

## MEETING NOTE

### Reading Cycle Forum

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 @ 18:30 (Council Chamber)**

Attendance:	<div> Cllr Will Cross                      RBC  Cllr John Ennis                      RBC  Cllr Jenny McGrother              RBC  Cllr Rob White                      RBC  James Turner                      RBC  Emily Talib                      RBC  Mark Lyford                      RBC/Sustrans </div>	<b>Non RBC Attendees Info Redacted</b>
Apologies:	<div> Cllr Paul Gittings                      RBC  Cllr Wendy Griffith                      RBC  Cllr Jacopo Lanzoni                      RBC </div>	
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 agenda items as follows:  <b>Active Travel Capital Scheme Update</b> <b>ATF2 Shinfield Road</b> New signage has been ordered for the Shinfield Road cycle scheme and will be installed later this year. Highways colleagues are also scheduled to undertake remedial works to the entrance to the cycle lane from Queens Drive out of the University. This is following safety concerns and feedback noted by Kidical Mass. These works should take place before the end of October. <i>(Post meeting note: the works to Queens drive have been completed since the meeting was held, with stakeholders being informed)</i>  <b>ATF3 Bath Road - Castle Hill</b> Transport Officers are working with design engineers at Stantec on reviewing the plans for Bath Road - Castle Hill. Further surveys and traffic modelling is planned in September to better understand the impact that different elements of the scheme has on the wider network. This also follows a review of the arrangements for Castle Hill - IDR roundabout with a revised approach around the perimeter now proposed.  Officers are continuing work on this scheme and the Council is keen that RCC are consulted and involved in the scheme design. Transport Officers to liaise with RCC.	JT

### **Active Travel Revenue Programme**

The Council is continuing with its active travel revenue programme promoting and encouraging active and sustainable travel. This includes:

- Continuation of the Active Travel Officer Role, working with schools to Dec 2025.
- Free adult cycle training courses
- Free bicycle maintenance training.
- Monthly 'Dr Bike' popup sessions continue in town centre and local communities.
- Support for Reading Cycle Festival.
- Cycle Security Enhancements - Streetpods and Cycle Hangars
- Production of a series of Wellbeing Walks Leaflet

Earlier in the summer, working with colleagues in our Housing and Communities team, a series of Dr Bike in the community events was held. Specifically, these were at South Reading Leisure Centre, Dee Space Community Centre, Coley Park Community Centre, Rivermead Leisure Centre and Southcote Community Centre. Across all 5 sessions, 33 bikes were fixed and there was a lot of positive feedback. Transport Officers will work with colleagues about possibly repeating these sessions next year.

### **Cycle Hangars Pilot Scheme**

Transport Officers are still keen to progress a pilot project to introduce a small number of cycle hangars in Reading. Funding has been identified to deliver 4 hangars however locations for these have not been identified and will need careful planning to ensure the hangars are of use to cyclists. Officers are aware of the consultation RCC (Reading Cycle Campaign) has undertaken to identify locations and will work with RCC to progress this.

### **Reading School Streets Schemes**

JT updated the group on Reading School Streets with 6 schemes in operation up to the end of the summer term this year. Unfortunately, the Exbourne Road scheme will not be returning in the autumn term but the remaining 5 will continue in operation.

All school street schemes in Reading borough are reliant on marshals, either volunteers or members of school staff. Transport Officers are undertaking work this autumn, with consultant support, to review the operation of Reading School Streets including assessing alternative options to marshal operation or other highway interventions other than school streets that provide safety enhancements and enable and promote active travel. Although it is not currently proposed this will also review the viability of camera enforced schemes including the advantages, disadvantages and costs associated. The results of this work will be reported back at a future forum.

### **Reading Cycle Festival 2025**

The forum was reminded that the Reading Cycle Festival 2025 is taking place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Christchurch Meadow. The event

	<p>is run by Avanti Cycling but supported by Reading Borough Council, RCC and other stakeholders and is usually a good day.</p> <p><b>Highway Resurfacing Programme</b></p> <p>The Council's Highway resurfacing programme is continuing and JT confirmed that Transport Officers are working with colleagues in Highways to ensure cycle lining and symbols are incorporated in the programme. The resurfacing allows an opportunity for any issues to be addressed, and Transport Officers have shared the programme with RCC too.</p> <p>A comment was made regarding the quality of the highway surface on Kendrick Road. JT agreed to pass this comment on to colleagues in Highways responsible for the programme.</p> <p>The marking of the cycle lanes on Berkely Avenue was also discussed and noted that vehicles often intersect these lines. Transport Officers to review.</p> <p><b>A33 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Works</b></p> <p>The A33 Bus Rapid Transit works are continuing and expected to be complete by the end of October. This will enable the opening of the new pedestrian and cycle bridge that has been installed over the River Kennet. The bridge is 47 metres long and 5 metres wide and was installed to enable the highway to be widened to allow for the installation of a new bus lane.</p> <p><b>Orbit Bridge</b></p> <p>The Orbit Footbridge which crosses the River Kennet between Queens Road car park and Crane Wharf. Repair works began in early July following the temporary closure of the bridge last July for safety reasons. The works are expected to finish by the end of October.</p> <p>JT confirmed that discussions were held over enabling cycling over the bridge, but the width of both the bridge and the access ramps was judged to be too narrow to safely allow this.</p> <p><b>Reading Borough Public Space Protection Order - PSPO</b></p> <p>A new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is being considered by Reading's Community Safety Partnership to increase powers to clamp down on specific anti-social behaviours.</p> <p>A consultation is being undertaken and runs through to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September and members of the Cycle Forum were invited to respond to the consultation if they had not already.</p> <p><a href="http://www.reading.gov.uk/PSPOsurvey">www.reading.gov.uk/PSPOsurvey</a></p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
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3.	<p><b>Requested Agenda Items</b></p> <p><b>Reading Bike Hub</b>          [REDACTED] provided an update on the new Bike Hub in the town centre. The hub is using the premises on Kings Road which used to house Mothercare and will be having a launch event this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The objectives of the hub are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage cycling for short everyday journeys</li> <li>• Provide resources and education that reduce cycling's start up and ongoing costs</li> <li>• Support people through different life stages with flexible bike and accessory options</li> <li>• Make cycling feel achievable, rewarding and fun for everyone</li> </ul> <p>For more information please see the website:  <a href="http://www.readingbikehub.org.uk/">www.readingbikehub.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Royal Chiltern Way</b>          Named Royal Chilterns Way, the new circular route begins in Reading and traces the Chiltern Hills. More than 65 per cent is off-road, following forest tracks, bridleways and byways.</p> <p>The route was launched at an event in Henley in August and more details can be found on the scheme website:  <a href="http://www.cyclinguk.org/routes/long-distance/royal-chilterns-way">www.cyclinguk.org/routes/long-distance/royal-chilterns-way</a></p>	
4.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Sustrans</b>          ML informed the forum that Sustrans will be undergoing a renaming and rebranding with an announcement to be made towards the end of September.</p> <p>[post meeting note - Sustrans is now known as Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and more information can be found here:]  <a href="https://www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/">https://www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/</a></p>	
5.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 2nd December 2025; 6:30pm (CAST)</li> <li>• Wednesday 11th February 2026: 6:30pm (Cycle Forum)</li> </ul>	All to note