

CYCLE LIAISON GROUP MEETING

Thursday 30th July 2009 at 6pm, Committee Room 2, Civic Centre

Present: Councillor Page, Councillor Willis, Councillor Gittings, Pat Baxter (RBC), Keith Elliott (RCC), Adrian Lawson (RCC), Ros Furley (RCC), Greg Woodford (CTC), Chris Camfield (RBC), Hannah Budnitz (RBC) and Emma Baker (RBC).

Apologies: Councillor Duveen, Councillor Tim Harris, Helen Biggerstaff (CTC/RBC), Peter Challis (Sustrans), Greg Payne (CTC)

1. Introductions

It was noted that Chris Camfield was present to address the Street Care agenda item and Greg Woodford to discuss Bikeability.

2. Minutes from 16th April 2009 and matters arising

The new cycle map will be updated and re-issued once current supplies have been exhausted (3-4 months). The options for showing the Thames Towpath differently will be investigated before that time and drafts of the map's next edition will be discussed at the next meeting.

The lining on Bridge Street will be corrected once it can be fit into the relevant team's programme of works.

ACTION: Circulate an update on the resurfacing proposal for the towpath by Rose Kiln Lane (Footpath 2 improvements), including whether an additional funding source has been secured. [post meeting note - Parks have gone out to tender on resurfacing and hope to have the section surfaced before winter.]

ACTION: Circulate statement from AB on the M4 J11 Improvements.

3. Street Care Procedure

Chris Camfield, Street Environment Manager, circulated a note on the procedure for street cleaning and inspection (attached) and contact cards for the Street Care team.

Members of the group highlighted concerns regarding the cleansing of the Henley Road cycle lane and also Surley Row. They also mentioned that there are inconsistencies in procedure where routes are on Parks land.

ACTION: Draft a policy for the cleaning and maintenance of the premier cycle routes that can be brought back to this group for comments and then circulated to Highways, Street Care and Parks to then be adopted through TMAP.

4. Update on Bikeability

Greg Woodford gave an update on delivering Bikeability in Reading's schools. Sixteen pupils at Caversham Park Primary School successfully completed level 2 training. Greg has received excellent feedback.

GW commented that both RBC and CTC are keen to implement the scheme. However, it has been a challenge to transform interest from the schools into action and as a result, a plan will be drawn up to target particular schools in the Autumn, which could include:

- Alfred Sutton Primary School;
- Blessed Hugh Faringdon School;
- Highdown School and Sixth Form;
- Newtown Primary School;
- Prospect College; and
- St John's Church of England School.

It has been noted that there may be some confusion between the two courses, which will be discussed with Liz. We will look at ways to combine the two programmes or present them in a more co-ordinated way.

ACTION: Arrange for an article on Bikeability to be included in the E-Bulletin that is distributed to head teachers and governors.

ACTION: Arrange for Liz to give a presentation on cycling proficiency and co-ordinating the two areas of work at the next meeting.

5. Feedback on Bike Week 2009

Five schools across Reading were visited the week leading up to Bike Week, where around 700 children had a 'try cycling' experience. Around 700 participants were involved in activities throughout Bike Week, with the Family Cycle Festival drawing in over 500 of those. The week was successful and highlights include the ride at Green Park, cyclists' breakfast and business cycle relay. It has been noted that cyclists would like to see more cycle related messages on the VMS screens but in general excellent feedback has been received. It was noted that although successful, sponsorship opportunities could further improve cycling events.

ACTION: Discuss the possibility of having a monthly ride around Green Park with the Cycle Development Officer.

6. Cycle Count Information Exchange

RBC and RCC exchanged cycle count data.

ACTION: RBC to bring further cycle data to the next CLG meeting. Data should show trends as produced from information used for TIF and the LTP delivery reports.

7. Major Transport Schemes

Schemes

New schemes will be brought to this Group at various stages to formalise consultation with appropriate officers in a consistent approach.

ACTION: Feedback to be obtained from DfT if possible on current good practice for scheme auditing and cycle auditing.

ACTION: Enquire if Traffic Regulation Orders can be advertised on the Reading Borough Council website and report back to group. [post-meeting note: this is possible and will be actioned.]

M4 J11 Improvements

Pedestrian and cyclist facilities are part of this scheme and include a raised route on a wire suspension bridge.

ACTION: Return to CLG with M4 J11 flythrough, dimensions and maps.

Duke Street

This scheme is primarily a road safety scheme addressing recurring accidents at this junction, which has the worst accident record in the Thames Valley. The existing junction is constrained by guard railing that will be rationalised to help improve safety at the junction. The new scheme has been through a strict safety audit.

If the scheme were to be redesigned to take on board any further comments, implementation would be delayed by 6-9 months, a time in which more accidents could occur.

As a result of concerns raised at this meeting, the scheme will go ahead but with additional directional signing for cyclists, particularly where there are shared paths and blind corners. It will also be reviewed 6 months after completion and as and when new types of cycle facilities are approved by the Department for Transport.

ACTION: Timetable and signing design to be circulated. [post-meeting note: work is programmed late August to late November.]

Shinfield Road

Shinfield Road Update Newsletter circulated to the group.

HB gave an update on the scheme. KE pleased that concerns highlighted during previous consultation have been addressed (e.g. road width, cycle parking locations). TROs, including re-advertising the existing parking restrictions, are to be advertised in the Autumn.

Comments were received on the lack of cycle parking at Tesco and that the feeder lanes into some of the Advanced Stop Lines are too short.

ACTION: Detailed designs to be discussed at next meeting of Group.

Reading Station

Initial proposals were shown to the group for the town centre south of the station. These include making sections of Friar Street and West Street two-way for buses and cyclists and the removal of the route outside the existing station entrance for all motorised traffic.

ACTION: Set up a sub-group to allow the CLG to comment on the scheme, to be coordinated by Hannah Budnitz and Cris Butler.

TIF

Documents have now been submitted to DfT, with the remainder being sent in the next week.

The first phase of TIF, scheduled for 2010 to 2013 if successful, will include cycle facilities. Cllr Willis commented that there will be opportunities for other local authorities to use TIF funding to build cross-boundary cycle facilities/routes if they sign up to the process.

8. Resurfacing Programme

A press article was circulated containing detailed information on the resurfacing programme, which commenced on 25th July:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/latest/mediareleases/PressArticle.asp?id= SX9452-A7842F95>

9. Cycle Strategy Delivery Update

The group was advised that we are still awaiting signage authorisation from DfT and are contacting them on at least a weekly basis. This will be taken to a higher level if authorisation is not received shortly.

ACTION: Pat Baxter to contact DfT at senior level to pursue authorisation.

Routes to the south and west of Reading have been scheduled for implementation this year. A blank copy of Reading's cycle route audit checklist was circulated to the group. This is being used to determine the current situation along the route, assist in mapping and identify areas for improvement. Comments have also been received on the west Reading routes from the Group and will be reviewed through the route audit process.

New cycle parking has been installed at Whitley Wood local centre and in Prospect Park. Minor improvements at the western end of the Oxford Road route as identified in the TMAP Cycling Strategy update report will commence 3rd August.

ACTION: Formal update sheet to be circulated at every meeting with information on any cycle works completed between meetings.

10. Cycle to Work Scheme

ACTION: Details on this scheme to be circulated with the minutes.

11. AOB

None.

12. Date of Next Meetings

Thursday, 29th October, 6pm

Thursday, 11th February, 6pm