

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 th JUNE 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	20
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to inform Members of the discussions and actions arising from the April 2014 meeting of the Cycle Forum under the auspices of the approved Cycling Strategy.
- 1.2 Cycle Forum Meeting Notes 3rd April 2014 appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached notes from the Cycle Forum meeting held on 3rd April 2014.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Reading Borough Council adopted the document entitled *Cycling Strategy: September 2008* at full Council on 14 October 2008 as a supporting strategy under the Local Transport Plan 2006-2011. This document recommended regular cycling meetings to be held with relevant stakeholders to help deliver the strategy in partnership with appropriate organisations.
- 3.2 The updated Cycling Strategy 2014, *Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers and Promoting Safer Cycling* was available for consultation until 10th January 2014 and adopted as Council policy on 19th March 2014 at Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee. The document builds on the achievements of the 2008 Cycling Strategy, and sets out the overall ambition of encouraging more people to choose cycling as a way of getting around. This includes aiming for 2,300 additional cycle

trips every day by April 2015, and doubling the percentage of people cycling to work. This will be achieved through the delivery of various cycle improvements, including the new pedestrian and cycle bridge, initiatives supporting new or infrequent cyclists such as cycle training and hosting community workshops in neighbourhoods to better understand the issues experienced by communities when travelling locally.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 3rd April 2014 was initially chaired by Simon Beasley and later by Councillor Gittings. The Forum was also attended by Councillor Whitham, Reading Borough Council Officers and representatives of various local cycling groups. The notes of the meeting are attached.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To Develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley

To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 As described above.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None at present.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Cycle Forum Meeting Note 29th January 2014.

CYCLE FORUM NOTES - 3RD April 2014, 6pm, CR5

1. Introductions/Apologies

Attendees

Councillor Gittings (Chair)
Councillor Whitham
Adrian Lawson (RCC)
John Lee (RCC)
Alex McKnight (Sustrans)
Peter Chan (GREN)
Tanja Rebel (GREN)
Simon Beasley (RBC)
Emma Baker (RBC)
Javed Saddique (CTC/RBC)

Apologies

Councillor Tony Page
Councillor Willis
Councillor Duveen
Councillor Maskell
Richard Pearson (RCC/Reading CTC)

2. Minutes from 29th January 2014

Minutes from the meeting on 29th January were agreed.

The meeting was initially led by Simon Beasley as agreed with the Chair who was slightly delayed. SB ran through the actions listed at the end of the previous Minutes, which resulted in the following:

Officers invited the group to advise the Council of suggested agenda items between meetings up to a week before the next scheduled meeting. AL indicated that he would coordinate responses.

Officers advised the Forum that there was no update in relation to proposals to upgrade the discretionary road markings on Meadway/Tilehurst Road. The Forum stressed that the current layout does not continue through the pedestrian refuge islands and is narrow.

SB gave an update on 20mph proposals, including that officers have approval for statutory consultation and that draft schemes will be shared at a later date.

The Forum requested a copy of the safety audit for Vastern Road. [Post Meeting Note: the contractor is still in the process of completing remedial measures, including those raised by the Forum].

A discussion took place on the Town Hall Square scheme, including the connection between Butter Market and Town Hall opposite the Post Office. The Forum repeated their request for shared-use signs to be installed outside the Town Hall to enable cyclists to join Blgrave Street/Friar Street and Market Place.

3. Cycling Strategy 2013

Officers informed the group that the updated strategy had been adopted at Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee on 19th March following the three month consultation period. AL formally requested a response to Reading Cycle Campaign's submission.

ACTION - RBC to send to formal response to Reading Cycle Campaign's consultation submission.

4. Issues raised by Forum members (Standard item)

a) Press Release for Cycle Safety Event

AL expressed concerns about people offering advice on cycle safety who are not Bikeability trained. EB advised that the availability of Bikeability Instructors would be checked and an Instructor would attend the event, if available. [Post Meeting Note: JS attended event]. AM suggested copying in Police Crime Commissioner into letter to TVP regarding offering cycle training as an alternative to FPN for cycling on footways. Group were informed that the cycle map had been updated, including a new section on considerate cycling.

ACTION - Update the Group on progress at next meeting.

b) West Reading Workshop

It was noted that a West Reading Workshop was arranged to take place on 30th April.

5. Updated Cycling Strategy Action Chart (Standard item)

Officers updated the group on schemes that have been delivered or are being developed. This included discussions around proposals for Wokingham Road and Berkeley Avenue, both of which had supporting drawings to aid the discussion. The Berkeley Avenue scheme was well received, particularly the use of symbols at junctions and the potential use of rumble strips to delineate the cycle lane. AL asked whether a mandatory cycle lane can be advertised after the advisory lanes have been installed.

AL requested that the Wokingham Road drawings be amended to include a 'door zone' parallel to parking bays and that a cycle lane be accommodated outbound as minimum. A discussion also took place around opportunities to review existing traffic calming features and whether they can be changed to low-profile humps to aid cyclists. Officers advised that Forum that it is possible to consider this as part of the resurfacing programme or wider schemes.

The Forum also suggested that the unmade path on Abbotsmead Place on approach to the Telephone Exchange is improved. TR repeated her requested for the Thames Path to be improved between Scours Lane and the current tarmacked surface. Forum members also suggested that raised tables are installed along the pedestrian/cycle route on Portman Road. SB reminded Forum Members that they can inform Officers of potential ideas for cycle improvements at any time and invited them to identify their top 5 priorities.

ACTION - Update Wokingham Road drawings to reflect discussions as limitations permit.

6. Pinch Point Schemes - Update

Schemes still at concept phase so will report to future meetings.

7. Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

EB informed the group that a submission had been made in relation to LSTF funding in 2015/16, which is revenue only.

a) Cycle Development Officer

JS updated the group on events delivered since January's meeting, including partnership working with Reading Bicycle Kitchen, initial discussions with Reading College, test rides at Prospect Park and the London to Reading cycle ride.

b) Bike It Project

EB reported highlights from the Bike It programme, including the recruitment of three new schools and interest from one secondary school.

ACTION - Invite Officer to next meeting.

c) European Cycle Challenge

The Group were informed of plans to organise community led-rides as part of the European Cycle Challenge and that 32 towns/cities would be competing.

d) Pocket Places

Cycle parking introduced as part of project including cycle hoops outside the local centre and Sheffield stands near the Youth Centre.

ACTION - Invite Officer to next meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 30th July 2014, at 6pm, in Committee Room 5

Agenda Item	Action	Expected
3	Response directly to RCC Cycling Strategy consultation submission.	By end of April
4	Update Group on progress with TVP	Next Meeting
5	Update Wokingham Road drawings	Prior to next meeting
5	Officers to circulate actions chart	Prior to next meeting
6	Include pinch-point schemes as a future agenda item.	November 2014
7	Forum requested an update on works to Station Hill	Early Summer 2014
7	Invite Sustrans Officers to meeting	Next Meeting