

Cycle Forum Meeting Notes: 3rd April 2012, 6pm, CR1

1. Introductions/Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Gittings (Chair)
Cllr Eden
Sergeant Simon Wheeler (TVP)
PC Julian Weal (TVP)
Ruth Leuillette (RBC)
Javed Saddique (RBC/CTC)
Emma Baker (RBC)
Paul Harper (GREN)
Michele Atkins (GREN)
Keith Elliott (RCC)
Adrian Lawson (RCC)
Alex McKnight (Sustrans)
Greg Payne (Reading CTC)
Richard Pearson (RCC)

Apologies:

Cllr Page
Cllr Willis

2. Minutes from 16 January 2012

Notes from the meeting were amended to include a discussion on the use of Variable Messaging Signs to promote cycling and other modes of travel and were reported in the March TMAP report.

3. Thames Valley Police (Sgt Wheeler & PC Weal)

- PC Weal outlined his responsibilities as a Traffic Officer and Sgt Wheeler's as a town centre officer
- Neighbourhood Officers and Special Constables are being trained to use the speed guns purchased in partnership with the Council
- Forum members asked if it is possible for the Council to work with the Police to offer cyclists that are caught cycling on non-shared paths cycle training rather than a Fixed Penalty Fine
- The Police recommend that cyclists reduce their vulnerability by following the Highway Code, wearing reflective clothing, cycling defensively, making sure their bikes has lights and to participate in cycle training.

a. Cycle Theft

- TVP informed the Group that one person was arrested in 2011 for the theft of multiple bicycles
- TVP agreed to provide text for an article to be included in the RCC newsletter
- TVP informed the Group that there is limited fixed CCTV within the town centre to help them catch thieves. However they gave away 'd-locks' as part of two campaigns in 2011.
- The Police commented that design of cycle racks should be considered when installing new cycle parking and that Environmental Visual Audits should be carried out
- The Group discussed opportunities for cycle parking at Reading Station.

- RBC informed the Group that Oracle style cycle storage could not be used at the station due to the security level of the station. However, officers will consider smartcard access and CCTV within design of the facilities
 - The Police would be happy to give advice on the installation of CCTV
 - The Police have access to two bicycles that contains GPS tracking units that are used to catch bicycle thieves.
 - Second-hand shops in some towns are required to collect information on sellers which can act help reduce deter thieves from selling stolen goods to these shops
- b. Reporting Accidents**
- Cyclists should report non-emergencies by calling 101 or reporting it through their website where they will be allocated a reference number and receive a response within 72 hours.
 - Crown Prosecution Service policy is that an independent witness must be available to give their version of events
 - The Forum asked whether CPS policy can be influenced. They were advised by that this would need to be lobbied nationally rather than locally
 - AL commented that he would like to see improved dialogue with the Police to encourage more people to cycle

4. Issues raised by Forum members (standard item)

a. 'Cities Fit for Cycling' Campaign

- Note on the campaign was circulated prior to the meeting
- RL mentioned a 20mph zone is being considered as part of the Hospital/University Study
- The Group were informed that a Motion was taken to the Council meeting on 27th March as a result of the 'Cities Fit for Cycling' Campaign
- Cllr Eden suggested that the Cycle Forum lobby the Council to reduce the speed limit on cycle routes to 20mph

b. Promoting Cycling (including VMS)

- Officers informed the Group that messages promoting cycling are displayed on several of the Variable Messaging Signs
- New messages will be considered by officers and reported to the group

5. Updated cycle strategy actions chart (standard item)

- Updated chart circulated prior to the meeting

6. Local Sustainable Transport Fund

- RL gave an update on Napier Road, which is currently being taken forward by Network Rail and RBC's legal teams.
- The Group asked for an update on the proposed cycle routes through Kennet Island
- Forum members asked for a workshop on Cow Lane and to invite Network Rail to the meeting

- a. **Schedule for Future Workshops & Delivery of Improvements**
 - Officers informed Forum members that the recommendations from the workshops are being taken through Council processes, including being reported to TMAP and that Officers will provide feedback from the meetings.
- b. **Cycle Parking Opportunities**
 - Forum members were informed that Officers are putting together a mapping tool that will be used to record cycle parking facilities and identify new locations.
 - The Forum members were asked if they can help officers record this information by circulating the web link to other cyclists
- c. **Cycle Development Officer Programme**
 - JS informed Forum members of his programme, including setting up Bicycle User Groups, organising Bike Week and supporting other events
- d. **Workplace Cycle Challenge**
 - Forum members were informed of two cycle challenges that the Council will be supporting: European Cycle Challenge and Workplace Cycle Challenge
 - Officers asked if the Forum members could promote the challenges to their employers and other cyclists.
 - European Cycle Challenge will take place in May from 1st to 31st and the Workplace Challenge will be held in June between 11th and 1st July.
- e. **Sustrans Volunteer Programme & ‘Bike It’**
 - Officers informed the Group that they are working in partnership with Sustrans to offer ‘Bike It’ to up to six schools to encourage cycling (**Post Meeting Note: Bike It Officer is now in post**)
 - Sustrans will also be recruiting up to twenty new volunteers to help maintain the cycle network

7. AOB

- Officers circulated drawings of an advisory cycle lane on Lower Henley Road, which will be circulated electronically after the meeting for Forum members to comment on (**Post meeting note: work is complete and officers are looking at further proposals for linking the Henley Road shared use path and Donkin Hill roundabout**).

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th July 2012, CR2

Agenda Item	Action	Expected
3	RBC to contact TVP to discuss offering cycle training as alternative to Fixed Penalty Fines for cycling on footways	Before next meeting
3	Officers to report back on cycle parking facilities at Reading Station	Autumn 2012

3	RBC to investigate introducing the requirement for second-hand shops to collect information on the sellers	Summer 2012
3	RBC to write to Sarah Thornton regarding lobbying CPS nationally to encourage a change in policy	Before next meeting
3	Inviting Network Rail and First Great Western to future meeting	Summer/Autumn
4	Officers to consider new messages for VMS and report to group	July 2012
5	Circulate updated action chart before meeting	
6a	Officers to continue to provide feedback on workshops to the group	Ongoing
6b	Circulate link to cycle parking mapping tool	End of April (delayed)
6c	Provide text to RCC and CTC to promote challenges	April/May 2012
7	Circulate drawing of proposed advisory cycle lane on Lower Henley Road for comment	April 2012