

WEST BERKSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 2017

6:00PM – 7:30PM, COUNCIL OFFICES

PRESENT: Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter – Chair
 Cllr Adrian Edwards – WBC Cycling Champion
 Cllr Jeanette Clifford – WBC Executive Member for Transport
 Josh Kerry – WBC Capital Projects Officer
 Elaine Cox – WBC Rights of Way Officer
 Dr Tony Vickers – SPOKES Highways Officer
 Gordon Oliver – SPOKES
 Clive Tombs – SPOKES (minutes of meeting)

APOLOGIES: Caroline Lane – WBC Cycling Co-ordinator / SPOKES Chair
 Adam Lewthwaite – Sustrans Partnership Manager
 Angela McMahon – WB Spokes
 Paul Hendry – WBC Countryside Manager

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Caroline Lane, Adam Lewthwaite, Angela McMahon and Paul Hendry.</p>	
<p>2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Adrian Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>3. REVIEW OF MINUTES & ACTIONS The minutes of the last meeting, held on 17 January 2017, were reviewed and accepted by all present. Regarding actions arising from last meeting, Elaine Cox (EC) is investigating specification for resin-bound surface proposed for Greenham Common route. EC aiming to identify indicative cost during the next week. Additional cycle parking within the Parkway development, Newbury: Josh Kerry (JK) reported this is not feasible as this is private land.</p>	<p>EC</p>

	<u>Action</u>
<p>Gordon Oliver (GO) noted that there are some racks already available e.g. behind Barclays Bank premises but these are limited. JK is exploring other options for extra cycle parking in town centre. Highways team's preference is to turn the existing 'banks' of stands in Northbrook Street etc at 90 degrees and add an extra Sheffield stand matching WBC's standard detail (i.e. with the low-level taper bar) to each of these 'banks', so creating an extra 15 or so stands. Discussion ensued. GO commented that if the 'banks' of stands are turned 90 degrees such that they are off the pedestrian line this would be better for blind and partially-sighted people passing by, as well as creating extra stand space,</p> <p>Maps/apps and Cycle Audit – see separate agenda items.</p> <p>Cycle access through City recreation ground, Newbury: discussed by those present. Agreed there is scope to resurface and widen the path along the southern fringe of the park in between Hampton Road and Andover Road opposite Wendan Road, but this would require approval of Newbury Town Council.</p>	<p>JK to pursue with Granville Taylor of NTC</p>
<p>4. INTERACTIVE CYCLING AND WALKING MAPS</p> <p>Cllr Ardagh-Walter (SAW) advised he has not had the opportunity yet to speak to Jenny Graham regarding the MyJourney Wokingham example but will pursue.</p> <p>Cllr Ardagh-Walter referred to the downloadable cycling maps already available.</p> <p>EC advised Stuart Powling (WBC GIS team) has access to an existing app. She also referred to a Lancashire County Council app. Meeting agreed that EC should establish from Stuart Powling what he can provide in terms of an app and within what timescale, and circulate brief details before the next meeting.</p> <p>GO advocated not reinventing the wheel if there is an existing solution that can be adapted.</p> <p>Clive Tombs (CT) drew everyone's attention to the updated Transport web page produced by WBC Transport Services Team in conjunction with Web and GIS colleagues which incorporates links to the Walking and Cycling Maps and Routes.</p>	<p>SAW</p> <p>EC</p>
<p>5. NCN 422 UPDATE</p> <p>JK had presented the proposals for National Cycle Network Route 422, principally along the A4 corridor, to Members at WBC's Transport Policy Task Group where the response had been positive. JK is moving forward with consultation May 2017 onwards, focussing on Section 1 which is from Robin Hood Roundabout to the London Road/Hambridge Road junction.</p>	

Action

With regard to the Lower Padworth area near Aldermaston Wharf, there are some particular challenges in the sector between the A340 roundabout at Aldermaston Wharf and the crossroads junction with Ufton Lane and Lambdens Hill. JK advised he has been looking at an off-road solution.

GO felt that in relation to Lower Padworth, any requirement for eastbound cyclists to cross to the south side of the A4 at each of this scheme would compromise the scheme.

JK noted there are utilities in the verge and adjoining the carriageway on the north side of the A4 through Lower Padworth.

Dr Tony Vickers (TV) concurred with JK's view that the focus should be on the more urban sections initially: Newbury towards Thatcham and Theale-Reading Borough boundary, with the rural section through Lower Padworth to follow on afterwards.

In answer to SWA's question, the implementation of NCN422 upgrades through Thatcham itself is to be a future package of work.

Discussion ensued on phasing of the consultation. JK has a meeting coming up with Martin Dunscombe at which this will be discussed.

Discussion moved on to the NCN4 along the canal path and related issues. EC advised she had attended a site meeting with Canal and River Trust (C&RT). C&RT brought engineer with them and are looking to apply for grant funding; they are very keen on this.

JK said that the C&RT have £326k already for Public Right of Way and cycle path works, from the development at The Racecourse. C&RT spend of this money is imminent and they are keen to expand further.

EC said she is due to receive a report from C&RT on their activities.

TV talked about [Thatcham Vision](#)'s aspiration for a new cycle route section from the western end of Urquhart Road (Kennet Heath estate) to the end of Hambridge Lane, via the anglers path. TV commented this would require a lot of work. TV has advised Thatcham Vision to start off by checking land ownership.

6. VARIOUS HIGHWAY CYCLING CONCERNS – STAN GREEN

Stan Green to be invited to attend the next meeting of the group.

**Deborah
Vince**

7. WEST BERKSHIRE CYCLING ACTIVITIES

JK advised Paul Hendry from WBC's Transport & Countryside service is helping run a summer event at Newbury Showground to help encourage confident on road cycling.

	<u>Action</u>
<p>8. CYCLE WORKING GROUP AUDIT</p> <p>SAW thanked JK for uploading the refined proposals arising from the audit to the SPOKES webspace.</p> <p>JK said that the intention for now is to focus on delivering Section 1 of NCN422.</p> <p>TV advocated then moving on to focus on upgrading with signing etc of a link to/from north Newbury development site. SAW said he would discuss the links to north Newbury with Jenny Graham.</p> <p>Discussion moved on to the signing at the town centre gateways. JK showed the adjusted gateway signing. However, the Department for Transport will not permit a variant of repeater signs showing permitted cycle route, for use at appropriate points in the pedestrianised area. TV advocated having local WBC-branded signs saying "Considerate cycling permitted". However there is then a question over who cleans and maintains additional signage.</p>	<p>SAW</p>
<p>9. THEALE – PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE OVER M4</p> <p>JK advised Mark Edwards had asked for this item to be added to the agenda. JK said Highways England is intending to do a feasibility study in 2017-18 into options for replacing this bridge.</p> <p>It was noted there are pedestrian and cycle conflicts due to the narrow width and sharp bend at one end of this bridge.</p> <p>It was suggested that letters be written to Highways England by:</p> <p>(1) WBC, on behalf of the cycle user groups that meet under the Cycle Forum banner; and</p> <p>(2) Local Enterprise Partnership (as proposed by GO)</p> <p>to try and get Highways England to provide a high-quality replacement solution that also takes in improvements to the approaches.</p>	<p>JK/CT</p>
<p>10. RURAL TOURISM FUNDING OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>JK outlined the RTF opportunities, as set down in the paper circulated by Jenny Graham on 04 April.</p> <p>Group were interested in the possibility of some of this funding being secured to bolster delivery of the Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys old railway path cycle route. CT noted that the Living Rainforest is in the vicinity of this route.</p> <p>JK to investigate if this is Revenue or Capital money and the timescales involved.</p> <p>EC will make Canal & River Trust aware of this possible alternative source of funding.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>EC</p>

11. **AOB**
None.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Date and time of next meeting: 18:00, Tuesday 18th July 2017 at
WBC Market Street offices (Deborah Vince to book room)

Action

**Deborah
Vince**