

## MEETING NOTE

### Reading Cycle Forum

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @ 18:30 (Council Chamber)

Attendance:	Cllr Will Cross RBC Cllr John Ennis RBC Cllr James Moore RBC Cllr Wendy Griffith RBC James Turner RBC  <b>Other Attendees Redacted</b>	
Apologies:	Cllr Paul Gittings RBC Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward RBC Cllr Rob White RBC  <b>Other Apologies Redacted</b>	
No:	Item:	Action:
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> Cllr Cross opened the meeting and apologies were recorded.	
2.	<b>Officers Update</b> Transport Officer provided an update on the following items: <b>Reading Station Underpass</b> The Reading Station underpass reopened to both pedestrians and cyclists on Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> August following the 14-week programme. The works to open the subway for cyclists included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removal of low-hanging ceiling tiles (which were regularly vandalised).</li><li>• Headroom clearance improved.</li><li>• Repairs to floor and wall tiles.</li><li>• New, clearer signage to help visitors navigate the area.</li><li>• Deep clean with the whole subway steam cleaned and lines repainted.</li></ul> On the north side of the station just after the exit to the underpass there is currently a ramp over electrical cables that are powering the coffee kiosk. JT reported that Highways colleagues are intending to dig a trench to sink these within to provide a flat and smooth access for cyclists and wheelers. This work is planned to take place later in the autumn.  <b>ATF 3 Bath Road / Castle Hill</b> The detailed design work for the ATF 3 Bath Road - Castle Hill scheme was largely complete, and Transport Officers were preparing to do out to tender the scheme and appoint a contractor. However, following further work on the cost estimates it as well as the Council's experience of delivering our Shinfield Road scheme, it is forecast that	

there will be insufficient funding to deliver the full scheme as originally designed.

Transport Officers have therefore paused the tendering process and have put together a series of options which will be discussed with members before an agreed approach is taken. These predominantly relate to the signals on the Castle Hill Roundabout and the design options for cyclists and pedestrians to traverse through this junction.

#### **ATF 4 Upper Redlands Road**

Reading's ATF 4 scheme, a pedestrian crossing on Upper Redlands Road, was delivered in August 2024 and complete prior to the start of the new academic year.

The scheme was supported with a contribution from University of Reading and St Joseph's College as well as the funding from Active Travel England (ATE).

The new crossing will provide safer walking environment for children to walk to school as well as linking to the university, via Elmhurst Road, to the active travel scheme on Shinfield Road.

#### **ATF4 extension - Christchurch Green and Queens Rd Junctions**

Reading Borough Council was awarded funding from ATE through the 'ATF4 extension' fund earlier this year to develop designs for a scheme at Christchurch Green and at Queens Road junction with Sidmouth Street.

The reason for only using this funding for development of the scheme is that it is insufficient on its own to deliver either scheme in its entirety.

Transport officers will be working with designers and stakeholders including Members, the Reading Cycle Campaign, the University of Reading and the Friends of Christchurch Green to discuss these plans and produce designs for both junctions.

#### **Capability and Ambition Programme 2024/25**

The capability and ambition funded programme of events has continued to include the following initiatives:

- Monthly Town Centre Dr Bike - free maintenance and repair.
- Free adult cycle training and cycle maintenance workshops.
- Active Travel Officer Post continues to at least June 24
- Support for Reading Cycle Festival
- Led Walks and Cycles
- Cycle Security Enhancements
- Grants to Kidical Mass

The Reading Cycle Festival 2024 is due to take place this Sunday 8th September on Christchurch Meadow. The aim of the festival is to celebrate all things cycling as well as inspiring more people to enjoy bikes for leisure and transport. The Cycle Festival is put on by Avanti Cycling with a contribution made from Reading Borough Council's Capability grant.

3.	<p><b>Requested Agenda Items</b></p> <p><b>Pavement Cycling</b></p> <p>The issue of illegal pavement cycling was raised by Cllr Griffith for discussion and ideas at how to address. The Oxford Road was named as an example where this is a particular issue however this is not restricted to just Oxford Road and is an issue throughout Reading.</p> <p>Also noted as an issue is the use of e-bikes and e-scooters travelling at fast speeds in pedestrian areas (particularly the town centre).</p> <p>Transport Officers will liaise with Thames Valley Police, over awareness and enforcement.</p> <p><b>River Academy Cycle and Walking Routes &amp; Travel Planning</b></p> <p>In the summer term [REDACTED] undertook a number of transition sessions with Year 6 children, who will be starting at River Academy this academic year, to discuss travel to school options. This included discussing cycling and walking routes as well as publicising the Council's Buzz 18 bus service which links the school to Tilehurst and Reading Town Centre. [REDACTED] will be working with these children as the new term progresses to continue to review and discuss travel to school.</p> <p>As part of the planning conditions a number of infrastructure improvements have been delivered prior to opening. This includes widening of the existing footway / cycleway on the western/northern side and the creation of a footway / cycleway on the eastern/southern side. In addition to this a Tiger Crossing is to be provided to aid school children and the wider public cross Richfield Avenue along with alterations to the parking restrictions along Richfield Avenue to facilitate the crossing and the introduction of School Keep Clear markings.</p> <p><b>Wykeham Road - contra flow with 2 lanes of parking</b></p> <p>Wykeham Road is a one-way street that connects to Palmer Park Avenue but it has a contra-flow for cyclists. As there is parking on either side of Wykeham Road it was raised that this is dangerous with insufficient space for cyclist to pass vehicles coming in the on-coming direction. JT to raise matter with colleagues in Network Mgt and report back at future cycle forums.</p> <p><b>Cycling Mural</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] reported on Kidical ambition to install a mural of the different types of bikes and active transport that can be used (cargo bikes, triplets, recumbents, walkers, skateboarders etc..) to normalise ways to get around Reading that isn't in a car. The challenge identified was to identify a suitable building/landmark that was appropriate and either owned by the Council or a willing owner.</p> <p><b>Chestnut Walk Update</b></p> <p>The issue remains, raised previously by [REDACTED], of the barrier on Chestnut Walk which prevents the smooth movement of cycles and wheelchairs. The barrier requires anybody on a bicycle, wheelchair</p>	JT/NM
	All to consider	

	<p>or with a buggy to mount up the kerb to pass before dropping back down. This would otherwise be a step free route.</p> <p>Having previously investigate this is private land, not RBC Highways, and therefore the Council has limited scope to amend this. However, Cllr Ennis did note he has contact details for the owner and therefore an approach can be made to ask if addressing this is something they would consider (even if the Council provided funding).</p> <p><b>Advanced Stop Lines in town centre</b></p> <p>The lack of advanced cycle lines at signalled junction throughout the town centre was raised by RCC. JT to raise with colleagues in the Network Mgt and Highways teams.</p>	<p>Cllr Ennis / JT</p> <p>JT</p>
4.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Pavement Parking Enforcement</b></p> <p>█████████████████████ noted that Swindon Borough Council has introduced a trial ban on pavement parking, following on-going concerns from residents, which is enforceable through a TRO. It will be interesting to see how this goes and Transport Officers will look out for any updates or monitoring that takes place.</p> <p><b>Kings Meadow Footbridge</b></p> <p>The recently refurbished footbridge at Kings Meadow was noted by █████ with commends from RCC to the Council's Highways team on a good job.</p>	<p>JT</p>
5.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>The next Cycle Forum will be arranged for early 2025.</p>	<p>All to note</p>