



SEAFRONT BIKE BAN IS LIFTED AT LAST



Cyclists celebrate the new "shared use" of the promenade

A CENTURY-OLD byelaw that banned cycling on Bexhill's seafront has been consigned to history - and the promenade is now a "shared use" area between cyclists and pedestrians.

A campaign by Bexhill Wheelers, the Classic Cycle Group and others - notably Bexhill Youth Council - to persuade Rother District Council to let walkers and riders mix.

The local authority agreed to a one-year trial period, and when that proved successful, it applied to the Department for Communities and Local Government for a change to be made.

After a lengthy wait, approval has now been given and this week cyclists, councillors, officials and other community representatives gathered by the Colonnade on Bexhill seafront to celebrate the decision.

Bicycle bells and horns were sounded enthusiastically as Cllr Patrick Dowart, chairman of Rother District Council's byelaws working group, cut a red ribbon to declare the seafront open to all.

He said: "I'm delighted that we have been able to change the byelaws to permit cycling on the seafront for the first time since 1912. Everyone has worked together to achieve a solution that we hope will prove satisfactory to all."

Vintage penny farthings were among a huge variety of bikes to be ridden along the promenade on Tuesday evening to mark the occasion. Cyclists must continue to exercise caution and give priority to pedestrians when using the route.