

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JUNE 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	20
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 June 2016.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 7th June 2016 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached note from the Cycle Forum held on 7th June 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 7th June 2016 was chaired by Councillor Page. The Forum was also attended by Councillor Hopper, Councillor James and Councillor Jones 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 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 June 2016, 6pm

Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading

Attendees

Cllr Tony Page (Chair)
John Lee (RCC)
Brian Morley (RCC)
Alex McKnight (Sustrans)
Richard Pearce (Reading CTC)
Tanya Rebel (GREN)
Cllr Sophia James (RBC)
Cllr Ed Hopper (RBC)
Cllr Tony Jones (RBC)
Simon Beasley (RBC)
Chris Maddocks (RBC)
Emma Baker (RBC)

Apologies

Adrian Lawson (RCC)
Councillor Duveen (RBC)
Cllr Gittings (RBC)

1. Introductions

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

2. Note of the Last Meeting

The note of the last meeting was reviewed as part of Agenda Item 2.

The Forum was given an update on Oxford Road and thanked for their feedback. It was noted that there are ongoing discussions with Network Rail who are considering value engineering options for Cow Lane, but the earliest on-site works are likely to commence towards the end of 2016. Further consultation will then take place on Oxford Road incorporating the feedback submitted by the Cycle Forum.

3. Presentation - NCN Route 422

Chris Maddocks presented initial design options for the LEP-funded NCN 422 scheme between Ascot and Newbury. A discussion took place on the Forum's recommendations and routes options, including realigning the route through the town centre to avoid Crown St/Southampton St junction.

ACTION - RBC to circulate plans.

4. Thames Path

The Forum were informed that the Cycling Strategy Implementation Plan report will be presented to Traffic Management Sub-Committee in June, including an update on reviewing options for cycling along the River Thames following the opening of the pedestrian and cycle bridge. A discussion also took place on the initial feedback following informal consultation, including the use of considerate signing.

5. Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Plans

It was noted that the DfT will be encouraging local authorities to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans as part of their Cycling Delivery Plan. Guidance is expected to be published in the summer and may support future funding opportunities and wider opportunities for cycling routes through the Lower Caversham.

6. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes List

The Forum was thanked for their feedback on the cycle map that has now been updated.

A discussion took place on the various requested schemes circulated prior to the meeting.

ACTION - Organise a site meeting within the next 4-6 weeks to discuss 'quick-wins' for signing improvements in the town centre.

7. Items Raised by Forum Members

7a. Comprehensive Cycle Network

It was noted that this had been discussed at a previous Cycle Forum meetings.

7b. Cycle budget (TR)

It was noted that this had been discussed at a previous Cycle Forum meetings.

7c. Broad Street and town centre routes (TR)

Results from the Broad Street consultation and subsequent Traffic Management Sub-Committee report were discussed. RBC presented concept designs for further branding/signing improvements within the town centre that Sustrans are willing to install.

7d. Readybikes in west Reading (TR)

Plans to expand ReadyBike into West Reading by relocating underused docking stations were noted. Alternative locations for docking stations, including Tilehurst Triangle, Tilehurst Station, Prospect Park were discussed and noted. The Forum was also updated on the latest position in regards to the search for a scheme sponsor.

7e. Route between Station and town centre (TR)

Incorporated into items 6 and 7c above.

7f. Thames Path between Tilehurst and town centre (TR)

It was further noted that surfacing the Thames Path between Scours Lane and Rivermead would provide cyclists with an attractive alternative to some of the main road corridors in a material similar to that used along the Kennet to Newbury.

7g. Town centre signage and route linking (AM/JL)

Incorporated into items 6 and 7c/e above.

7h. Cycle improvements to Christchurch Bridge (JL)

The Forum highlighted that adaptable bikes or those with trailers or panniers find it difficult to access the Thames Path from Norman Place due to the positioning of bollards.

7i. Resurfacing cycle routes (JL)

A report is being presented to Traffic Management Sub-Committee outlining a pothole repair programme for 2016/17 that the Forum can feed into.

ACTION - circulate link to report.

7k. Napier Road underpass access arrangements (AL)

The Forum requested improvements be made to the existing vehicular access into Kings Meadow, parallel to Luscinia View, to enable cyclists to access the park from Napier Road. Other sites were also highlighted through wider discussions.

ACTION - RBC to investigate & set-up meeting to discuss with Parks & Sustrans.

7o. Potholes repairs (AL)

This was covered under item 7i.

7p. Cycle route barriers at J11 cycle bridge (AL)

It was noted that lighting could be improved to aid cyclists transitioning between ramps on the bridge or the provision of directional signing/lining made available to guide users during hours of limited daylight.

8. Any Other Business

Autumn meeting to look at Cow Lane area in detail and finalise refresh consultation.

Use VMS and static messages to promote Bike Week where possible.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th October 2016, 6pm at the Civic Offices, Reading.