

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	15
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 October 2016.
- 1.2 The Cycle Forum meeting note from 19 October 2016 is appended.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub Committee notes the attached minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 19 October 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 19 October 2016 was chaired by Councillor Page. The Forum was also attended by Councillor Hopper, 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 Cycle Forum - Meeting Note, Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports from January 2016 onwards.

# READING CYCLE FORUM - MEETING NOTE

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 6pm

Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, Reading

## Attendees

Cllr Tony Page (Chair)  
John Lee (RCC)  
Richard Pearson (Reading CTC)  
Tanya Rebel (GREN)  
Karen Stanbridge (Reading University)  
Cllr Ed Hopper (RBC)  
Cris Butler (RBC)  
Chris Maddocks (RBC)

## Apologies

Adrian Lawson (RCC)  
Alex McKnight (Sustrans)  
Nick Farthing (Sustrans)  
Cllr Paul Gittings (RBC)  
Cllr Ricky Duveen (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 agreed.

## 3. NCN Route 422 Update

The detailed plans for Phase 1 (Bath Road) were discussed with the following conclusions:

- Include provision of give way markings on footway approaches to side roads to reinforce signage highlighting that cyclists and pedestrians do not have priority.
- Review the need for an advert at the bus shelter at Honey End Lane junction as a clear panel at this location would help visibility of cyclists and pedestrians.
- Review the potential to relocate the toucan crossing west of the Southcote Lane junction and continue the shared path on the southern footway from this point.

The concept plans for Phase 2 (Berkeley Avenue to Watlington Street) were discussed with the following conclusions:

- Review the potential to extend the new route over the Berkeley Avenue bridge to link with NCN 4 along Katesgrove Lane rather than using Temple Place and Fobney Street.

- Amend the new route to use the existing NCN 4 route shared path through The Oracle rather than implementing improvements to an alternative route via Mill Lane.

ACTION - RBC to review feedback and progress construction of Phase 1 and detailed design for Phase 2.

#### **4. Town Centre Branded Routes Update**

Proposals for branded cycle vinyl stickers to compliment cycle signage in the town centre were discussed with the following comments:

- DfT official cycle symbol should be included on the vinyls alongside the Reading cycle routes logo.
- The amount of information contained on the vinyls should be reduced with the suggestion to remove the destination timing information.

ACTION - RBC to update the vinyls to include the official cycle symbol and reduce the content.

#### **5. Abandoned Bikes Policy Update**

The proposed addition to the Cycle Strategy regarding abandoned bikes was discussed with the following conclusions:

- The policy should be amended to be bicycles with two flat tyres rather than one.
- The amount of time a bicycle is left abandoned before it is removed should be reviewed, with the suggestion it should be increased.

ACTION - RBC to submit the updated policy to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee for adoption.

#### **6. Funding Update**

A number of funding updates were reported to the forum including Bikeability cycle training, the EMPOWER EU project for incentivising cycling, the Access Fund proposal to the DfT and cycle parking at stations proposal to GWR.

It was noted that whilst there are a number of opportunities to bid for revenue funding there are currently limited opportunities to bid for capital funding to implement infrastructure.

#### **7. Cycle Forum - Requested Schemes List**

A discussion took place on the latest requested schemes list with the following conclusions:

- It was agreed that the town centre signage 'quick wins' as discussed at the site visit in July should be implemented asap (items 14-17).
- It was noted that the statutory consultation to enable cycling along the Thames Path will be progressed once the submission of evidence has been received (item 28).
- It was noted that proposals for 20mph zones are reported to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee (item 31).
- It was agreed that a scheme to introduce a hard standing surface for cyclists to navigate the existing gate entrance to Kings Meadow from Napier Road should be implemented (item 38).
- It was noted that enhanced signage on the London Road shared path has been implemented (item 41).
- It was noted that warning signage on the J11 bridge has been implemented (item 42).
- It was noted that the local cycle routes have been submitted to Google for inclusion on Google Maps (item 50).

**ACTION** - RBC to implement town centre signage 'quick wins' and introduce additional hard standing at the Kings Meadow entrance.

## **8. Items Raised by Forum Members**

8a. Thames Path surfacing (TR) - a quote for gravelling the towpath from Scours Lane and Rivermead has been received for £91,500, however this scheme is currently unfunded.

8b. Cycle routes to schools (TR) - it was suggested that Houten in the Netherlands would be a good example of prioritising cycling, including the provision of routes to school.

8c. Space for Cycling (TR) - the current Cycling UK campaign was noted.

8d. Town centre routes (JL) - this was covered under agenda item 7 regarding town centre signage.

8e. Oxford Road scheme (JL) - it was noted that the Cow Lane scheme has been further delayed by Network Rail with timescales to be confirmed.

8f. NCN 422 (JL) - this was covered under agenda item 3.

8g. Broad St cycle parking (JL) - it was noted that further opportunities to install cycle parking in the town centre should be investigated. Cross Street was suggested as a possible location.

8h. Napier Rd underpass crossing link (JL) - it was noted that the opening of the pedestrian/cycle link through the development site has been delayed by the developer.

8i. Cycle bridge / Gosbrook Road link (JL) - it was agreed that provision of a parallel cyclist crossing alongside the proposed zebra crossing on Gosbrook Road should be investigated and footway designated to shared path to provide a link between Christchurch Meadows and Westfield Park.

8j. Cycle lane removal (AL) - it was requested that removal of the cycle lanes adjacent to car parking spaces on Lower Henley Road should be progressed.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None raised.

## **10. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 6pm at the Civic Offices, Reading.