's to and from the event, or to avoid the disruption.

Our advice to residents

You can view the race route on the map at the end of this briefing note.

- **On Saturday 5 July** the race will commence in Leeds City Centre and end in Harrogate going via Otley, Ilkley, Skipton, Grassington, Hawes, Masham, and Ripon.
- **On Sunday 6 July** the race starts from York City Centre and finishes in Sheffield going via Harrogate, Steeton, Keighley, Howarth, Littleborough, Huddersfield and Holmfirth.

The following key points should be noted:

1. **Plan your journey in advance** - It is inevitable that there will be some traffic congestion so plan your journey in advance and leave yourself extra time to get to your destination. Remember that access to key locations such as Skipton and Hebden Bridge will require careful management and turning up to see the race one hour prior to the scheduled time may well end in disappointment.
2. **Look out for the spectator hubs** - As well as trying to manage the traffic around the event we want to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to watch the event. There will be spectator hubs around the route that will attempt to keep spectators in one place but people are expected to move between locations. This will inevitably lead to some travel disruption.
3. **Keep updated with road closures** - Roads may be closed at any given point for up to seven or eight hours. Where the route passes close to Lancashire these roads could be closed from early morning.

Spectators will need to plan their journey well in advance so they know where they want to see the race, how they intend to travel there and when they will need to be in position. Access to key locations such as Skipton and Hebden Bridge will require careful management. Turning up to see the race one hour prior to the scheduled time may well end in disappointment.

We will publish further information and updates about road closures/timings on our website as soon as they are confirmed.

Key contacts

For more detailed information about The Tour de France Grand Départ 2014 visit:

<http://letour.yorkshire.com/>

If you need more information about road closures or you are planning to hold a Tour de France event please let us know by emailing: tdf.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk

Our website will also be regularly updated with information about the event, travel advice and road closures - visit www.lancashire.gov.uk and search for 'Tour de France'.

Map of the Tour de France route – Saturday 5 July and Sunday 6 July 2014

The map below outlines the alternative travel routes for both days. The southern route does involve motorway usage which may exclude certain drivers from using it. Advance signage of alternative routes will be in place around two weeks before the event to raise driver awareness of potential road closures and diversions.

