

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JANUARY 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	EMMA BAKER	TEL:	0118 937 4881 (x74881)
JOB TITLE:	TRANSPORT PLANNER	E-MAIL:	EMMA.BAKER@READING.GOV.UK

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to inform Members of the discussions and actions arising from the October 2014 meeting of the Cycle Forum under the auspices of the approved Cycling Strategy.
- 1.2 Cycle Forum Meeting Notes 22nd October 2014 appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached notes from the Cycle Forum meeting held on 22nd October 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 22nd October 2014 was chaired by Councillor Tony Page and attended by Councillors Paul Gittings and Jamie Whitham as well as 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 3rd April 2014.

CYCLE FORUM NOTES - 22nd October 2014, 6pm, CR5

1. Introductions/Apologies

Attendees

Councillor Page (Chair)
Councillor Gittings
Councillor Whitham
Adrian Lawson (RCC)
John Lee (RCC)
Richard Pearson (RCC/Reading CTC)
Peter Chan (GREN)
Tanja Rebel (GREN)
Jenny Hicks
Steve Goodman (Sustrans/RCC)
Anthony Bolton (RBC)
Emma Baker (RBC)
Javed Saddique (CTC/RBC)
Stuart Williams (CTC)
Brian Madden (Sustrans/RBC)

Apologies

Alex McKnight (Sustrans)
Councillor Willis
Councillor Duveen

2. Minutes from 3rd April 2014

Minutes from the meeting on 3rd April were agreed.

3. Local Sustainable Transport Fund - Presentation/Update

Officers gave a presentation on schemes delivered through the LSTF programme based around the themes identified in the Cycling Strategy: Training and Education, Events and Campaigns, and Infrastructure. CTC and Sustrans updated the group on their programmes, including CTC LSTF programme, Challenge Fund and Pocket Places. A plan illustrating the layout of the cycle parking hub was also shared and a discussion took place around existing CCTV in the area.

AL asked about to/from Napier Road underpass and whether RCC evidence submitted to support a cycle tracks claim along the Thames could be reconsidered in light of the underpass and pedestrian and cycle bridge.

ACTION - RBC to review evidence submitted by RCC in relation to the Thames Path and improved cycle links linking to LSTF infrastructure projects.

ACTION - RBC to print an A0 plan of town centre cycle routes for Reading Bicycle Kitchen.

4. Updated Cycling Strategy Action Chart (Standard item)

Progress outlined in spreadsheet was noted.

5. Pinch Point Schemes - Update

The group were updated on the A33 Pinch Point scheme, including the tender process and the programme commencing on-site from late November following the award of contract in early November. Officers highlighted the constraints of pinch point funding in terms of the short funding period. AL requested that cycle signing is reviewed along A33 between South Oak Way and the Park and Ride site.

ACTION - Circulate the plans for Rose Kiln Lane improvements.

ACTION - Advise the group whether a ramp between Rose Kiln Lane and Kennet Island is included in the proposed scheme.

ACTION - Review cycle signing as part of scheme.

6. Issues Raised by Forum Members (Standard Item)

a) Promotion of Cycling

A discussion took place around the impact of unplanned motorway closures around Reading that brought the town to a standstill and whether encouraging more people to cycle would have aided the situation.

b) Maintenance & Obstruction of Shared-Use Facilities

A discussion took place around the need for regular sweeping of cycle facilities along London Road and A33 and issues with A-frames and mopeds obstructing shared-use paths.

ACTION - Officers to arrange for London Road outside the RBH to be swept before the weekend.

ACTION - Officers to confirm the value of the East Reading scheme.

c) Consultation & Engagement

Forum Members raised their concerns regarding advisory cycle lanes on Lower Henley Road and requested feedback in relation to comments submitted by AL, JL and JH. The group also requested plans for Mere oak Park and Ride and that signing be reviewed as per the action under item 5.

ACTION - Officers to circulate responses to correspondence received from the above Forum Members to the group.

ACTION - Officers to circulate plans for Mere oak Park and Ride.

d) Town Centre & Reading Station

Forum Members raised issues with access into and around the town centre, including utility works at Friar Street/Greyfriars Road junction and accessing Garrard Street. They also requested improvements at Reading Station Southern Interchange, including a cycle lane on approach from Station Road, and improvements along Bath Road /Castle Hill. Officers informed the group that RBC and four other Berkshire authorities have provisionally secured indicative funding for cycle improvements between east and west Reading from the Local Enterprise Partnership from 2016/17. Signing around the town centre was also discussed, including additional signing and the removal of non-regulated signs.

ACTION - Confirm when utility works will be complete at Friar Street/Greyfriars Road junction.

7. AOB

8. Date of Next Meeting

A town centre signing workshop is scheduled to take place on 21st January 2015 and a further workshop on Oxford Road will be arranged for early 2015.

Agenda Item	Action	Expected
3	Provide AL with large scale town centre cycle map	Complete
3	RBC to review Thames Path evidence submitted by RCC in relation to cycle track claim.	Summer 2015
5	Circulate plans for A33 Pinch Point scheme	Complete
5	Advise whether ramp included in proposed scheme between Rose Kiln Lane and Kennet Island	Complete
5	Review cycle signing between South Oak Way and Park and Ride site	Spring 2015
6	Confirm value of East Reading Transport Study contract	Complete

6	Arrange for London Road shared-use path to be swept	Complete
6	Circulate response to group in relation to AL, JL & JH comments on Lower Henley Road	Complete
6	Circulate plans for MereOak Park and Ride cycle facilities	Complete
6	Confirm when Greyfriars Road will be reopen to cyclists	Complete
8	Host town centre signing workshop	21/01/2014
8	Organise update meeting on Oxford Road	February/March 2015