

# BOURNEMOUTH CYCLING FORUM



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 commencing at 6pm**

## **Members present:**

John Hayter (Chair) - JH  
Martin Handford (Secretary) (BU) – MH  
Steve Garrett – SG  
Lucy Marstrand (BBC) – LM  
Ray O'Luby Throop/Townsend Forum – Ro'L  
Russell Merry – Hotwheels  
Ian Warren – Bournemouth University  
Harry Munday – Bournemouth University  
Reece Bush-Evans – Bournemouth University  
Emma Worgan – Bournemouth University  
Cllr Roger West (BBC) - RW  
Cllr Dave Smith (BBC) - DS

## **Apologies**

Lawrence Harrell - LH  
Cllr Cheryl Johnson (BBC) – CJ  
Tim Sanders (Discover Dorset) - TS  
David Brown (PBC Bug Leader).  
Peter Dulieu (CTC, DCN) – PD  
Cllr Parker (PBC) - RP  
Sally Funnell (PBC) - SF

## **Minutes of meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

It was noted that the minutes needed to show that the road in question in the Cycling Officers report was Clarendon Road and not as identified by the officer as

## **Talbot Avenue**

John Hayter expressed disappointment that this section of the Lansdowne to Wallisdown cycle route still does not have a properly marked out cycle path despite the March meeting being advised that it had been agreed and was going to take place. He read out an email from Inspector Neil MacBean of Dorset Police, a member of this Forum and cyclist who daily uses the Talbot Avenue route (see attached). The email refers to the cycle route along Poole Road and installed by Poole Borough Council which has narrower than normal cycle paths. Peter Delieu said that paths narrower than the recommended 1.5 metres are just links eg as on Sandbanks Road, where the cycle path is down to just 1 metre. It was noted that other councils have provided routes narrower than 1 metre when they were needed. Martin Handford reminded the meeting that this route is a main route out of Bournemouth and that there is an even greater need now that the university has been given permission to build and has therefore built

new student accommodation blocks and new teaching blocks at the Lansdowne. Although this is a main artery road students are still being forced onto the pavements. Cllr Roger West stated his agreement to this. The Bournemouth University said that they had carried out research in the centre of Bournemouth on cycling and more and more people want more cycle lanes. Lucy Marstrand said research showed that where cycle lanes are less than 1.5 metres wide car drivers will go closer to cyclists because they drive to the line. The council had considered removing the central line and putting in 1.5 metre advisory cycle lanes. However council officers had subsequently decided that they would not remove the centre line due to the vehicle flow of 22,000 cars per day. The council is now considering the possibility of some “minor” road widening and putting in cycle lanes.

The meeting expressed grave concern that although the scheme had been agreed there had not been any discussion with or announcement to councillors prior to the scheme being changed. There was a concern from the councillors and from the meeting in general about the current council processes.

However the meeting and the councillors were very vocal in their appreciation of the work that Lucy Marstrand does as Cycling Officer at BBC and for the many benefits that have already been seen since she was appointed to her post. It was noted that it had previously been difficult to get the same level of important views on cycling into road and building schemes. Her presence at the meetings enable strong discussions to take place and the meeting applauded her knowledge and advice at Forum meetings. The meeting did register concern that there was no longer a presence from senior officers from Bournemouth Borough Council in attendance at Forum meetings although there had been a presence at meetings in the past but which had ceased when management had changed. The meeting asked Lucy to try to encourage her senior colleagues to attend future meetings whenever possible

### **Other Council schemes**

Lucy Marstrand mentioned that there is a possibility of match funding from Cycling England for schemes in Woodland Walk and Kings Park. Currently though the council have limited funding and resources. John Hayter said that the forum needs to keep a track of requests that it makes and any results to requests.

### **Throop to Hurn.**

The meeting was told that Hurn Parish councillors and Christchurch Council members had forced a decision on this scheme to go to the Dorset county Council Committee meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. That meeting then decided that they could not make a formal decision without a site visit. Sustrans have agreed therefore that they would extend the “sign up” time. The Visiting Committee will take place in July. Cllr Roger West suggested writing to all relevant DCC councillors to canvas their support for the scheme. John Hayter reminded the meeting that the report to the committee had been fully in support of the scheme. Cllr West said that he would attend the DCC Committee meeting in Dorchester.

### **Cycle for Summer**

The Bournemouth University students present at the meeting explained about their campaign – Cycling for Summer and the survey and other work that they had already carried out in Bournemouth Town Square. Some of the desires of people that they interviewed were

- Cycling along the beach front
- More secure cycle parking in town
- A cycle path in Talbot Avenue
- Priority for cyclists at junctions/traffic lights – as in Holland
- To be able to feel safe cycling

The meeting watched a film that the students had made of some of their interviews and recognised it as a good example of the public voice. The students have set up a website – [www.cycleforsummer.co.uk](http://www.cycleforsummer.co.uk) – and advised that they were receiving many responses from those that they had met. People interviewed had also said that Bournemouth Town Centre was not cycle friendly, there are no routes through the Square, where can cyclists put their helmets, there is too little cycle parking. John Hayter referred the meeting to the CTC (Cycling Touring Club of Great Britain) document “Safety in Numbers” which says that there is greater safety for cyclists when cycling is more common because of the larger numbers cycling. He also said that there was a need for an increase in the number of 20 mph speed limit towns – where the limits make cyclists feel more safe. Martin Handford said that experience at the university showed that people often didn’t cycle because of their “fear” of cycling accidents. Councillor Dave Smith reminded the Forum that there is a need to get schemes from ideas into actual actions. Russell Merry suggested that the local councils need integrated plans such as is seen in the Transport for London schemes.

### **Cycling Officer’s Report**

**(A formal copy of the written report provided by Lucy Marstrand is to be found in Appendix A at the end of these minutes).**

**Talbot Avenue** – the council are considering a possible plan to thin the trees in the road and some road widening. John Hayter suggested that the same solution is not needed along the whole of the route.

**Cemetery Junction** – Cycling England have been asked to report but have not yet provided anything.

#### **Parley Cross**

Dorset County Council are building a cycle track from Parley Cross to the airport. The Forum queried how people from Bournemouth might use that – perhaps via New Road. Peter Delieu said that there was no problem with New Road except that there would be a lot of cyclists going to the airport industrial estate. Accordingly the the Forum agreed that the important thing is to ensure that a cycle path is put in from Parley Cross to Bournemouth.

**Wessex Way** – John Hayter says that a bid has been put in by Dorset County Council for a re-construction of the A338. This means that Bournemouth can put in a cycle path from the Cooper Dean roundabout to Blackwater Junction on the grass verge alongside the A338. He said that it was important the Bournemouth Borough council have their funding ready so that they can create their cycle path as the work on the A338 takes place.

**Rocco Sports Centre** – Cllr West told the meeting that the privately owned Rocco Sports Centre had recently been bought by Bournemouth Borough Council and was planned to be expanded and become the Kinson equivalent of Littledown Sports Centre. Accordingly he suggested that the council must ensure that cycle paths to the Centre from the surrounding areas and cycle facilities – lock ups etc must be put in. Lucy Marstrand was asked to note.

(John Hayter reminded that cycling issues which cross the local authority boundaries are often difficult to manage but are so vital).

**Christchurch Road** – The meeting was advised that some new bus lanes and cycle lanes are being put in. The council's Design team are looking to make changes around the junction of Christchurch Road and manor road.

**Woodland Walk** – New links and crossings are being installed at the ends of Woodland Walk, Boscombe

**Cycling England** – visited the council and gave training to the council's highways Design team about designing in cycling facilities.

**Horseshoe Common** – John Hayter asked what was happening about the long proposed cycle path across the common. Lucy Marstrand advised that the responsibility for this cycle path lies with the council's Leisure Services. The meeting noted that the cycle path is in fact shown on the new Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch cycle routes map.

**Traffic lights** – Cllr West queried the design of traffic lights. He told the meeting that a trial is being sought by CTC where traffic lights start first for cyclists and then for cars.

### **Chairs Report.**

John Hayter reported that he had met with Lucy Marstrand to discuss the new cycle map. He has also been to a number of meetings about Connect 2. He informed the Forum that the Sandbanks Ferry Company want to put up charges. The Forum did not give a formal response. The Chair also attended a meeting of the Christchurch Action Group. They want a cycle path along Barrack Road and a central reservation near Iford Bridge. He has also met with members of Dorset County Council to discuss the proposed cycle path alongside the Wessex Way. He noted that he had received an email complaint about tree roots which are affecting the cycle path in Glenfurness Avenue. He also advised the meeting that a new dentist's surgery near Rothesay Road. This has resulted in people parking across the whole of the day in the cycle lane. He suggested that double yellow lines are needed to stop this obstruction of the cycle lanes. Discover Dorset have now started up a cycle hire based at the beach near Bournemouth pier. He told the meeting that there has been no progress in the provision of a cycle path at Slades Farm as the council are waiting for a decision on a planning application for the development of Town Green.

(Cllr West requested that the woodland from the university roundabout to Slades Farm be illuminated).

### **AOB.**

#### **Cycling along the Seafront**

Russell Merry suggested that there should be a cycle path along the seafront – going 2 ways. He said that users, beach hut users and cyclists can co-exist. By putting in cycle lanes all people would then know what to expect.. Lucy Marstrand said that the current thinking among some cycling organisations is that by putting in markings cyclists' speed increases. She said that the seafront was a "shared" space and should not be "segregated". Peter Delieu suggested that the current limit for cyclists of 10 mph was inappropriate – being too fast when people are about. The meeting queried whether it is an actual offence to travel at speeds greater than 10 mph along those areas of the prom marked at that speed. John Hayter said that he had written to the local media making a strong request for some form of enforcement. Lucy Marstrand was asked to discuss with Chris Saunders of Leisure Services. The Forum noted that the seafront is a main cycling commuter route for people travelling from Christchurch at one end to Poole, Hamworthy, and even Wareham and Swanage at the other end. Russell Merry said that he had written asking for cycle lanes and suggested that the signs should be changed from "No Cycling" to "Cycle with care".

### **Wilkins Bakery**

Cllr West discussed the new property development that is taking place on the old bakery site next to the Wessex Way. He noted that the “alleyway” that runs next to it was dark and over grown and therefore dangerous for walkers and cyclists. Steve Garrett said that it was in fact only a foot path. It was agreed that it needs improving. John Hayter suggested moving the Wessex Way fence a putting a cycle path along the verge. Cllr West had also visited a new development on Privett Road. The owner Dave Wells had promised to improve cycling provision at this site. John Hayter asked for a cycling contra-flow along Privett Road.

### **Talbot Road**

Martin Handford advised that he had received an email from Simon Adams at the Arts Institute where they had requested that the greenery on the central reservation be cut back to improve vision for cyclists of cars coming round from the roundabout that end of Glenfurness Avenue.

### **Town Centre Masterplan.**

The meeting was told that consultation ended that week and the Forum was invited to comment

### **Making the Forum more effective**

The meeting was concerned that it could discuss issues but they may then not be considered or put into effect by the council. It was agreed that the Forum needs to explore ways of both getting more input into the council and its decisions and more cooperation with the council.

### **Date of the next meeting**

Dates for two autumn meetings were suggested – the 8<sup>th</sup> September and the 1<sup>st</sup> December. These are yet to be confirmed.

## **Appendix A**

### **CYCLING OFFICERS REPORT**