

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JANUARY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	16
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ALL
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the discussions and actions from the Cycle Forum held in October 2015.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 7 October 2015 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached note from the Cycle Forum held on 7 October 2015.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Reading's Cycling Strategy: Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers & Promoting Safer Cycling, was adopted by the Council on 19 March 2014 as a sub-strategy to the Local Transport Plan (LTP). The strategy includes detailed policies regarding the design principles for delivering infrastructure and route improvements for cyclists on the public highway, as well as policies to encourage and promote cycling to different demographics.
- 3.2 The Cycling Strategy is aligned with wider local policy documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and Climate Change Strategy, contributing towards wider public health and air quality objectives.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The meeting of the Cycle Forum held on 7 October 2015 was chaired by Councillor Page. The Forum was also attended by 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 The delivery of the cycle schemes outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:
- Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.
 - Providing infrastructure to support the economy.

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 None.

READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

Wednesday 7th October 2015, 6pm

Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading

Attendees

Cllr Tony Page (Chair)

Adrian Lawson (RCC)

John Lee (RCC)

Karen Robertson (CTC)

Javed Saddique (CTC)

Tanya Rebel (GREN)

Elizabeth Winfield-Chislett (GREN)

Cris Butler (RBC)

Chris Maddocks (RBC)

1. Introductions

Cllr Page welcomed attendees to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Presentation - Trends in Travel to Central Reading

Cris Butler presented on trends in travel to central Reading, based on the latest data from the annual cordon counts undertaken in May 2015 which highlight significant increases in bus patronage, cycling and walking trends in recent years.

3. Note of the Last Meeting

The note of the last meeting was reviewed as part of Agenda Item 4.

4. Main Topics for Discussion:

4a. Broad Street

Cllr Page announced that the Council intended to undertake a public consultation on the possibility of allowing cycling in Broad Street West, thereby enabling cycling along the full length of Broad Street. An informal consultation would be undertaken to seek views followed by a statutory consultation if there is sufficient

support for the proposal. The decision making process would be taken through the Traffic Management Sub Committee.

It was noted that views regarding a 'green zone' or 'blue trail' marking across Broad Street and relocation of street furniture etc should be put forward as part of the consultation process for consideration.

It was confirmed that under the proposals Chain Street, Union Street and Riverside North would be retained as pedestrians only.

ACTION - RBC to progress Broad Street cycling consultation.

4b. Signage and Access

It was noted that officer resources had been focused on delivering the programme of major schemes as part of the LSTF project, however the forthcoming consultation on Broad Street West presented a good opportunity to revisit signage and access arrangements in the town centre as previously discussed at the town centre workshop held in January.

A number of suggestions were raised for further consideration regarding possible improvements to signage in the town centre, with the overall objective to provide clarity at key junctions. It was highlighted that the signage at Market Place south should be reviewed to ensure compliance with the TSRDG. In addition, possible improvements to access arrangements in the town centre were discussed and it was agreed that a prioritised 'wish list' of the suggestions should be produced to be reviewed at future meetings of this forum.

The issue of enforcement of taxis at Yield Hall Bridge was highlighted and it was agreed that this would be raised with the land owner.

It was confirmed that the TRO for the bus lane right turn into Trooper Potts Way from Vastern Road at Reading Station northern interchange is for buses only.

ACTION - RBC to prepare prioritised 'wish list' of suggested improvements.

4c. Cycle Routes, Crossings and Highway Markings

It was reported that the new pedestrian cycle bridge over the River Thames was opened in September. Concerns were raised regarding clarity of the cycle ramp on the southern side to ensure cyclists turned left rather than right where the steps are located.

ACTION - RBC to progress safety audit of the pedestrian cycle bridge.

The opportunity to review the status of the southern side of the Thames tow path was highlighted in light of the new bridge. It was agreed that the previous legal advice would be reviewed to understand if there is an opportunity to reconsider the status of the path to potentially allow cycling.

ACTION - RBC to review previous legal advice regarding the southern side of the Thames tow path.

The opportunity to implement cycle improvements on the Oxford Road when the second railway bridge replacement works have been completed by Network Rail was highlighted. It was agreed that a future meeting of this forum should consider possible improvement to the Oxford Road corridor.

A range of further opportunities to improve cycle routes, crossings and highway markings were raised for further consideration and it was agreed these would be added to the prioritised 'wish list'.

4d. Contraflow Cycle Lanes

Possible opportunities to provide contraflow cycle lane provision in the town centre and surrounding area were discussed, including consideration of a contraflow in Market Place to enable northbound cycling as this is considered a preferred route to avoid Broad Street East, and provision of cycle lanes on Silver Street and Southampton Street.

4e. Cycle Parking

It was reported that installation of the cycle parking hub at Reading Station has been delayed due to the requirement for SSE to make adjustments to an existing electricity cable running through the site. It is anticipated that SSE will complete their works this year to enable installation of the new cycle hub in early 2016.

A number of requests for additional cycle parking in the town centre were raised as part of the discussions, including replacement of the existing old style cycle parking at Target Junction and in Broad Street outside the Thorntons store.

It was noted that cycle parking in the town centre tends to be full in the run up to Christmas, therefore any additional parking that can be provided prior to December would be welcomed.

4f. Cycle Information and Maps

It was reported that the Council intends to update the Reading Cycle Route Map and therefore any suggestions to update / improve the existing map were invited from the forum which could be incorporated into the new map.

ACTION - Forum members to provide suggestions for the updated Reading Cycle Route Map.

5. Any Other Business

Cycle budgets - It was noted that a significant investment in cycling infrastructure has been made through the LSTF programme in the last few years. Transport budgets are not allocated to individual modes in isolation; rather a holistic approach to transport provision is undertaken.

Napier Road underpass - It was suggested that a formal opening of the Napier Road underpass should be considered when works have been completed. This will provide a significant new link in the local cycle network under the railway line.

Wokingham Road / Lower Henley Road - It was reported that amendments to the advisory cycle lanes on Wokingham Road and Lower Henley Road as agreed at the Traffic Management Sub Committee will be undertaken in a cost effective way.

Future meetings - It was requested that additional notice is given for future meetings to enable forum members to suggest agenda items.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2016, 6pm at the Civic Offices, Reading.