

Minutes of West Berkshire Cycle Forum

held on: Tuesday 08 January 2019

- Present:** Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter (SAW) Chair of Cycle Forum
Tony Vickers (TV) SPOKES
Neil Taylor (NT) Newbury Road Club
Sgt Simon White (SW) Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Sergeant
Caroline Lane (CL) SPOKES Chair
Cllr Jeanette Clifford (JC) Portfolio Holder - Transport & Countryside
Elaine Cox (EC) West Berkshire Council Rights Of Way Team
Angela McMahon (AM) SPOKES
Matt Stagg (MS) Thatcham resident and keen cyclist
Josh Kerry (JK) West Berkshire Council Projects Team
Clive Tombs (CT) SPOKES (*minutes*)
- Apologies:** Chris Boulton (CB) Greenham Common Trust & Newbury Road Club
Gordon Oliver (GO) SPOKES, Adrian Edwards

		<u>Action</u>
1	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES SAW welcomed all to the Cycle Forum. Apologies were recorded on behalf of Chris Boulton and Gordon Oliver.	
2	NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING <u>Cycle maps on app:</u> EC advised WBC's Stuart Powling has set the app up but issue in tying-up some of the photos with points on route. EC will pick this up again with Stuart. <u>Cycle Theft and Close Passing:</u> to be discussed under item 5 on current agenda. <u>NCN4 Towpath:</u> CT had reported the deterioration affecting the path west of Newbury (including holes in bank west of Lipscombe Close, holes in area under Bridge 66, rutted condition of path under Bridge 65 and to west of Bridge 66 towards Marsh Benham) to Canal & River Trust (C&RT) on 16 October 2018, and had followed up by phone with Natasha in C&RT regional office on 16 November. <u>C&RT contact:</u> SAW had been in touch with Mark Evans at C&RT but contact details for a new local lead for C&RT had not yet been received. <u>SPOKES bid for towpath upgrade funding:</u> covered under item 7 on today's agenda. <u>Cycle to Work Day:</u> building on MS's suggestion at last meeting, NT proposed considering a Traffic Free Days, either in conjunction with or separately from, Cycle to Work Day. CL and JC suggested that having Traffic Free Days in certain residential roads/areas (roads in Greenham and in West Fields were	EC/Stuart Powling

	<u>Action</u>
<p>suggested) appears best as a separate initiative - most likely to work on Sundays rather than on working weekdays. Agreed that the Cycle to Work Day should be discussed further at next meeting.</p>	All
<p><u>Deterioration of advisory cycle lane on A343 St Johns Road eastbound</u>: CT had reported this on 26 October (WBC ELM reference number 166964). WBC Traffic & Road Safety Team have advised they have now “added the refurbishment of the lane [marking] and all the symbols to [the] road marking maintenance programme for the new financial year [2019-20]”.</p>	
<p><u>Potential adoption of Oxford/Cambridge guidance for cycle facilities in new developments</u>: JK discussed scope to adopt guidance similar to that used in Oxford & Cambridge with Jon Winstanley, who was supportive of the idea. Length of guidance material may be an issue. This will be for Jenny Graham and Paul Goddard to engage developers to use. JK will circulate link to the Oxford guidance.</p>	JK
<p>3 POTENTIAL TO INTRODUCE CONTRA-FLOW CYCLE LANES</p> <p>Stan Green had enquired about the potential for these lanes. JK has investigated several of these sites, including Argyle Road (draft scheme envisages a splitter island at the northern end where it meets Pound Street; this scheme is currently subject to a safety audit, due this spring), Pelican Lane and Kings Road East (for after the Hectors Way to Boundary Road link is completed) all appear deliverable, subject to decision-making and safety audit.</p> <p>Mill Lane, Boundary Road and Park Street proposals however appear more difficult to achieve.</p> <p>TV referenced the Cheap Street (south) contraflow cycle lane which will be put in as part of the A339/Cheap Street scheme that has just commenced construction.</p> <p>Acknowledgement to Stan Green for raising this matter.</p>	
<p>4 CLOSE-PASS AND CYCLE CRIME UPDATES</p> <p>Close passing – Sgt Simon White noted previous discussion about raising awareness of the safety implications of close passing on B3421 Hambridge Road in Newbury. Currently resources not available but keen to progress. SW envisages having a stop point manned by police, augmented by SPOKES members/other cyclists willing to volunteer to assist in the event. To be discussed at next meeting. .</p> <p>Cycle crime – 23 bike theft incidents in Newbury in last 3 months (10 incidents of bikes left unlocked). 2 bikes recovered. 2 arrests made.</p>	SW/All

EC asked SW about bike marking. SW referenced SmartWater and other DNA marking systems which are on the market.

5 NCN 422 – NEWBURY-THATCHAM AND BEYOND

JK advised works to construct the next section of segregated cycleway resumed this week, from opposite the Skyllings turning through to the pedestrian crossing by Tesco London Road, in Newbury.

Works to revise the crossing point at the Tesco access and improve the section to the B&Q access road are intended to follow on, moving into the spring. Short section past the Narrow Boat pub remains an issue yet to be resolved.

A4 London Road/B3421 Hambridge Road junction to be resurfaced in summer 2019 and cycle provision will be upgraded in conjunction with this scheme. JK said he envisages having the entire route section from the top of Faraday Road, Newbury through to the western part of Thatcham completed during summer 2019.

JK advised all that Sustrans intend that the Thatcham to Theale section of NCN4 should be repaired and re-surfaced throughout over the next 5 years, subject to funding becoming available so strengthening the case for the core Thatcham-Theale cycle route following the traffic-free path being along the canal. So works to be carried out by WBC in the Thatcham to Theale sector on what was intended to be route 422 will be small-scale and focussed on the A4 carriageway

TV asked about connection between A4 and the towpath route in Thatcham. JK said a number of options are under consideration including via The Moors and Station Road, or via Colthrop Lane

JC asked about the deployment of the Orcas in Thatcham. JK outlined the planned deployment of these pre-fabricated heavy-duty rubber dividers to provide a degree of protection for cyclists along the A4 between Garden Centre Roundabout and Bourne Road

6 NCN4 – KENNET & AVON CANAL TOWPATH UPGRADE

JK referenced Sustrans' medium-term proposals, which are subject to funding being obtained and sustained.

In interim, following discussion at last meeting, a SPOKES-led bid to Greenham Common Trust for £50k has been approved by the Board, enabling match-funding via The Good Exchange. A separate bid (to Veolia's environmental improvements fund) is also being prepared. Objective to make improvements in sector Colthrop to

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<p>Brimpton Mill (intended to be delivered through C&RTs own contractors) and spur Sustrans and C&RT to secure funding and implement their own improvements eastwards towards Theale and beyond, as well as remedials and upgrade of the towpath west of Newbury.</p> <p>SAW queried whether a contribution from AWE could be sought forwards. CT will provide JK with contact details for AWE.</p> <p>JK is in touch with Michael Youe at C&RT about scope to tie-in the upgrading of the Ham Bridge to Newbury Football Club section with improvements further east.</p> <p>JK highlighted noted that C&RT have opted to run a further consultation on the nature of the surface/s to be used in the Ham Bridge to Football Club upgrade.</p> <p>SPOKES are advocating Option 1, a fully-bound, long-life surface, of suitable width, throughout this section. All attendees at cycle Forum were invited to review the information at http://www.westberkshirespokes.org/newbury-towpath-consultation and click the embedded link (or go direct to https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MK7JZMM) to respond to the C&RT consultation on the surfacing. The deadline for responses to the C&RT consultation is 20 January 2019.</p>	<p>CT/JK</p> <p>All</p>
<p>7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>TV asked about cycle lane on Andover Road in context of the Sandleford development proposals. Discussion ensued. JK will investigate.</p> <p>AM advised that in the Fords Farm area at the Mill Lane/The Chase junction, the cycle route sign towards Theale was dismantled, apparently by Bellway Homes, and asked if it can be reinstated/replaced? JK will investigate.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>JK</p>
<p>8 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>18:00 Thursday 4th April 2019 at West Berkshire Council offices. Deborah Vince to book a room.</p>	<p>Deborah Vince</p>