

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	8 MARCH 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE		
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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 February 2018.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 27th February 2018 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 27th February 2018.

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 27th February 2018 was chaired by Councillor Deborah Absolom and attended by Councillor Hopper, 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 Cycle Forum - Meeting Note, Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports from January 2016 onwards.

READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

Tuesday 27th February 2018, 6pm

Councillors Room 1, Civic Offices, Reading

Attendees

Cllr Deborah Absolom (Chair)
Cllr Ed Hopper (RBC)
John Lee (RCC)
Brian Morley (RCC)
Karen Robertson (Cycling UK/RCC)
Summreen Sheikh (Belles on Bikes)
Adrian Lawson (RCC)
Adam Lewthwaite (Sustrans)
Karen Stanbridge (University of Reading)
Simon Beasley (RBC)
Emma Baker (RBC)
Sarah White (RBC)

Apologies

Cllr Tony Page (RBC)
Cllr Ricky Duveen (RBC)
Cllr Paul Gittings
Tanya Rebel (GREN)

1. Introductions

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

2. Note of the Last Meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed, but it should be noted that Councillor Gittings also attended the meeting.

3. NCN Route 422 Update

The Forum was advised that traffic signal upgrades to the east of Southcote Road are complete and works at Liebenrood Road are expected to be complete mid-March. Officers continue to liaise with the landowner regarding widening the footway at the borough boundary to link to existing facilities in West Berkshire.

Officers informed the Forum that works commenced on delivering the Phase 2 programme in January and the Highways team is expected to move to Bridge Street early March.

Officers also highlighted that Phase 3 plans are currently available for feedback and plans are expected to be updated in the coming weeks, before scheme and spend approval is sought from Policy Committee in April. The Forum requested a separate meeting to discuss additional improvements to on-carriageway cycle facilities and other feedback on the scheme.

ACTION: Organise a separate meeting to discuss Phase 2/3 in early March.

4. Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan - Update

Officers informed the Forum that they recently met WSP (led technical consultant) and Sustrans (led partner in Active Travel Consortium), who have been appointed by the DfT to provide support to authorities who are developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Technical support for the Reading urban area will become available from September 2018. Officers also highlighted future opportunities for the Forum to feed into the development of the plan, as well as other stakeholders, via workshops and meetings.

5. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes List

Officers were requested to review and report back on the latest position/progress against the following items included on the requested schemes list: 3, 5, 6-11, 26 (access), 28, 30 and 46. A discussion also took place on the legality of cyclists using existing crossing facilities on London Road and potential improvements, including 'tiger' crossing facilities at Kendrick Road/London Road, which will be added to requested schemes list.

A discussion also took place on possible funding sources that could be used to progress requested schemes, including business rate retentions.

ACTION - Report pooling on crossing facilities and pothole outside RBH.

ACTION - Circulate town centre signing proposals

ACTION - Investigate agreed extents of outdoor seating area along southern bank of the Oracle Shopping Centre.

ACTION - Clarify route from Napier Road underpass to the retail park and the bridge over the River Kennet.

6. Items Raised by Forum Members

a. Link between Watlington Street & Napier Road

Request for a crossing facility and supporting footway improvements linking Chestnut Walk to Homebase development (to be added to requested scheme list)

ACTION - Transport Planning to respond to BM and send plans showing cycle facilities through Homebase site.

b. Vastern Road Roundabout

Vastern Road roundabout scheme, including crossing improvements and spiral-markings, is currently being safety audited. The scheme will be implemented in next few months, subject to feedback from the road safety audit. A discussion also took place on the potential use of 'sharks' teeth road markings following off-street trials at TRL.

ACTION - Circulate spiral-marking scheme

ACTION - Investigate possible on-street trials of 'sharks' teeth road markings

c. Oxford Road Proposals

Site meeting held with Cllr Hacker and RCC to discuss concerns and possible improvements along Oxford Road corridor. Officers informed the Forum that a report will be taken to Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March to seek approval to re-advertise TROs for the Oxford Road Study.

ACTION - RCC to forward their meeting notes

d. Town Centre Signposting & Cycle Parking

The Forum requested more cycle parking in town centre, particularly near the Oracle.

ACTION - add new request to list for cycle parking in town centre

ACTION - Officers to review plans for additional cycle parking in town centre

ACTION - invite TVP to next Cycle Forum meeting to talk about cycle security

e. Traffic Light Timing (IDR & Castle Street)

AL & SB met prior to the Cycle Forum meeting re concerns about traffic signal timings at London Street/Queens Road and Castle Street roundabout. Officers informed the Forum that in addition to investigating changes to signal timings, they are also keen to investigate opportunities to spiral-mark Castle Street roundabout.

ACTION - Network Management to investigate changes to signal timings and spiral-marking of roundabout.

7. Any Other Business

A discussion took place on the Winter Maintenance Plan and changes to wording used.

ACTION - to be reported to and considered by Highways

Red routes - work commencing imminently. Lining works will implemented east to west along the number 17 bus corridor.

A brief discussion also took place on Clean Air Zones.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed after local election.