

Minutes

South Gloucestershire Cycle Forum

Location: Emerson's Green Science Park, Conference Room

Time & Date: 6 pm on Wednesday 4th March 2015

Attending:

Cllr Pat Hockey
Cllr Roger Hutchinson
John Seddon (SGC)
Lee Lodder (SGC)
Anne O'Driscoll (SusCom)
Andrew Gough (Bristol Cycle Campaign)
Terry Miller (Bristol Cycle Campaign)
Roy Brewster (cyclist)
Bryan Huish (Rolls Royce BUG)
Andy Lovell (Rolls Royce)
Julia Innes (HEFCE)
Nick Horne (CTC)
Craig Ellis (cyclist)
Steve Fraei (Atkins)
David Smith (cyclist)

South Gloucestershire Cycling Strategy

JS advised that following Eric Booth's excellent presentation to the last forum meeting officers had been asked by lead members to develop a formal South Gloucestershire Cycling Strategy document.

It is intended to run a couple of workshops, bringing together key stakeholders, including volunteers from the Cycle Forum, to contribute to filling the gaps in current cycling policy, which are primarily thought to be around design guidance and the production of a network map.

AoD (SusCom) stressed that a cycle strategy should be linked to the next West of England Joint Long Term Plan, so that it focuses more on Active Travel modes, such as an ambitious "Metro-Bike" scheme, and noted that data from the Travel to Work surveys is an excellent resource that should be used.

The merits of using coloured or numbered route designation was discussed, and will be picked up again during the workshops, and it was suggested that examples of strategies from other authorities should be used as a guide. In particular, it was considered that there needs to be consistency with Bristol City Council given the importance of cross-boundary routes for local journeys.

A request for volunteers from the Cycle Forum to attend workshops in May, will be sent out through the Forum email group soon.

It was also requested that Eric Booth be invited to speak to JTEC at a future meeting.

Cycle Route Closures and Diversions

LL provided an update on current closures and diversions affecting cyclists, which is provided below for the benefit of those unable to attend:

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- The shared use path along the ring road, which was subject to a diversion has re-opened in the past couple of days. Work on the crossing point has also been completed, but will need to remain in an uncontrolled state until we have completed the resurfacing and road markings to allow us to open the additional traffic lane. We expect the scheme to be fully open and operational by the end of March, if not before.

Hambrook Lights

- Drainage works are almost complete, and works to create the additional traffic lane and new shared use path along Bristol Road are due to begin in March. There have been several delays caused by public utilities and the presence of rock in the excavation which have extended the programme until July 2015.

Staple Hill Tunnel

- The railway path will remain closed until the end of March 2015. This is to allow us to complete the piling work on the bridge. An earlier opening of the path for the peak hours and at weekends was considered, but it is felt unsafe to do so with all the plant, materials and debris.(note: since the meeting we have been advised that this closure has had to be extended to end of April)

Wapley Bridge, Yate

- Currently a temporary stepped bridge is in place, which will be replaced by a 3metre wide ramped bridge when work is completed in the next couple of months (narrower than the previous 3.6m bridge, but wider than the 2m replacement originally planned by Network Rail). New A-frame cycle access gate and Radar gate to be installed to prevent motor cycle/equestrian access.

Railway Path near Bitton Station

- We are proposing to resurface the cyclepath between Avon Valley Rail Station and the BANES boundary in the early summer. Current unconfirmed dates were late May/early

June. Unfortunately the path will have to be fully closed from the Bitton station through to the authority boundary for the duration this work. We will be discussing the logistics of the scheme over the coming weeks and will distribute the information through the cycle forum once the details have been finalised. Forum members asked that a closure over the bank holiday weekend be avoided if possible. The possibility of whether reducing speed limits, temporarily, on diversionary routes could be considered was raised, as well as whether any use could be made of the parallel railway line. **LL will feed this back to the team planning the work.**

An update was requested on the timescale for Network Rails replacement of Pearce's Railway Bridge in Stoke Gifford. **LL to investigate and update the forum.**

Maintenance Issues

Problems were raised in relation to Farm Lane (NCN4), which is in a muddy condition, and is partially blocked at the Western Approach estate end due to construction works.

LL advised that whilst all maintenance issues reported through the Cycle Forum email address were passed on to StreetCare colleagues, Forum members should report maintenance issues directly to StreetCare in the first instance in order to get the quickest response. This can be done either by emailing StreetCare@southglos.gov.uk or through the [link](#) on our website.

Open Forum

CPNN Airfield site planning application - The Council are seeking feedback from the Forum on this recently submitted developer application, details will be forwarded to Forum members in the morning with a consultation document.

Forum members requested that the Council make every effort to ensure that cycle infrastructure be installed up front in new developments, and not as an afterthought when a certain number of homes are occupied. A suggestion was raised to hold of a pot of money to pay for early installation, which could then be re-charged to developers once occupation levels were reached. Officers will consider whether this is feasible for future developments, but flagged up the financial and viability issues that arise from new development which often makes it difficult to deliver infrastructure up front.

Concerns were raised over the safety of the retail park exit to the Abbey Wood MoD roundabout. Now that the retail park is much busier, cyclists are often finding cars coming off at this exit without indicating. A request was made that the Council considers ways to make this safer for cyclists. Councillor Hutchinson reported that he has looked at this issue with the Area Engineer, Jon Lewis. LL will discuss this issue with the Assess and Decide team.

Cycle routes along Hayes Way were discussed, and it was confirmed that three separate schemes are currently being developed, which are:

- A developer funded route, through the centre of the development.
- A developer/Council funded route along the northern side of Hayes Way, which is intended as a quick fix, which will not be a full standard cycle track.
- A full standard cycle route along the south side of Hayes Way, as part of the recent Cycle City Ambition Grant Bid.

Concerns were raised over two elements of the MetroBus plans, firstly that the eastbound bus lane off of Aztec West roundabout is now planned for the right hand lane, and not the middle lane as it should be. Secondly that getting onto the cycle path when heading northbound towards Peartree roundabout will be difficult as the 45 degree turn will result in loss of momentum (although this is an improvement on the previous plan for a 90 degree turn). **A session to discuss how MetroBus plans affect cyclists was requested for the next forum meeting.**

Some Forum members felt that consultation with the Forum often comes too late to make a difference, it was noted that this is sometimes unavoidable due to the short timescales often given for submission of funding bids. LL mentioned that the Council are already taking steps to improve consultation on future schemes, and will aim to consult with the Forum at the earliest opportunity.

Update on Local Transport Funding bids

JS confirmed that we have been successful in our bid for Cycle City Ambition Funding for 2015-18. This includes the following key projects:

- Improvement at the Bromley Heath Bridge to provide a better cycle route across the structure.
- Installation of lighting on feeder routes into the Ring Road path.
- Improvement of the cycle route at Church Road, near to Parkway Station.
- Construction of a cycle route alongside Hayes Way.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.