


ECHO The voice of the city

MY CITY

Put people at heart of our city

I DOUBT many people would argue that Liverpool is a great city. But is it such a great city to walk and cycle around?

Well, yes and no.

To really experience a city, you need to interact with the fabric of it – its people and spaces. These human interactions are key. You don't get the same joy from a city by driving through it. No-one goes to Paris, Berlin or London to drive through them. We soak up the surroundings on foot, using our own steam. And the minute we put up the barriers, the metal box around us, we lose those connections. We stop interacting.

We've designed our cities and towns for over half a century with the car in mind.

But we're rapidly discovering the benefits to this approach aren't the hallowed ground they were meant to be: personal freedom and accessibility have been replaced by congestion, toxic air quality and an inactivity epidemic – not to mention a climate emergency in which transport is one of the largest contributing factors.

But we know what a wonderful city Liverpool could be for walking and cycling. It's something I'll be exploring as part of an expert panel at Engage Liverpool's seminar series tomorrow.

It's pretty flat, relatively compact and the weather isn't that bad! Some of the greatest cities in the world have realised the benefits of people-centred places.

New York, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh are all taking strides to put people at the heart of their cities.

I think it's about time Liverpool joined the race to become a truly people-centred liveable city that's easy and enjoyable for people to get around – riding a bike or otherwise.

KEVIN McCANN
SUSTRANS.ORG.UK



Who's that watching the game? It's Jurgen Klopp!

Jurgen Klopp posed for photos with players and parents, also inset, right



REDS BOSS ON SIDELINES AT GIRLS' MATCH

By **LOTTIE GIBBONS**

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JURGEN KLOPP stunned parents by turning up to a girls' football match.

While unwinding during a short break from his duties on Sunday, the Liverpool boss was walking his dog in Formby.

But it seems like Klopp couldn't take his mind off football as he stopped to watch the under-18s ladies match between Ashton-in-Makerfield and Formby.

It didn't take long for eager parents to spot the German, who was engrossed in the game.

Rob Pratten, 48, from Preston, was one of the girls' parents who rushed to meet Klopp.

Speaking to the ECHO, Rob, a lifelong Red said: "It was pouring with rain and the park was completely empty. There were only spectators watching the girls play.

"But, across the pitch, some of the parents noticed this tall gentlemen walking his dog.

"There were a couple of us that are Liver-

pool fans and we were shocked when we recognised that it was Jurgen Klopp."

His presence was kept quiet, with only a couple of parents going over to greet the 52-year-old.

However, once the half-time came round, Klopp was surrounded by 16 very excited teenage girls.

Rob said: "When the half-time whistle went, all the girls started screaming and running to him, but he really didn't mind, he took it all in his stride.

"My daughter was very excited, a few of the girls got individual photos. It's nice he gave that little bit of time."

"I'm not sure every football manager would have had that reaction. I told him he was a legend, but he was so modest about it.

"It was fantastic to see him and I wasn't surprised to see him in his Liverpool cap and red jacket.

"He's Liverpool through and through, that's why we love him so much.

"Even some of the Manchester United fans were amazed to see how lovely he was."


ECHO

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Inside Today

ECHO subscription offer	42
Family announcements	43-44
Letters	22&23
Puzzles	40&41
Sport	53-64
Television	31-34
Weather /Fuel prices/ Travel	10
What's On	14-15

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