

PRESS RELEASE

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Tour of Britain Cycle Race – where to watch

The excitement is building as the arrival of the Tour of Britain cycle race on Monday 8th September 2008 in Newbury gets ever closer.

Now is the time to start thinking about the best places to watch, and how to get to the event. Newbury is one of the smallest towns ever to host a stage finish, so the impact on the town will be significant. Please allow plenty of time for any journey.

The final map of the route, from Streatley onwards, is published on the Newbury Town Council web-site at www.newbury.gov.uk. After Streatley Hill, the race travels along the B4009 to Hermitage and then heads west through Chieveley, Boxford, Welford and Great Shefford, where it turns back towards Newbury along the A339 then the B4000. It comes in to Newbury on the A4, turns right into Old Bath Road at The Starting Gate, past the Clock House, down Northbrook Street and over the bridge into the Market Place. Then along Bear Lane to the Police Station roundabout, up the A339 to the Robin Hood gyratory, left into London Road and then left into Park Way for the grand sprint finish adjacent to Victoria Park.

Full Tour programmes will be available from marshals on the day at a cost of just £3.

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If you plan to watch the event in Newbury, then if you can walk or cycle, please do so. Alternatively there are public transport options via train or bus (Newbury buses are supporting the event). For those whose only option is to drive, please consider car sharing. There is still plenty of parking in town in the various surface car parks and the Northcroft and Kennet multi-storey car parks (follow the standard parking signage), but please bear in mind that all Park Way car parks will be closed. To guarantee a good view of the event in Newbury, it may be quicker to park safely and considerately in the suburbs of the town and walk the last half mile or so into the centre. Least impact will be on the south side of town.

The nature of the route means that there are various opportunities to see the race twice.

Most excitement will however be in Newbury itself. There will be lots to see and do around the stage finish in Park Way, and in Victoria Park at the Tour Village / Promo Area / Team zone which will be open from around 10:30am to 3:30pm. And of course you can watch the highlights of the whole stage on ITV4 from 8pm to 9pm in the evening.

Cllr Ian Grose said “We look forward to seeing large crowds on the day, enjoying the showcasing of Newbury as it hosts this major event. We are doing all we can to make the experience enjoyable – please can everyone plan their travel carefully so that they can play a part in ensuring that enjoyment”.

END

Cllr Ian Grose – Leader of the Council (grose.ian9@btinternet.com 01635 36816)
Graham Hunt – Chief Executive Officer (chiefexec@newbury.gov.uk 01635 35486)

The race is organised by the Tour of Britain and Stage 2 (from Milton Keynes to Newbury on Monday 8 September 2008) is supported by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Greenham Common Trust and Newbury Town Council.

For more details, see www.newbury.gov.uk or www.tourofbritain.co.uk