

Minutes

South Gloucestershire Cycle Forum

Location: UWE, Frenchay Campus, room 4E04
Time & Date: **6 pm on Wednesday 20th May 2015**

Attending:

Lee Lodder (SGC)
Helen Young (SGC)
Darren Davison (SGC)
Jon Harris (Harris Ethical)
Luke Turner (Harris Ethical)
James Morvan (UWE)
Andrew Gough (Bristol Cycle Campaign)
Terry Miller (Bristol Cycle Campaign)
Richard Burton (CTC)
Jason Spinney (Lifecycle PT)
Mike Pearce (Sustrans Ranger)
Roy Brewster (cyclist)
Bryan Huish (Rolls Royce BUG)
Craig Ellis (cyclist)
David Smith (cyclist)

South Gloucestershire Cycling Strategy

Consultants Harris Ethical have been commissioned to draft the South Gloucestershire Cycling Strategy Document, and will be leading workshops in June to help gather information for this work.

JH introduced himself and outlined the work they will be doing in the coming months. The workshops will be bringing together Council officers from various teams with volunteers from employers, the cycle forum, and others. They are intended to gather opinions on priority cycle routes, suitable design standards and other issues, in order to inform our development of a formal cycling strategy document.

It was asked what the terms of reference for this work were. JH confirmed that he and LL would put together a 1 page summary of the brief for this work, which will be shared with the forum by email.

The workshops will be held on Tuesday 9th June and Monday 22nd June, more details on time, venue and content of these workshops will be provided through the cycle forum email group next week.

Cycle Route Maintenance

DD from the Councils Asset and Infrastructure team presented the plans that are being developed to assess the current condition of the adopted cycle route network, and to create a hierarchy of cycle routes which will be used to set the service standards for future maintenance work.

The work will initially be focused only on the cycle routes that are adopted (and the Bristol and Bath Railway Path) but will then be extended to incorporate other types of cycle route, such as on-carriageway cycle lanes, Public Rights Of Way routes.

It was agreed that the emerging hierarchy would be discussed as part of the cycle strategy workshops to be held in June.

Railway Path Closure

DD also gave an update on the planned closure of the Bristol and Bath Railway Path between Bitton Station and Saltford for resurfacing work. Works will take place between the 1st and 19th June and every effort will be made to re-open the path at weekends when possible. He confirmed that there will now be a signed diversion route through Keynsham, on which there are shared use paths along the majority of the route.

It was suggested that social media be used to notify people of times when the path will be open, as was recently done successfully in Bath. DD will ask the team to consider this.

Henfield Road

LL outlined two possible options for a speed reduction scheme that include cycle lanes on Henfield Road, one involving a single advisory cycle lane in the direction of Coalpit Heath, and the other involving advisory cycle lanes in both directions which would require cars to move into the cycle lanes when passing oncoming traffic. It was stressed that this was not a formal consultation, and that the scheme was still just a proposal at present as the Parish council had not approved or been consulted on the two cycle lane option, but in line with requests for the cycle forum to be consulted early, attendees were asked for their thoughts on the suitability and effectiveness of either option.

It was generally agreed that the two lane option provided a better solution for cyclists, and that it was worthwhile pursuing, but concerns were raised over the following points:

- would the volume of traffic be sufficient to create conflict required to reduce speed?
- is the road too winding for this to be a safe option? Previous similar schemes tend to be on straight sections of road.
- would there be increased the risk of a cyclist having a head on collision with a car?
- Frequent cycle repeater symbols on the lane would be needed.

- coloured surfacing in the cycle lanes would increase effectiveness.

UWE Cycle Plans

JM outlined the current UWE plans for improving cycling facilities on the Frenchay campus site. They will soon be building a large new secure cycle parking facility that would include 140 parking spaces, cycle lockers and a Dr Bike facility. A new cycle loan scheme for students is going to start in September, which will be expanded if successful. There are also plans (subject to securing sufficient funding) for a cycle greenway route through the middle of the campus, which would be a significant improvement on the current cycle route.

JM hopes to attend cycle forum meeting regularly and will provide updates on routes when they are available.

Bromley Heath Road Crossing

LL presented two possible options for an improvement to the Bromley Heath Road Crossing point, which were identified by an options report funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Package. Concerns have been raised in the past about the narrow waiting area for eastbound cyclists wanting to use this crossing which is part of the Ring road Path and Cycle Trunk Route.

Again this is very much an early consultation, as we are still investigating the extent of the current problem, but attendees were asked for their thoughts on which of the options were preferred, and whether either would provide an improvement that represented good value for money.

It was agreed that the second option (involving a build out into the HOV lane) would provide the better solution, but there were concerns over whether either option addressed the real problem with this crossing, which was that it was a significant diversion from the ring road. There was also concern that the build out might increase risk to on-carriageway cyclists turning left (if there are any).

Open Forum

A number of on-going issues from the issues log distributed before the meeting were discussed. Including:

Conflict with pedestrians at Patchway Common Park. DS asked for further legal confirmation of situation with use of the path. LL asked him to email again so that we can ask for further legal advice. Also an issue with cyclist dismount signs.

RB said he was aware of an accident involving a cyclist on one of the A38 Patchway slip roads. LL will check this with the Strategic Road Safety Team, and update the issues log if required.

There was a request for the issues log to have a date raised and officer responsible column. LL to consider.

Members also confirmed they wanted the meetings to concentrate on 'strategic' issues and not spend too long discussing the issues log.

LL confirmed the issues log will be updated and distributed prior to every meeting.

An update on progress with constructing the Yate Spur was requested. LL explained that funding had been secured for constructing the next section in the current financial year, which would provide an off road route as far as the Dodmoor level crossing, north of Westerleigh village. With further funding, subject to confirmation, intended to complete the route to Shire Way in Yate during 2016/17.

The current local political situation was discussed. It was confirmed that how SGC will be run and the Lead Members for Transport from each Party will be agreed at the meeting of full Council on 27th May.

RB made a statement about the lack of good practice examples for cycling in South Glos.

Dates of Future Meetings

It was suggested to move the September meeting to the following week as 3rd Sept falls in Bank Holiday week so some may be unable to attend.

(Post Meeting Note: due to officer availability the next possible alternative date is Thurs 24th Sept, Forum members will be asked for a preference between these two dates by email)

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.