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All set for the race of Champions on 7 June!

Residents throughout Daventry District are urged to turn out and show their support on Wednesday 7 June as we welcome the OVO Energy Women's Tour.

There will be a carnival atmosphere in Daventry as elite cyclists from the world's top teams set off from the High Street at 11am for the first stage of what is Britain's leading professional women's cycle race.

The race also passes through the villages of Long Buckby, West Haddon, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Creaton, Haselbech, Naseby, Welford, Sibbertoft, East Farndon and Great Oxendon in our District.

The prestigious Grand Depart traditionally attracts thousands of spectators, and large crowds are expected.

The Tour features some of the biggest names in professional women's cycling and all three previous Tour Champions – Lisa Brennauer, Marianne Vos and Lizzie Deignan (nee Armitstead) – will be lining up in Daventry.

The Northamptonshire race is the first stage of a five-day event, action from which will be seen by a global audience, with stage highlights broadcast daily on ITV4 and made available on demand via the ITV Hub.

Daventry District Council has been working with its partners including Northamptonshire County Council, Everyone Active and event organisers Sweetspot on preparations for the event.

Councillor Alan Hills, Daventry District Council's Community, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder, said: "We're delighted and honoured to be hosting the Grand Depart of The Women's Tour in Daventry, which we hope will bring a real economic boost to our businesses as well as inspiring more people to take up cycling and get active.

"Thousands of people from across our local communities turned out to support the race when it visited our District in 2016. And with our increased role in this year's event, we are hoping it will prove even more popular.

"This is an opportunity to enjoy a world-class sporting event on our doorstep, so let's really make the most of this wonderful event."





Get creative for a chance to win a Waitrose hamper

Incredible window displays have become something of a tradition along the route of the OVO Energy Women's Tour in recent years.

They offer a great opportunity for businesses to promote both themselves and the Tour in the run-up to the event, and businesses in Daventry town centre are being encouraged to get creative and come up with a cycling-inspired design for their shop fronts. In support of the OVO Energy Women's Tour, Waitrose have generously donated a hamper for the best display.

Free cardboard bikes are available for you to adapt, though we also welcome the use of your own bikes and materials.

Secrets in Market Square are the first to get in on the act, decorating the front of their shop with a bicycle-themed display (pictured above).

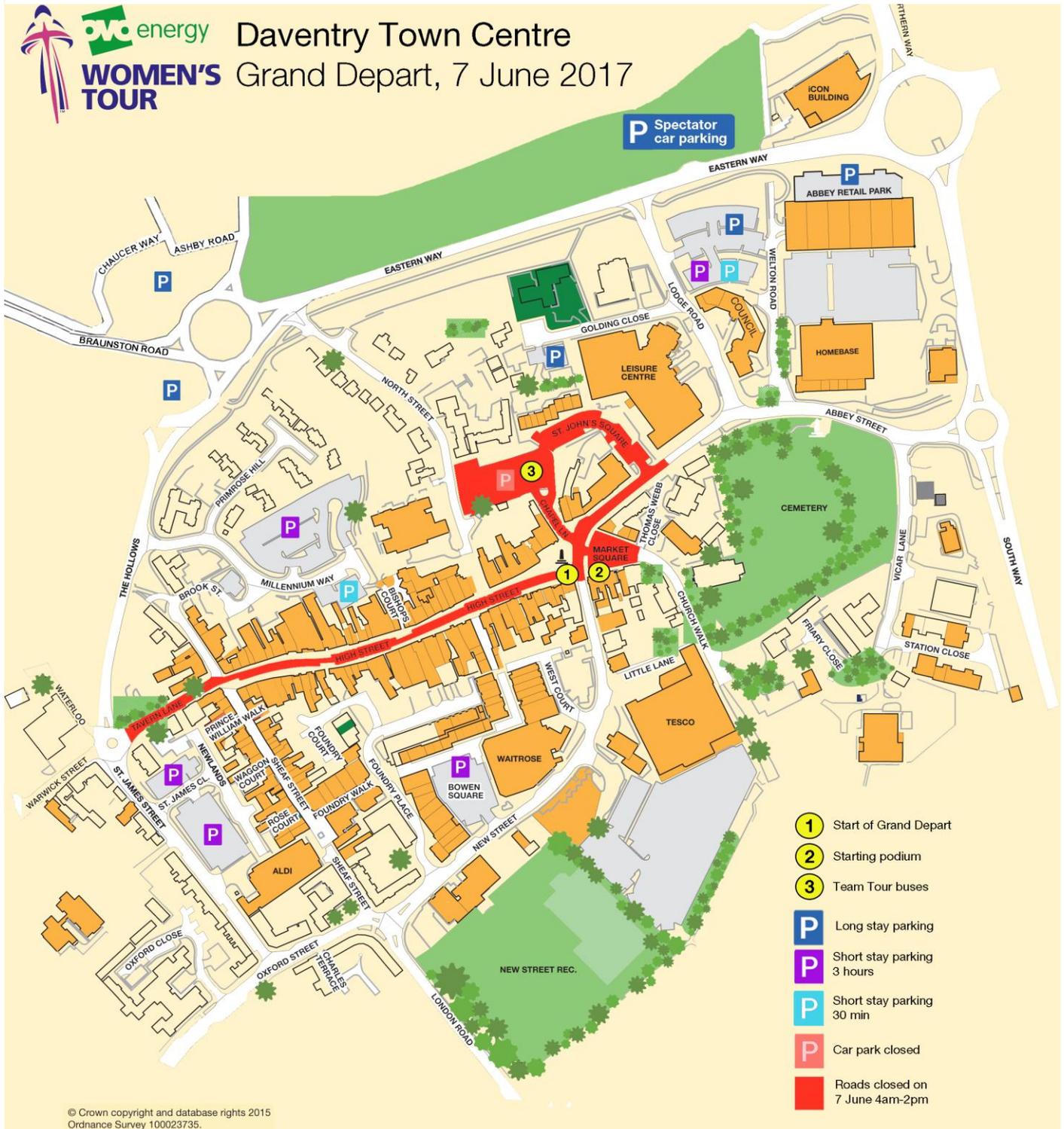
Anyone interested in having a display should email business@daventrydc.gov.uk or call Claire Cowland on 01327 30244 so we can promote it on social media and at www.lovedaventry.com/womenstour

Other opportunities to get involved in the Tour

Volunteers are being sought to play an important role on the day as an ambassador for Daventry, in what promises to be a memorable occasion for the town and wider district. The role will include welcoming visitors to the town, directing vehicles in parking areas, handing out leaflets, crowd management, answering spectators' questions and providing directions. You would be required for a maximum of five hours on the morning of the race and training and high-vis wear will be provided as appropriate. Email womenstour@daventrydc.gov.uk or phone Emma Parry at Daventry District Council on 01327 871100.

Grants of up to £500 are also available to community groups wishing to put on events to celebrate the Tour. The money can be used by a range of community and voluntary groups – as well as schools and pre-schools - to help organise community events to coincide with the race day. Find out more at www.lovedaventry.com/get-involved Alternatively contact Tim Cantwell at Daventry District Council on tcantwell@daventrydc.gov.uk or 01327 871100.

Arrangements for the Grand Depart



The nature and scale of the event requires a number of roads in the town centre to be closed to traffic on the eve of the event as well as race day.

High Street will be completely closed to traffic from 5pm on the Tuesday through to Wednesday afternoon. Market Square at the top of High Street, St John's Square behind Daventry Leisure Centre and the Chapel Lane car park will all be closed from 4am until 2pm on Wednesday to accommodate the starting podium and the parking of team support vehicles.

Other car parks in the town will remain open as usual and additional free parking will be made available on Eastern Way.

The road closure will be further extended from about 10am through to Midday on race day to include Brook Street, Tavern Lane, the Tavern Lane/Warwick Street roundabout and small sections of Warwick Street and the B4038.

For the rest of the stage a team will travel about 15 minutes ahead of the race to implement a rolling roadblock.



Tuesday, 6 June, 5-8pm
High Street, Daventry



**Sports demos ● taster sessions ● live bands ● club displays
children's rides ● mascot races ● Daventry Community Choir**

Get into the spirit on the eve of the Women's Tour with this celebration of sport and activity in Daventry's High Street. FitFest will feature taster sessions from sports groups and clubs, children's entertainment plus live music.



Sunday 4 June 11am-2pm
New Street Rec, Daventry

**Extreme mountain bike show ● toddler, retro & crazy bikes
Scalextric ● free bike safety checks ● pedal-powered smoothies**

Cyclefest is a free celebration of all things pedal-powered, featuring stunts and tricks by Danny Butler's Extreme Mountain Bike Show, a range of have-a-go toddler, retro and crazy bikes plus stalls and other activities. Families can also try blending their own smoothies, playing Scalextric and even running a sound system - all using pedal power. *Visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/cycling*

**Sunday, 18 June
Delapre Abbey, Northampton**

The Tour's Official Sportive consists of a 10-mile Fun Ride for families, a 40-mile Challenge Route and an 80-mile Pro Route.

The family ride is suitable for riders age 7 and over and runs off-road alongside quiet canal paths. Advance entry to the longer rides cost £30 (£35 on the day) and the fun ride is £7 on the day or £5 in advance.

Enter at www.touride.co.uk

