



**3 BIKE SECURITY**

Item postponed until police and Cheryl Evans are available to attend.

**4 NCN4 TOWPATH IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN**

JK advised Suzanne Featherstone has now left Canal & River Trust. In addition, Mark Evans who attended previous Cycle Forum sessions has moved to a new role within C&RT, but JK has identified a new contact (Michael Youe) who has walked the section between Newbury Football Club and Bull's Lock and has provided some comments on the Cycle Forum proposals.

JK advised C&RT say they can only manage to deliver a surfaced path of 1.5 metres width, but JK is still batting for 2 metres width except at pinchpoints e.g. where there are trees close to the canal bank.

C&RT feel that the section from Ham Bridge to Bull's Lock warrants work, but it was pointed out that this is not part of NCN Route 4.

EC noted there may be a different audience for the section outboard/east of Ham Bridge towards Bull's Lock.

Discussion ensued about section that should be prioritised for upgrading, and bound vs unbound.

All agreed that the first upgraded section should be a spur to upgrading of other sections in a rolling programme, drawing in external funding wherever possible, particularly C&RT monies.

CT advocated continuing with the plan discussed two meetings before, to upgrade of the section between Newbury Football Club and Ham Bridge, given the quiet and direct off-road access this section of path provides for cyclists and pedestrians to the stores off London Road such as Dunelm and Tesco, and the deterioration recorded in the SPOKES survey in January 2018.

SAW favoured getting views from Gordon Oliver and Dr Tony Vickers, so holding off on definitive decision until next Forum session.

CT referenced the Sustrans proposals for focussed upgrades on which they have recently consulted their members, which include two sections of NCN4 in between Thatcham and Reading. If Sustrans can be spurred to deliver these sections, this would tally with the rolling programme.

JC asked if there are any potential issues in terms of delays in spending section 106 monies. JK advised no present issues as the mechanism for transferring the s106 is still in discussion.

**5 NCN 422 UPDATE**

JK advised following informal consultation in the areas where there are identified parking issues in Thatcham (from Catholic Church westwards to the next junction), proposed parking restrictions to be translated to single line with timed restriction, to at least keep commuting time clear (precise timings to be confirmed but likely 7am-7pm). Formal consultation to start

imminently. Lining to continue through Thatcham along A4 as far as Chapel Street. Aim for completion September 2018.

JK showed drawings of the section of the scheme along A4 from Faraday Road, Newbury passing opposite Skyllings and passing the Narrow Boat redevelopment, which will allow a substantial width improvement. Regulations do not require consultation on design adjustment opposite Skyllings.

JK referenced the RediWeld products e.g. Orca which may potentially be used for segregation east of Dorneywood Way and through Thatcham.

JK is going to run a demonstration session scheduled for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm on A4 at junction with Bourne Road, Thatcham.

AM noted Reading BC have started signing destinations on NCN422 with distances e.g. to Calcot Retail Park from Honey End Lane.

**6 HERMITAGE TO HAMPSTEAD NORREYS RAILWAY PATH**

JK advised he has received written confirmation from Highways England (who took on the obligations of BRB Residuary Ltd) that the funding has been assigned to this project and they will instruct their contractor to start work in October 2018, with a view to completion by April 2019.

All agreed this should be a spur to creating a cycle link between Hermitage and Newbury, utilising the detailed survey work already undertaken by SPOKES.

EC referenced a planning application relating to a site in Hermitage which could impact on the former railway alignment and its potential conversion for use by cyclists; this site is off the former Station approach road. CT has fed back to WBC Transport Policy regarding development sites in this area and parallel to B4009 Long Lane which could impact on the former rail alignment and the potential cycle route.

**7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cycle to Work Day: will take place in September. Discussed spot prizes, free breakfast. SAW and JC suggested using radio (Kennet Radio or BBC Berkshire) to promote this event, also Meridian TV. CL will investigate and also seek to link with Vodafone, Sovereign Housing and other major local businesses, to encourage them to promote Cycle to Work to their employees.

A339 from Pinchington Lane to Swan Roundabout: NT asked status of cycle route development on this section, on east side of A339. JK said his understanding is that there remain land purchase issues. JK referenced the Sandford proposals which may include a green link that would fulfil this purpose, albeit on the west side of A339.

A4 Hare & Hounds to Winchcombe School, Speen. JK advised that it is proposed to formalise a cycle route on the pavements, with part

**CL**

<p>of this sector being wide enough to be shared-segregated, parts to be widened as a shared route, following on from the Cycle Audit. JK will pursue.</p> <p><u>Minimum width sign</u>: JK has forwarded this overseas practice sign, put forward by NT, to Richard Benyon and other stakeholders for consideration. This is a change that would have to have DfT sanction.</p> <p><u>Cutting-back vegetation and line marking</u>: JS asked about the process for getting this done. It was confirmed that the correct approach is to use the 'Report a Problem' tool on the Council's homepage <a href="http://www.westberks.gov.uk">www.westberks.gov.uk</a> which then gives the person reporting it a log number generated by the ELM logging system and enables tracking through of the issue.</p>	<p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <p><b>JK</b></p>
<p><b>8 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>18:00, Thursday 11 October 2018 at West Berkshire Council offices. Deborah Vince to book a room.</p>	<p><b>Deborah Vince</b></p>