

Warrington Cycle Forum

16th April 2008

MINUTES

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	<p><u>Introductions:</u></p> <p>Alan Dickin Jon Wood Chris Mayes Pete Owens</p> <p>Meg Owens Dave Mitchell Lesley McAllister Sarah Carr</p> <p>Maurice Leslie Sean Stringer Rick Wakefield (Halton Council)</p> <p>Liz Clarke (Bikeright)</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u></p> <p>Rod King Cllr Brian Axcel Alison Felstead Michelle Wilder</p> <p>Neil Rowley Alan Storton</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Minutes of Previous meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes accepted.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JW formally requested attendance at a future meeting this year by council officers from Highways and Development Control to respond to queries within their expertise.• It was agreed to devote the next meeting in July to the 20mph default speed limit debate. Date to be confirmed after checking availability of key players.• DM requested a fuller update on the travel to school issues surrounding the Woolston High School closure at the next meeting.	<p><u>LM</u></p>
3.0	<p><u>Update on Matters Arising from previous meeting</u></p> <p>Cycling in the town centre</p> <p>AD advised that after an internal WBC meeting, a proposal to allow cycling within the pedestrian zone in the AM peak has been made. This sparked a discussion – obviously a 24/7 permission would be preferable, but due to town centre management’s concerns re anti-social behaviour by youths this compromise may be the only realistic solution, which can be expanded at a later date. PO suggested a letter in support of a wider access for cycles should be sent formally on behalf of the Forum.</p>	<p><u>AD</u></p> <p><u>PO</u></p>

Funding for Cycling

AD – a list of what will be spent on cycling over the next 3 years is in the Cycling Demonstration Town bid which was emailed to all members on 14th April. JW explained that as Chair he had been asked to support the bid on behalf of the Cycle Forum but couldn't as he hadn't had time to read it.

Cycle 2 Work Scheme

- 4.0 Responding to Jon Wood's request to add this to the agenda LM revealed that a Halfords-run scheme was in development for Council employees and would be available shortly.

Cycle Training

- 5.0 Sarah Carr was introduced as a parent of Twiss Green Primary School, and had a concern with the way the the courses were being run, a minority of trainees were actually attaining Level 2 standard by the end of the course.

LC from Bikeright explained the new Bikeability training was outcomes-led – and that if pupils could not demonstrate these outcomes then they could not be awarded Level 2. This is unlike the old Cycling Proficiency where every pupil was awarded with a pass simply for attending the course. The reasons for not reaching Level 2 ability were several - not attending all 4 sessions for whatever reason, not being given the full 8 hours for training due to school disorganisation, not having a roadworthy bike, or just not having the understanding or ability to attain the standard necessary.

LC also pointed out that the aim of child cycle training is to increase the levels of safety and knowledge, and all children taking part in a course will do that even though they might not reach accreditation.

LM added that this being the first year of the Bikeability training scheme there are still a few wrinkles to be ironed out, and the contract is currently being tendered for the next 3 years. WBC will take into account all the issues raised by the Forum when determining the format of the scheme in the future.

Cycle Map

- 6.0 AD explained that final revisions had been made and the map was ready for final printing. A copy was available for members to look at but as the distribution timescale was tight there was no further chance to make additional changes. The Royal Mail distribution service requires 6 weeks notice, and then spreads the distribution over 6 to 8 weeks. MO reiterated that a map should be given to each child who receives cycle training – Forum agreed - LM will arrange for each school to receive enough to distribute.

Cycle friendly town

- 7.0 JW raised the issue of how to introduce the idea of cycle friendly street design into council policy. AD explained that the Warrington Design Guide for developers was being reviewed and updated. It had gone through an internal consultation already but unsure on if or when to be consulted externally. There is also the new Regeneration Framework which puts forward plans for changing the layout and regenerating the town centre.

A discussion followed on removing barriers and designing schemes to encourage an open shared space – citing Kensington High Street as an

example. LC had just been to TfL's walking and cycling conference and the slides from one of the presentations giving examples of good practice should be available soon to download.

The Forum members formally asked to be consulted on the Warrington Design Guide before it is published.

AOB

8.0

PO raised the point that a section of Woolston Grange Avenue has just been upgraded with no consideration of cycle-friendly design. AD responded that a lack of staff resource and process to review initial plans was the issue – less than 50% of schemes are cycle audited. A new post has just been filled which will enable better management of scheme development, co-ordinating LTP and developer improvements.

JW asked for an update on the Tesco bus lane. ML said a traffic regulation order to remove the bus lane was currently out for consultation. AD advised that a proposal to redesign the Tesco junction, remove the bus lane but open the Winwick Street bus gate was currently being prepared. JW advised that he would formally object to this on behalf of the Forum.

JW

LM advised that Neil Rowley had forwarded the cycle map to Sustrans and asked them to update their online map. This they have done, however only showing the off-road routes through the borough. Neil encouraged them to at least provide the link to the online version of the map so that users will have the benefit from seeing the whole mapped area, which they have now done.

Future Meeting Date

Wed 23rd July 2008

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