Minutes of a Meeting of: West Berkshire Cycle Forum

held on: 22nd of May 2018

Present: Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter (SAW) - Chair

Cllr Jeanette Clifford (JC) - WBC Executive Member for Transport Josh Kerry (JK) - WBC Highways Officer (minutes of meeting)

Elaine Cox (EC) - WBC Rights Of Way Officer

Angela McMahon (AM) - SPOKES

Apologies: Cllr Adrian Edwards - Council Member for Falkland

Caroline Lane – SPOKES Chair and WBC Cycling Co-ordinator

Clive Tombs –SPOKES

Gordon Oliver - SPOKES acting Secretary

Matthew Stagg - Externiture Ltd (Thatcham resident and local cyclist)

Jon Winstanley – WBC Projects Manager Cheryl Evans – WBC Traffic and Road Safety Paul Hendry – WBC Countryside Manager

1. NCN422

Josh Kerry (JK) gave update on Phase One progress; new shared footway complete on Benham Hill and new road layout programmed for end of May. London Road improvements to take place hopefully during gap in the Bus Wharf civils by same contractor in mid July.

JK explained that consultation results for Phase Two (Thatcham) were very strongly against the new cycle lanes citing parking as main issue. There was a petition from 35 properties against the double yellow lines. Discussion about how to accommodate parking needs whilst also providing safe space on the carriageway. JK said alternative parking provision to be looked at to appease residents, and internal meetings with WBC Parking and Thatcham Town Council to follow. Cllr Ardagh-Walter (SAW) expressed interest in being involved, and would speak to ward members to look at the proposals and offer support if they felt it should go ahead (currently no responses). Discussion resumed about advisory vs mandatory cycle lanes. JK to speak to Wokingham BC about process for installing their on-carriageway lanes.

Phase Three to follow the improvements in Thatcham, likely 2019. Angela McMahon (AM) requested that signage be installed on the stretch from Calcot IKEA into Reading BC border sooner to continue route. JK to discuss with Projects managers. JK explained that surveys being carried out for Phase Three now to inform proposals.

JK

1

SAW

JK

Action

^{:\}development & planning\transtrategy\transport strategy\6.0 active travel\6.3 cycling\6.3.5 cycle forum\2018\minutes\minutes of west berkshire cycle forum held on 22052018v1.docx

2. CANAL TOWPATH AND NCN 4

JK advised that he had met with Suzanne Featherstone from CRT since last Forum and walked the site east of Newbury to Ham Bridge. CRT have not yet spent the initial £50k from Racecourse S106 so this could be put towards any funding shortfall. JK subsequentially met with internal WBC departments (Transport Policy, Planning, Development Control, PRoW) and has agreed firm proposal and specification which satisfies the criteria of the S106 agreement. Forum agreed and JK to send to CRT.

Elaine Cox (EC) revealed other locations where towpath is in particularly poor condition and requires urgent attention, especially from Monkey Bridge into Newbury. SAW explained the need to keep focus on agreed priorities for repair, but due to reorganisation at CRT has been unable to engage with Mark Evans.

SAW spoken separately to Chris Boulton of Greenham Common Trust about current shortfall and received positive feedback about some funding. SAW to contact Mark Evans to follow up and invite to next Forum meeting.

Sustrans Simon Pratt requested meeting with WBC Capital Projects to discuss current quality of NCN Route 4 and met to talk about scoring the existing level of service through the district (22/05/18). Most of NCN4 is on the K&A towpath and focus of the discussion was on how to improve but given lack of funds no solution.

3. CYCLE DESIGN STANDARDS

JK explained that a lot of feedback from the NCN422 route brought in to question WBC policy about either shared or segregated footways. JK asked Forum is there was a preference but AM and SAW instead said it should perhaps continue to be case-by-case and up to Officer discretion. Time running short so it was agreed to be continued in next Forum meeting.

4. CYCLING INITIATIVES

Item concerns plans for 'Cycle to Work Day' but to be carried on to next agenda when hopefully Caroline Lane is present to expand in more detail.

AOB:

CYCLE HUB - NEWBURY TRAIN STATION

JK showed plans for the new cycle hub at Newbury train station and asked for preferences. The Forum unanimously agreed that there

:\development & planning\transtrategy\transport strategy\6.0 active travel\6.3 cycling\6.3.5 cycle forum\2018\minutes\minutes of west berkshire cycle forum held on 22052018v1.docx

<u>Action</u>

JK.

SAW

2

| should be a split of cycle parking spaces on either side of the tracks. AM said that commuters would prefer to have choice which side so no one is forced to take bicycle over bridge. However balanced more in favour of eastbound commuters. Question why all the cycle parking was only able to be accessed from the platform through the ticket gates – wouldn't this slow down commuters and access on to the station for everyone? EC suggested reversing access so that secure entry was from outside of the station. | Action |
|--|-----------|
| AM requested that free open-to-all cycle parking was accessible for ad hoc commuters and utility cyclists. | |
| JK also said that WBC Transport Policy has recently submitted a bid for a similar facility at Theale with parking for 300 bicycles, but doubts over whether this was too many? AM suggested that the funding might be split between Thatcham and Theale instead of all 300 spaces all in one place. | |
| JK to follow up with Transport Policy so that updated drawings circulated prior to next Forum meeting alongside agenda to inform discussion. | DV |
| Police Cycling Initiatives | |
| SAW and JC trying to host representatives from TV police for next meeting to discuss the following: | JC& |
| - Anti-social cycling | SAW |
| - Close-pass | |
| - Cycle Theft | |
| INTERACTIVE MAPS | |
| EC said that Stuart Powling's GIS interactive maps have been created and would like volunteers for cycling the routes and taking photographs. | All |
| 6. Date of Next Meeting | AII DV |
| 18:00, Thursday 26 th or 16 th August 2018 at West Berkshire Council offices (Deborah Vince to confirm, send out invite and book a room) | |
| | |

| | | <u>Action</u> |
|----|--|---------------|
| 7. | Date of Next Meeting – updated 18.06.2018 DV | DV |
| | 26 th of July 2018 at 18:00, West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, The Roger Croft Room. | |

4