

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	18
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	CHRIS MADDOCKS	TEL:	0118 937 4950
JOB TITLE:	TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER	E-MAIL:	chris.maddocks@reading.gov.uk

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 February 2016.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 9 February 2016 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached note from the Cycle Forum held on 9 February 2016.

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 9th February 2016 was chaired by Councillor Page. The Forum was attended by 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 Delivery of schemes will be undertaken within existing Transport budgets.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Cycle Strategy 2014: Bridging Gaps, Overcoming Barriers & Promoting Safer Cycling, Reading Borough Council, March 2014.
- 9.2 Cycling Strategy Implementation Plan 2015/16, Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee Report, July 2015.
- 9.3 Cycle Forum Reports, Traffic Management Sub-Committee, from January 2016 onwards.

READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

Tuesday 9th February 2016, 6pm

Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading

Attendees

Cllr Tony Page (Chair)
Cllr Sophia James
Cllr Ricky Duveen
Cllr Jamie Whitham
Adrian Lawson (RCC)
John Lee (RCC)
Alex McKnight (Sustrans)
Richard Pearson (CTC)
Patrick Romaya (CTC)
Tanya Rebel (GREN)
Peter Chan (GREN)
Cris Butler (RBC)
Chris Maddocks (RBC)

1. Introductions

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

2. Note of the Last Meeting

The note of the previous meeting held on 7th October 2015 was agreed with actions to be picked up under the relevant agenda item.

3. Broad Street Consultation Update

It was reported that the informal consultation regarding cycling in Broad Street West has been completed with a majority of responses in favour of allowing cycling along the full length of Broad Street. The next step is for the Council to undertake a statutory consultation and the results will be reported to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting in March.

It was confirmed that the only option being proposed through the statutory consultation will be to allow cycling in Broad Street West.

ACTION - RBC to progress the Broad Street statutory consultation and notify Forum members when the consultation is open.

4. Oxford Road Scheme Designs

The proposals for highway improvement works on the Oxford Road corridor associated with the Network Rail bridge replacement project at Cow Lane were reviewed. The scheme includes a shared path at Cow Lane following replacement of the second railway bridge, as well as the provision of new bus lanes, advisory cycle lanes, repeater symbols and advance stop lines on the Oxford Road.

The resulting discussion on the proposals included the following suggestions:

- Creation of a raised table on the entrance to the Network Rail goods yard site off Cow Lane.
- Implementation of advisory cycle lane markings in addition to repeater markings wherever there is sufficient width.
- Formalise the closure of Salisbury Road / Cow Lane junction with a kerb line at the northern end of Salisbury Road.
- Enable cyclists to make the turn right from the Oxford Road onto Salisbury Road.
- Consider addition of cycle symbols on Beresford Road.
- Pedestrian crossing improvements - for instance consider conversion of existing refuge islands to zebra crossings.
- Review existing cycle priority features and signage - for instance Oxford Road junction with Gower Street.
- Enhanced visibility features on existing mini roundabouts to create a safer environment.
- Include gateway feature to the Oxford Road at the Norcot Road roundabout to emphasise the change in road classification and encourage through traffic to use Portman Road / Cow Lane.
- Access improvements to Reading West Railway Station and additional cycle parking.
- Opportunities for additional Readybike docking stations on the Oxford Road.
- LED street lighting upgrades.

It was noted that implementation of the highway works will be undertaken following completion of the Network Rail project, for which timescales have not

been confirmed at this stage. It was noted that a further public consultation is planned for the highway scheme proposals.

ACTION - RBC to continue to work with Network Rail on delivery of the Cow Lane bridges replacement project and associated highway works.

5. Cycle Maps Update

It was reported that the Reading Cycle Routes map is currently being updated and comments from Forum members have been incorporated into a revised version, including proposals to simplify the way in which different types of facility are shown on the map.

It was noted that there is still high demand for paper based maps (particularly the overall route map), however it would also be useful to pursue options to provide the maps in different formats online, for instance to ensure they are easily viewable on mobile devices.

Action - RBC to circulate proposed simplified map legend for feedback from Forum members.

6. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes

It was reported that the requested schemes list will be updated and reviewed as a regular item on the Forum agenda. A number of items were discussed including the latest position regarding cycling on the Thames Path for which possible next steps are currently being reviewed by the Council; cycling on the west side of Caversham Bridge which has historically been objected to by shop owners; and the desire for contra flow cycle lanes in the town centre.

In addition to the schemes on the list it was requested that a review of the existing pedestrian refuge islands on Church Street should be added as they create pinch points for cyclists.

7. Items Raised by Forum Members

The following items were raised by Forum members:

- Town centre signing corrections - A comprehensive review of town centre signage, including existing signage at Queen Victoria Street and Market Place, will be undertaken following completion of the Broad Street consultation.

- 20mph limits in Reading - The proposed 20mph zone for East Reading will be implemented during the summer. In addition the Council has received requests for other areas of the borough to be considered for 20mph zones / limits.
- Cycle Strategy progress - The Cycling Strategy Implementation Plan is updated annually. It was requested that a link to the report for 2015/16 is circulated to Forum members.
- Accident on the M4 cyclist's bridge - The potential for signage to highlight the route for cyclists over the bridge will be added to the requested schemes list for further consideration.
- Access to Christchurch Meadow from Gosbrook Road - It was requested that access improvements to/from the shared path should be investigated and a review of NCN 5 and the local cycle routes in Caversham should be undertaken to link to the new bridge.
- Barriers on NCN 4 - It was noted that the previously installed barriers to stop motorcyclists using the River Kennet towpath are also inaccessible for bicycles.
- Door zone cycle lane removal - It was reported that the removal of the sections of the advisory cycle lanes on Wokingham Road and Lower Henley Road which pass parking spaces is being scheduled.
- Budget for cycling - As previously discussed it was noted that this was the subject of a Council motion in July 2015.

ACTION - RBC to circulate link to the Cycle Strategy Implementation Plan 2015/16.

8. Any Other Business

None raised.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th June 2016, 6-8pm, Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading.