

Cycle Liaison Meeting Minutes **20 May 2010, 6:30pm, CR1**

Present: Councillor Tony Page, Councillor Richard Willis, Keith Elliott (Reading Cycle Campaign), Adrian Lawson (Reading Cycle Campaign), Richard Pearson (Reading CTC), Ralph Marlow (Reading Cycle Campaign), Cris Butler (RBC), Ruth Leuillette (RBC), Hannah Budnitz (RBC)

Apologies: Greg Payne (Reading CTC), Mark Tancock (Cycle Development Officer, RBC and CTC), Pat Baxter (RBC), Councillor Tim Harris, Councillor Ricky Duveen, Councillor Paul Gittings, Peter Challis (Sustrans)

1. Minutes from 18 February 2010 and Matters Arising (not on agenda)

Minutes agreed.

RL noted the following **Outstanding Actions:** CB still to arrange meeting with Cycle Groups to discuss town centre works programme and future phases; Napier Road timescale to be confirmed.

The absence of the bollard closing Great Knollys Street to through traffic was raised. This was removed due to Southern Gas works, so the utility is responsible for replacing it, but it was stolen from their compound and temporary fencing has been moved. It is understood that a new bollard has been ordered. **Post-meeting note:** RBC officers chased and installation programmed shortly.

2. Reading Cycle Campaign AGM issues raised (not on agenda)

During their AGM, the RCC undertook audits of the Reading Cycle routes in South and West Reading. These were circulated and RBC will consider the comments and review options to further improve the routes. RCC were thanked for their efforts.

3. General Highway Maintenance Policies (Cris Butler)

The summer resurfacing programme was circulated. CB confirmed that all schemes on the programme are funded, including the reserve schemes and an extended scheme on Oxford Road due to extra funding from the Oxford Road study. It was confirmed that there was also additional funding (£106K) already received from central government in response to the severe winter weather conditions.

RW requested the Henley Road cycle path be swept outside a house with a gravel drive that has over-spilled. **Action:** CB to follow up (post meeting note) this has been chased and is an illegal crossing, with enforcement also being pursued

4. Road Safety national performance target (Ruth Leuillette)

The target for reducing the numbers of fatal or serious road traffic accidents has already been stretched for Reading and re-focused on the most vulnerable users, including cyclists. Accident data is regularly reported and analysed in detail and informs the road safety programme, which goes through TMAP process every March. The

schemes are then monitored, and all schemes have shown reduction in accidents. The latest programme includes sections of Bath Road, Kings Road and Oxford Road as reported in the following TMAP report appendix: http://www.reading.gov.uk/Documents/Committee_Services/Traffic_Management_Advisory_Panel/2009-2010/100518/item10app1-RSS2010-11.pdf

The group also received an update on the Tilehurst Road/Water Road junction, which was a road safety scheme from 2009-10, as reported in the following TMAP report appendix: http://www.reading.gov.uk/Documents/Committee_Services/Traffic_Management_Advisory_Panel/2008-2009/090324/Item8appendix1.pdf

This scheme was designed to reduce approach speeds into the junction and increase 'deflection' to ensure that vehicles give way to other vehicles or pedal cycles turning right at the junction. It has been designed according to the relevant highway standards and been subject to safety audits. The group felt that they should have discussed the proposal in advance of TMAP as they feel that their space when travelling straight is encroached upon by motorists overtaking on the approach to the roundabout, would have liked to see a bypass to accommodate cyclists, and were of the opinion that the built-out kerb line is difficult to see. The scheme will be subject to a Stage 3 Safety Audit, which will include site visits, checks and analysis of accident records. **Action:** Report group's comments to safety auditor in advance of Stage 3 Audit and feedback to group the results of the Stage 3 audit when it happens. Any remedial action identified as part of the Stage 3 safety audit will be carried out.

5. Bike Week (Hannah Budnitz)

Many events being scheduled in Reading for Bike Week (19th-27th June), with full participation from many members of the group.

6. Updated cycle strategy actions chart (standard item) (Hannah Budnitz)

The updated chart was circulated. A legend has been added and items highlighted that are not on the agenda, but where their status has changed. There was brief discussion of the edge-of-carriageway marking on Shinfield Road, which aims to reinforce the new 30mph limit. The group suggested this be marked for cyclists' use or the line made advisory. This will be considered as part of the ongoing A327 study. **Action:** A327 study update to be given at next meeting.

It was noted that the cycle groups would like to see a substantial increase in town centre cycle parking as a quick win.

KE noted that he appreciated the removal of the pinch point on Oxford Road.

7. Update on Cycle Strategy Actions

a. Royal Berkshire Hospital and Reading University (Cris Butler)

A new study has begun in partnership with the Hospital and University to look at issues around parking, access by different modes and new developments at RBH and UoR. Current work involves mapping existing restrictions and gathering data, but it is expected that initial proposals for the study will be brought through Council

processes in the Autumn. **Action:** Update to be given at next meeting.

b. Links to Schools R6 (Hannah Budnitz)

HB reported that a revised design for the footpath from Coley down to the railway bridge has been submitted to Sustrans, and it is hoped that written confirmation of funding will be received shortly. The design includes surfacing, retaining wall and removal/adaptation of barriers and will take approximately two months work. Scheduling will depend on when funding is confirmed and procurement processes, but the bid has agreed completion by the end of the calendar year.

It was discussed that the Southcote Farm Lane side of the route also needs surfacing improvements and that materials planned from the resurfacing work could be rolled out. **Action:** This option to be investigated and implemented if possible, subject to funding.

c. Oxford Road Area Study (Cris Butler)

Major resurfacing has been programmed and following this there will be relining to address safety issues in the area between Salisbury Road and Valentia Road. Movement restrictions and the traffic issues along Beresford Road are also being considered. It was acknowledged that Bedford Road was not on the resurfacing programme and as the junction enhancement proposed through TIF is also delayed as the fund successor to TIF is to be confirmed by Government, any proposal for Bedford Road junction is delayed. However, the group was reassured that more will be happening on Oxford Road in the next year, and proposals will not all wait for the completion of Cow Lane bridges in 2016. A steering group meeting with Ward Members is scheduled for July, so proposals should be available to present to this group at its next meeting. **Action:** Update to be given at next meeting.

d. North Area Access Study (Cris Butler)

Following consultation with residents, the inclusion of an informal pedestrian crossing point was requested on Lowfield Road, the design of this facility has been informed by the consultation process. This requires the removal of one of the cycle bypasses through the chicanes, but a cycle bypass will be kept on the side without priority through the chicane and the remaining road will be 4m wide. **Action:** Monitoring of Gravel Hill to be taken to next meeting.

e. East/Southeast Cycle Route Audits (Hannah Budnitz)

HB reported that RBC is starting to review the east and southeast routes for mapping and signing and invited RCC to send in comments or go out on site with RBC officers. RCC said they appreciated the invitation and may want to go out with RBC officers on some of the South and West Reading routes as well. **Action:** HB to circulate dates to cycle groups to go out on site.

f. Footpath 2 resurfacing (Hannah Budnitz)

The notice has been published to close this path between Brook Street and the A33 near Morrisons while it is surfaced for an expected 3 week period, with a diversion via

the A33 Relief Road. Works are scheduled to start 24 May 2010. **Action:** Publicise the completion of these works, potentially during Bike Week.

g. Duke Street Road Safety Scheme (Cris Butler)

Two additional cycle signs discussed at the previous meeting have now been introduced and overall resurfacing of the junction is scheduled for this summer. Positive feedback has been received. AL suggested that a warning sign is still required for vehicles approaching from over the bridge. KE noted that the junction works well to cross on a bike, as traffic is low. **Action:** CB to review signage.

h. Bath Road Route 60 (Hannah Budnitz)

The existing use and widths on the relevant section of Bath Road have been investigated. The figures show high levels of traffic over the bridge, with many more cyclists using the footbridges and footway than the road. Despite high levels of pedestrians, no conflicts have been reported, nor are there any recorded injury accidents. It was also noted that the footway as far as the Berkeley Ave junction stays the same width (almost 5m), while the carriageway changes in width, with the narrowest point by the reservoir (9m), with two lanes of traffic and a bus lane. It was noted that improved facilities may increase cyclist numbers and suggested that a one-way cycle facility on the south side may be preferable to a two-way shared path. **Action:** Further investigate these options.

8. Progress on Major Transport Schemes

a. M4 J11 - lighting (Cris Butler)

Individual lighting columns will be present on the cycle/footbridges except for the southern bridge that will be lit by the overhead highway lamp columns. The scheme is progressing well and is on target to be completed later in the summer.

b. Reading Station/Town Centre Routes (Cris Butler)

Network Rail is currently hosting exhibitions on the works, and will have detail of planned closures of the station (over Christmas) and the adjacent railway bridges over Caversham Road (over New Year's) and Vastern Road. RBC will also provide updates as the town centre works progress, as Barden Contracting has now been appointed and will be starting in mid-June on West Street/St. Mary's Butts. A drop-in office is to be set up in the town centre to offer information and deal with queries.

Station cycle parking is currently all on railway land and RBC will encourage maximising cycle parking within the new station plans. RBC will also be providing additional cycle parking in the public highway as part of the southwest interchange and Station Hill developments. RW noted that substantially more and secure cycle (and motorcycle) parking is planned.

KE suggested a cycle information board at interchange locations (like the PlusBus or explorer displays). **Action:** RBC officers to look for opportunities to display cycle information around the station area.

9. Results of initial cycle route maintenance inspections (Ruth Leuillette)

Almost all routes have had maintenance inspections since the last meeting and maintenance issues (e.g. debris, overhanging branches, potholes) or further improvements have been identified and should be dealt with more quickly. RCC's observations are also helpful. **Post-meeting note:** NCN 5 past Tesco towards Kennetmouth is being inspected for debris and will be swept as required.

10. AOB

The Stanshawe Road lights should be triggered by cyclists, but will be checked for sensitivity as this can deteriorate over time. Camera enforcement of Stanshawe Road is a possibility.

Action: RBC to pursue options for cycle shops to advertise on next edition of cycle maps. An update on the take-up of the RBC 'Cycle to Work Scheme' was requested.

Post-meeting note: 30 people applied for a bike during last year (to end March 2010) and 9 so far this financial year. Not everyone that applied for a bike followed through to hire and then buy the bicycle, and as the scheme runs for 12 months, which only ended this month, it is unclear how many ultimately participated or have bought the bicycle at the end of it.

11. Date of Next Meeting

2nd September at 6:30pm, Committee Room 5