

## Loving your neighbour is equality

I HAVE just returned from holiday with my civil partner and was catching up on local news when I saw Norman Fox's July 4 letter.

Neither I nor my partner are not religious in any way but I do remember that somewhere in the oldest fairy tale ever written – aka the Bible – it states that you should love your neighbour.

That saying to me also applies to equality. Not once in your letter did that word arise.

My point to you, Mr Fox, is we all pay our taxes, abide by the laws of the land and respect other groups and minorities. That to me is equality.

If, as you put it, we do not or should not have the same rights as heterosexual couples in this country, surely we should not be expected to pay the same as everyone else.

Many people I have spoken to about religion are of the same opinion – that it is the cause of most wars and hate crimes in this multi-diverse world we live in today.

Please wear your religion with pride.

It is a wonderful to believe in something. But personal beliefs should be kept to oneself and not forced on to other people.

Surely that is what churches are for, not street corners and local newspapers.

**Matt Randles,**  
address supplied.

## No place for cycling racing on Greenway

IN RECENT months there has been increasing local concern about conflict between cyclists and others users of the Chester Millennium Greenway shared-use paths.

Chester Cycling Campaign denounces reckless cycling in all its forms.

The Greenway is not suitable for cycling at high speed or in large groups which take up the full width of the path, particularly in the heavily used urban sections.

The dangers are obvious and could have serious consequences for all parties involved in a collision.

The Greenway is frequently used by leisure and family cyclists, with many children learning to cycle on the traffic-free path.

Pedestrians are often unaware that a cyclist is approaching from the rear, and may be shocked when passed by at speed.

Cycle racing has no place on a busy path shared with pedestrians, dog walkers and wheelchair users and we are therefore very concerned by the recent trend of using the Greenway for time trials.

Two recent incidents in particular have resulted in pedestrians being knocked down by speeding cyclists.

It must be acknowledged that walkers can also be at fault (by wearing headphones, by not paying attention to their considerate use of the path, or by allowing dogs to run freely or at the end of long leads) and

such behaviour can also contribute to incidents. However, as bicycles have the greater potential to create injury, whether initiated by their riders' actions or not, then cyclists must take the lead in sharing the path responsibly.

Understanding and consideration is required by all users, and consequently the Chester Cycling Campaign fully supports the code of conduct developed by Sustrans and urges all local cyclists to comply with this code in the interest of friendly and safe use of the valuable resource represented by the Greenway and other local shared-use paths.

In summary the Sustrans code for cyclists using shared-use paths states that as cyclists tend to be the fastest movers on shared use paths they should:

- Give way to pedestrians and wheelchair users
- Take care around horse-riders leaving them plenty of room
- Be courteous and patient with pedestrians and other slower moving path users
- Slow down as needed when space is limited or if you cannot see clearly ahead
- Be particularly careful at junctions, bends, entrances onto the path, or any other 'blind spots' where people (including children) could appear without warning
- Keep to the correct side of any dividing line
- Carry a bell and use it or an audible greeting – avoid surprising people, or horses
- Not assume people can see or hear you – remember that people may be hard of hearing or visually impaired
- Use lights in dull and dark weather

to make sure they can easily be seen

- Ride in single file and break up large groups, when approaching pedestrians.

Like many aspects of life, this all comes down to common sense and respect for others.

Cestrians are encouraged to follow the example of continental Europe where shared road space and pavements is often the norm

If cyclists are considerate by sounding a warning, slowing down, and giving way when approaching pedestrians, then conflict can easily be avoided.

**Stephen Perry,**  
For Chester Cycling Campaign.

## What about 'share with care'?

I HAVE been using the Greenway path since it first opened, both with and without a dog.

On Monday, July 12, at 7.30am my dog was hit by a cyclist, an accident which broke his leg in two places.

The injury was so serious he was referred to a specialist in St Helens.

The lady who hit him was not to blame, but a speeding cyclist was doing 25mph-plus on what is a pedestrian path.

My dog was staying at my command and when I shouted at the cyclist to slow down, he reacted to my voice and ran in front of the other cyclist.

The lady was very kind and called her husband to take us home, for which I was extremely grateful.

I know this path is part of the cycle