

CYCLE FORUM

7 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Lynda Yong, Malcolm Beer and Derek Wilson.

Peter Wilkinson, Ian Taplin, Luke McCarthy, Peter England, Mike Gammage, Harold Bodenhofer, Paul Messing, David Layzell, Mark Powell, and Susy Shearer.

Officers: Gordon Oliver, Patrick Romaya, Jatinder Rakhra and David Cook

PART I

13/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor James Evans (Councillor Yong attended as a substitute), Holly Sear, David Usher and Miles Cipton.

14/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 9 July 2014 be approved subject to the following amendments:

- **06/14 – add ‘the route should be widened to include cycle route’ on discussion regarding the western side of Oldfield Road.**
- **10/14 – add that cyclists were not allowed through the Great Park in the winter months ‘after sunset’.**

16/14 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM ACTIVITIES

Jatinder Singh Rakhra, Fit For Life Activator, gave a presentation on the community sports activation fund. The fund was a three year project to support grass roots activity at a local level. The ‘Fit for Life Project’ was funded by Sports England, Public Health and RBWM and aimed to increase participation in physical activity via walking, running, swimming, cycling and triathlon.

The Forum were informed that there was clear evidence that residents needed to be more active with only 41% of residents taking part in 30 minutes of activity per week, 47% of the population classed as inactive and the annual cost of inactivity for the borough being over £13 million.

A Steering and Delivery Group had been established and the targeted areas were Larchfield, North Maidenhead and Dedworth. A number of schemes had been put in place, for example a beginners running course was

introduced, walking for health group for the Richmond Fellowship (national based mental health organisation) and promoted cycling such as Sky Ride.

Further events were planned and in relation to cycling these included continuing to invite cycle clubs to 'Fit For Life' weeks, pilot adult cycling proficiency and hold beginner cycle rides in the target areas. Other events were also planned.

During discussion on the presentation the Forum made a number of points; in particular:

- It was recommended that a beginners running group be set up in the south of the borough.
- It was recommended that the presentation be given to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- There were a high percentage of elderly residents that could cycle short distances that would help improve health outcomes.
- Safe cycling routes would help encourage elderly residents to cycle.
- Walking football events had been organised with SMILE.
- The events were advertised borough wide.
- It was recommended that Gordon Oliver liaise with the rights of way team to see if the bridleways could be utilised for rural cycle routes.
- Sports Able were preparing a planning application for facilities of Olympic standard so it would be a good time to talk to them about joint projects.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note the presentation.

17/14 CYCLING SOCIAL

Luke McCarthy attended the meeting to inform the Forum of the work he was undertaking via social enterprise to try and encourage more cycling in the borough. He aimed to work with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and was also a Sky Ride Leader.

He aimed to work with the long term unemployed to train them to be mechanics and maintain bicycles. Abandoned bikes were restored and put back into circulation at a cost effective price. Their target market was people who owned bikes but did not use them or people who did not own bikes and could not afford them.

The Forum were informed that Luke was currently in the process of producing his business plan and holding discussions with RBWM and public health. He was currently looking at a suitable location in Maidenhead.

During general discussion it was noted that there was a similar scheme in Guildford that may be able to provide advice and that Luke had already investigated similar schemes in London. Advice was given on suitable locations but more work was required to identify the right location.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note the presentation.

18/14 2014 CYCLE COUNTS

Gordon Oliver, Principal Transport Policy Officer, gave a presentation on current statistics with regards to cycling within the borough.

The Forum were informed that the Council undertook surveys of walking and cycling, with an annual count of trips to and from Maidenhead and Windsor town centres over a 12 hour period from 7am to 7pm. Data showed a flat trend for cycling trips within Maidenhead. In Windsor there was an upward trend with current levels being higher than the 2006 baseline.

It was noted that the last count in Windsor would have been affected by the adverse weather, Windsor Bridge accounted for 30% of all trips in and out of Windsor and 80% of cyclists were male.

Maidenhead had a lower level of cycling than Windsor, with the main access points being King Street, High Town Road, subways under the A4 and Bridge Street. It was noted that as with Windsor there was a large gender divide with 86% of cyclists being male.

During discussion on the presentation a number of points were made, in particular:

- If companies provided practical facilities such as showers more people may be encouraged to cycle.
- Concern was raised about road safety in Windsor, especially where the new Tesco store had been built.
- It was disappointing to see the low level of cycling in Maidenhead, especially as a new cycle route had been built to Newlands School.
- Cycling figures were lower than the national, regional and Berkshire averages.
- Furze Platt Road Tesco Express was also dangerous for cyclists and they should be approached to add cyclist warning signs for drivers leaving the car park.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note the presentation.

19/14 DEDWORTH ROAD STUDY

Gordon Oliver, Principal Transport Policy Officer, informed the Forum that those present at the Windsor cycle workshop had agreed that improving east-west links through Windsor was a priority and this included a study of Dedworth Road.

As the Cycle Forum had previously indicated that new cycle routes should try and emulate Dutch best practice, with segregated cycle lanes where possible, they were shown an example of this type of layout in Groningerstraat in Assen. The road had been chosen because it had many similarities with Dedworth Road.

Gronningerstraat was generally uniform along its length, however Dedworth Road varied significantly in terms of road width, character and uses. To demonstrate this difference and the difficulties they posed in term of introducing a dedicated cycle route the Forum were shown sections of Dedworth Road including Ruddlesway to Gallys Road, Gallys Road to Smiths Lane, Smith's Lane to Greenacre, Greenacre to Kenton's Lane, Kentons Lane to Vale Road and Vale Road to Parsonage Lane.

As Dedworth Road varied in terms of character, usage and layout along its length, for example some sections were traffic calmed, whilst others were not. Some had on-street parking, while others have parking restrictions in place. There were also differences in width.

Officers had concluded that lower standards of provision could be achieved along some sections of the road, but these would fall short of the ideal standard. It would not be possible to achieve a continuous cycle route along the whole of Dedworth Road and this would offer little benefit to cyclists.

During discussion on the report a number of points were made, in particular:

- It seemed that Dedworth Road did not offer value for money when cyclists could access the A308 from feeder roads. The A308 was a safer better route.
- Older cyclists used Dedworth Road to get into Windsor.
- It was suggested that the Council should consider introducing a test route that was one way so a dedicated cycle path could be introduced.
- Work was underway looking at the A308 as an alternative option.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note the report and officers investigate alternative routes.

20/14 2015/16 CYCLING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Gordon Oliver, Principal Transport Policy Officer, introduced the report that detailed proposals for inclusion in the 2015/16 cycling capital programme. The proposals were informed from the three workshops. The report detailed priorities identified in Maidenhead, Windsor and Ascot / Sunnings.

During discussion on the report a number of points were made, in particular:

- It was recommended that more cycle parking be put in Maidenhead Town Centre when they undertake resurfacing work. Gordon Oliver said he would raise this with the Town Centre Manager.
- With regards to bridleway 1 it was suggested that the park could be asked if they would be willing to invest in upgrading the entrance as they would benefit from being able to rent bikes.
- It was asked if the new Ray Mill Road bridge would be a replacement for the current bridge, if there would be two bridges and if it would be pedestrian or for cyclists? The applicant had proposed a new bridge

that was 2 metres wide; to be a shared bridge it would have to be 4-6 metres wide.

- It was mentioned that the A4 bridge was dangerous, especially during rush hour.
- There would be additional road resurfacing due to the flooding last winter.
- It was questioned why when new road surfacing was undertaken why white lines for cycle lanes were not added. It was noted to do this would require a road width of 10 metres and it was not possible to widen roads.
- It was recommended that when applications for development in Ascot was submitted it should be seen if S106 money could be gained for cycle improvement.
- Gordon Oliver agreed to contact highways and planning officers about trying to negotiate S106 towards cycling.
- Cycle routes should be added to local plans.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note and agree the proposed Capital Programme.

21/14 POTHOLD CHALLENGE

Gordon Oliver, Principal Transport Policy Officer, informed the Forum that the borough had been successful in securing £293,000 of government grant to tackle potholes during 2014/15 and forum members were encouraged to report any potholes.

Concern was raised that pot holes along a section of the Bath Road had been reported a year ago and nothing had been done, it was recommended that issues would be better reported via Streetcare rather than the fix it form.

RESOLVED: That the Cycle Forum note the report.

22/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was questioned if there should be a review of the terms of reference of the Cycle Forum, if the quorum should be changed and if there should be a 2 hour limit to the meeting with presentations limited to 5 minutes as reports were circulated beforehand.

Road hump review deferred to future meeting.

23/14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings dates were noted:

- 20/01/15, Town Hall Maidenhead.
- 31/04/15, Town Hall Maidenhead.

24/14 MEETING

The meeting, which began at 7.00pm, ended at 10.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....