

Warrington Cycle Forum

16th January 2008

MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION		
1.0			
<u>Introductions:</u>			
Alan Dickin	Jon Wood	Chris Mayes	Rod King
Pete Owens	Neil Rowley	Dave Mitchell	Lesley McAllister
Maurice Leslie	John Thorpe		
<u>Apologies:</u>			
Tom & Joyce Ireland	Meg Owens	Cllr Brian Axcel	
Alison Felstead	Michelle Wilder	Sean Stringer	Bruce Gillibrand
Alan Storton			
2.0			
<u>Minutes of Previous meeting</u>			
Minutes accepted.			
<u>Matters Arising:</u>			
JW had reviewed the minutes from last year and found some outstanding items:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A representative from the council's highways section was to be asked to attend to respond to road condition concerns• The council's network development control manager was to be asked to attend to respond to planning queries• A recommendation that the council finance cycle training for all Y6 pupils has not been answered			
AD replied that the first two would be rectified this year as appropriate items are included in advance in agenda and the third would be raised in agenda item 4.			
The Supplementary planning guidance on Cycle Parking had been published.			
3.0			
<u>Election of a Chair person</u>			
There had been no nominations for Chair, so Jon Wood put himself forward for another year, PO seconded, and JW accepted.			

4.0

Update on Matters Arising from previous meetings

Cycling in the town centre

AD advised that an internal WBC meeting was imminent to review town centre cycling including a review of the pedestrianised area to allow cycling at certain times of the day, and asked if anyone would be interested in attending a forum sub-group to collate forum's perspective – PO and ML volunteered.

Cycle Training

AD advised that a bid put forward to WBC's revenue stream to fund cycle training for every Y6 pupil was rejected.

The Cycle Forum expressed disappointment and asked that the councillor responsible should give an explanation of the reasons why the bid had been rejected.

LM added that a bid had been made to Cycling England for £79,000 that would provide training to every Y6 pupil. A decision is expected in March 08.

20mph update

AD advised that the proposed visit to Portsmouth had not yet happened – Mark Tune having difficulty in getting a response from officers at Portsmouth. RK added that this should be politically and community led, not by road safety officers who are focussed on accident statistics.

After last meeting JW wrote to both MPs on behalf of the Forum asking for their support in introducing a 20mph default limit. Both responded and Helen Jones referred it to transport minister Rosie Winterton, who wrote back. (copy of letter attached)

ML suggested the response should be put on the website, and that we should also write to get the views of the other parliamentary candidates.

PO asked if it would be possible to have documents such as this distributed with the agenda before a meeting to be able to come prepared with a response.

AD suggested, and it was agreed, that the next meeting of the Forum in April would be devoted to the 20mph issue, and a number of officers and members would be invited to attend.

5.0

Cycle Map Issue 2 update

AD advised that a number of comments have already been received from Issue 1, and as the plan is to publish Issue 2 by the end of March. The programme for producing issue 2 would be circulated shortly.

Ideally distribution of Issue 2 was to be before Easter, however this is very early this year and an April distribution is more realistic.

AD asked forum members to provide details of any specific thoughts on print numbers and circulation over and above the planned drop to all households. Parish Councils to be included on circulation list in larger numbers than Issue 1. AD envisaged carrying out a boroughwide distribution every 2 years.

Post meeting Note - Programme for Issue 2:

Deadline for comments on map guide – Mon 7th April

Deadline for input on print numbers and distribution – Mon 7th April

Draft Issue 2 – final proof for comment and checking – Wed 16th April

Printing – by end April

Distribution to all households – mid-May to end June

6.0 Town Centre Circulatory Route

AD advised several junctions are to be reviewed for cycleability following the closure of Golbourne Street and the loss of the original route around the town centre.

Discussion centred on two junctions – Sankey Street/Parker Street and Legh Street/Midland way.

Discussion was useful but cut short by the full agenda. AD suggested the sub-group mentioned above would complete comments on behalf of the Forum.

7.0 Discussion on Funding

JW concerned about the lack of funding for revenue projects such as cycle training and asked AD to explain how cycle projects were funded in Warrington.

Local Transport Plan Capital

AD explained that capital from the LTP spend was primarily identified for physical changes to the environment, including on and off road routes. In addition, a budget of £25k per year had been included to facilitate a pilot Cycle Training programme and act as a catalyst to bring in further funding sources. Other LTP funding areas such as Safer Routes to School and Traffic Signal upgrades included measures or changes to improve conditions for cyclists.

Revenue Funding

AD explained that there is currently no revenue budget for cycling.

DM argued that cycle training is an investment for the future and could be viewed as capital expenditure. JW suggested that a much greater share of LTP funding to be used on cycle training.

AD stated that he couldn't recommend this to members as the LTP and its funding plans was previously approved by Council. Also there was a need to provide engineering improvement for cyclists as evidenced by the discussion on item 6 and it was better to use the Pilot scheme money as pump-priming money to help bring in additional funding sources, such as the Cycle England monies or others.

AD stated that he would raise the potential to use developer funding to part fund training in a similar way to revenue support for bus services, although it was not clear whether this was permissible or legal. Discussion took place and **RK proposed that the Forum should recommend that funding for cycle training should be included in the contributory requirements. PO seconded.**

8.0

Any Other Business

1. PO asked for the timetable for the Tesco junction review as the bus lane on Winwick Road was incorrectly signed.

AD replied that we would pass PO's concerns on to the traffic management team.

Post meeting note: Tesco junction review

The current timetable for review is that consultants have completed their assessment and are recommending the bus gate opened inbound only.

2. DM raised the proposed closure of Woolston High School and asked for clarification that travel and transport issues had been taken into account. Due to time constraints AD proposed that LM add this to the minutes.

Post meeting Note: Woolston High School

During the consultation period, the Transport Planning team was asked to undertake an accessibility review across the Padgate and Woolston areas to assist in the decision-making process. This involved plotting postcodes of the current pupils at both schools, using the Accession software to plot bus access, and then walking and cycling all the routes in the area. A full audit of the area was recorded on a map, using the cycle map as a base, highlighting areas of concern where work would be required.

All schools are required by the government to have an effective school travel plan by 2010 and work is on target to ensure this requirement is met. The authority also has a duty to ensure the Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy is implemented giving parents and pupils a number of travel options. Parents however do have freedom of choice and many choose to drive to school even when alternative choices have been identified. This work also took into consideration the recent changes to school admissions policy allowing parents to identify 3 equal preferences for a secondary school place.

Future Meeting Date

Wed 16th April 2008

**6pm for 6.30pm start – 8.30pm finish
The Gateway, Sankey Street, Warrington**