

Minutes of a Meeting of: West Berkshire Cycle Forum

held on: 6 June 2019

Present: Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter (SAW) - Chair
 Josh Kerry (JK) - WBC Highways Officer (minutes of meeting)
 Clive Tombs (CT) – SPOKES Secretary
 Gordon Oliver (GO)– SPOKES
 Angela McMahon (AM) - SPOKES
 Mike Youe (MY) – Enterprise Manager, Canal River Trust
 Neil Taylor – (NT) Newbury Road Club

Apologies: Cllr Adrian Abbs – Council Member for Wash Common
 Cllr Steve Masters – Council Member for Speen
 Cllr Tony Vickers – Council member for Wash Common
 Sgt Simon White – Thames Valley Police
 Elaine Cox – WBC Rights Of Way Officer
 Caroline Lane – WBC Cycling Co-ordinator
 Cheryl Evans – WBC Traffic and Road Safety
 Paul Hendry – WBC Countryside Manager

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Welcome, introductions</p> <p>Recent local election results were discussed. Richard Somner is to be the new portfolio holder for Highways & Transport. JK confirmed that all new members had been invited to the Forum and a couple had sent their apologies. They will be invited to the next meeting and included on future mailing lists.</p>	DV
<p>2. Notes of previous meeting & matters arising</p> <p>NT enquired about the progress of the contra-flow cycle schemes. JK to submit for Stage 2 safety audit.</p>	JK
<p>3. Bike Week (8th – 16th June) and Cycle to Work Day (8th Aug)</p> <p>Caroline Lane unfortunately unable to attend so this item was postponed.</p>	
<p>4. Cycle Working Group Audit – 2 years on</p> <p>JK introduced topic for discussion. As new members had been elected it provided a chance to recap on WBC cycle strategy. The Cycle Working Group was set up 2 years ago to audit existing cycle</p>	

infrastructure and propose a strategy to prioritise funding. The recommendations were as follows:

- Wayfinding – looked at by Cycle Forum last year but waiting for resources. Walking fingerposts installed in town centre (don't include cycle information / journey time).
- Route Network – develop network of routes and identify priorities. Focus on one route (NCN422) and upgrade to highest level of service for cyclists then use as example to follow for quality infrastructure to be delivered elsewhere.
- Cycle Parking – since the audit town centre capacity increased, cycle hubs planned for Theale and Newbury railway stations (delivery in 2020). Locations suggested by Forum members include: Coop Newbury, Garlands Pangbourne, Budgens Pangbourne, Woolhampton / Midgham, Newbury Hospital, Lidl London Rd near Robinhood Newbury.
- Training – CL unable to attend Forum, but WBC very active in bikeability and training programmes despite funding cuts.
- Cross-Boundary Working – Reading Borough Council are developing their LCWIP and are working closely with WBC to deliver improvements on the boundary.

5. Cycle Count Locations

Whilst the audit contains strategic plan for cycling in West Berkshire and suggestions for a route network, the cycle count locations need to monitor and evaluate the impact of spending and analyse cycling numbers in West Berks. West Berks Council and Spokes are working together to review the current list of cycle count locations and establish whether the locations are to remain or be updated. Discussion ensued about the type of counting and suggested locations. It was suggested that the new development at Grazeley should have monitoring of cycle activity.

6. Kennet & Avon Canal Towpath

Mike Youe provided a summary of the various schemes planned in and around West Berks on the K & A towpath. These being:

- Fobney Lock, Reading – £250k Sustrans' Activation Project to remove barriers that inhibit cycle access.
- Thatcham Station, Westbound – Thames Water funded surface improvements. Funding in place to improve approx. 1km.
- Thatcham Station, Eastbound – Spokes led towpath improvements to Brimpton Road. Funded by Greenham Common

	<u>Action</u>
<p>Trust, Sustrans, WBC and a grant from Veolia Environmental Trust to be confirmed in September.</p> <p>However MY broke the news that the section of towpath between Thatcham and Theale due to be resurfaced as one of Sustrans' Activation Projects is no longer to be put forward and instead has dropped to the shortlist. The reasons that Sustrans provided were disagreement over specification and width of the surface and perceived number of users is low compared to the substantial investment required.</p> <p>CT to draft letter from West Berks Cycle Forum to support the towpath improvement and see if anything can be done to encourage Sustrans to pursue the project.</p>	<p>CT</p>
<p>7. NCN422 Update</p> <p>Pound Lane cycle bypass completed with exception of lining (programmed for beginning June).</p> <p>Cycle Lanes and Parking Restrictions through Thatcham have been ordered and are waiting a date from Volker Highways.</p> <p>JK drew attention to printout drawing for Crown Mead showing the latest design for "hybrid" stepped tracks in both directions. These are to be kerb separated with a stepped level difference from footway to cycleway to carriageway (approx. 50mm but varies and stepped down to flush surface at crossing points and side roads). GO suggested Copenhagen style crossing for the other lesser used exit from Crown Mead car park giving pedestrians and cyclists priority. JK to investigate and speak to Road Safety Auditor. CT suggested that any proposed improvements are put to WBC Transportation and Reading Bus Company for feedback. JK to consult.</p> <p>The next section of the segregated cycle track on London Road is still waiting on resubmission of planning application for the Narrowboat PH site. Manor Hotel confirmed they would be willing to offer strip of land for a wider cycleway in exchange for swapping their entrance on to the A4.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>JK</p> <p>JK</p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>JK – Sandford development could mean a considerable amount of developer funding is available to improve cycling to and from the site into Newbury. Andover Road has been looked at but the options for cycle improvements are limited due to the constraints of the existing highway boundary and carriageway width. CT suggested that the bus layby has little use so the space could be reallocated for cycling. JK to consult WBC Transportation.</p>	<p>JK</p>

Action

Reading Borough Council issued a draft drawing for routes to be looked at as part of their Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP). Forum members analysed the routes and AM identified a couple of routes missing. Information to be fed back to RBC.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 10th of September 2019.

- Time: 18:00 – 19:30
- Place: Market Street, Council Offices, Newbury
- Venue: Committee Room

DV