

## PRESS RELEASE – June 22nd 2010

For further information, comment or interview contact Richard Lane on 07923 915724 or email [york@worldcarfree.net](mailto:york@worldcarfree.net)



# Carfree City Visions at Conference Open Day

**Everyone is invited to an open day and film night on Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup> as part of the international 'Towards Carfree Cities' conference, taking place at York's Priory Street Centre. All sessions at the conference during the day will be open to the public, as will an evening of films and a panel debate at City Screen.**

The open day kicks off at 9am with keynote presentations including "The Quick and The Dead: a History of the Pedestrian" by the University of York's own Barbara Schmucki. There will be a planning session starting at 10:45 for York Carfree Day, which will again take place this year on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The afternoon includes sessions on 'The Psychology of Car Dependence', and games about the use of public space with Leeds-based public space group "Make-pla(y)ce".

At 8pm, York's City Screen cinema will host the Carfree Film Night, an evening of short films to impress and inspire change. The films are a mix of short documentaries, animations and music. They look at how public space has been reclaimed in other cities, why young people are calling for change, how activists, environmentalists and a new generation of urban planners are bringing that change about, and what the future could look like if we are successful.

"Beauty and the Bike" tells the story of a pioneering project that got girls from Darlington kitted up and determined to cycle after a visit to Bremen in Germany. Other films show how Paris have been taken over by the inline skating phenomenon, and how James Bond takes the tram to outwit his enemies.

Delegates will be attending the conference from as far afield as Australia, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. The York conference is the ninth in the series, which gathers professionals, academics politicians and campaigners all working towards a future where cities function for people, not cars. Entrance to all open day events and sessions is by voluntary donation.

The public events continue with the first Bishopthorpe Road Street Party on Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 9:30pm. The conference concludes with a party on Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 8pm at the Crescent Working Men's Club. The gig features funk band Hot Fudge, comedy from Rory Motion and DJ Lady Greygold. Entrance is £5 / £3 concessions.

[ENDS]

### Notes to editors:

- The goal of the Towards Carfree Cities conference series is to bring together people from around the world who are promoting practical alternatives to car dependence - walking, cycling and public transport, and ultimately the transformation of cities and towns into human-scaled environments rich in public space and community life. The focus is on strategy, collaboration and exchange, assisting the practical work of conference participants - whether it be organising carfree days, promoting urban cycling, or building the carfree cities of the future.
- Full details of the open day events are at <http://www.worldcarfree.net/conference/open-day>



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