

BOURNEMOUTH CYCLING FORUM



Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2008 commencing at 6pm

Members present:

John Hayter (Chair) - JH
Martin Handford (Secretary) (BU) – MH
Andrew Graham (JPM) - AG
Jamie Griffiths (BBC) – JG
Helen Wildman (BBC) – HW
Adrian Hale (BBC) – AH
Lucy Marstrand (BBC) – LM
Peter Dulieu (CTC, DCN) – PD
Mark Kelly (Dorset Police) – MK
Ray O'Luby Throop/Townsend Forum – Ro'L
Richard Nelms (RBCH) - RN
Sally Funnell (PBC) - SF
Cllr Roger West – RW
Steve Garrett – SG
John Thraves (Sustrans) – JT
Cllr David Smith - (BBC) - DS
Cllr Bob Lawton – (BBC) - RL
Cllr Lisa Northover (BBC) – LN
Julie White (Urban Evolution)

Apologies

Neil MacBean (Dorset Police) - NMcB
Graham Wood - GW
Terry Walsh - TW
Angela Pooley - AP
Lucy Taussig - LT
Cllr Parker - BP
Keith Bichard – KB
Ben Prescott (JPM) - BP
John Vugniaux (CTC, DCN, Sustrans) - JV

Minutes of meeting November 2007

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

Bournemouth Air Festival

Jamie Griffiths and Helen Wildman from Bournemouth Borough Council told the meeting of this new free event. The event will take place from August 28th to August 31st based on the sea front between Bournemouth and Boscombe piers. There will flying

displays overhead, static displays, commercial trading stands, catering and static displays on the promenade between 10 am and 6 pm each day. It is expected that the event will bring between 250 -500,000 visitors to the town. Accordingly BBC traffic management are considering the traffic issues for the event. Parking on the prom between the 2 piers will be banned for this period and the council will be encouraging other means of transport to and from the event. Accordingly HW and JG asked forum members for their views. MH suggested that they contact DCN, Sustrans, and local bike shops in the area including Forest Leisure Cycling and Primera Sports. They plan to put extra cycle stands in and it was suggested by the Forum that some of these should be at the top of the zigzags leading to the beach. JH also suggested publicising the parking restrictions and some safe cycling routes. AH said that the council would be looking at ways to promote cycling to the event and said that BBC currently has some 50 cycling racks in store. Cllr Lawton said that the event would be high intensity all day. It is possible that several park and ride schemes would be introduced. Extra traffic wardens will be on duty and parking on grass verges etc – as per happens (illegally) when the Red Arrows display team come down would not be allowed. He said the council is hoping that traders will stay open later to encourage visitors to the event to stay later and so ease traffic congestion. There may be some car-free bus routes. Cllr West suggested Monkey Island as a possible large cycle stand area.

Cycling on the prom.

Councillor Lawton advised the meeting that he had reached agreement with Poole Borough Council over common opening/closing times for the promenade during the summer. The prom will now be open along its length and will close from 10 am to 6 pm from the 1st July until 31st August. This represents a considerable shift by PBC and is seen as something that will offer great benefits for cycling commuters between the two towns. The forum records its thanks to both council and to members of the Forum who have worked on achieving this with particular thanks to Angela Pooley and Peter Deliu.

Cycle path in Talbot Avenue

Adrian Hale has discussed the issue of completion of the painting of the cycle path with Cllr Lawton. BBC have asked that evidence to support the need be sent to AH, RL or LM who will then take the request on to the Cabinet.. MH told the meeting that the changes initiated so far have increased risks of speeding and therefore for more people to end up cycling along the pavement. This was also the view of Cllr West. He told the meeting that the Higher Blandford Road in Poole looks as narrow as Talbot Avenue but it has a proper cycle path. AH said that the ideal width for the road per carriageway is 4.5 metres with the cycle path taking 1.5 metres. MH said that the Forum had previously been told that the road was 8.6 metres wide in total and that the cycle paths were therefore 1.2 metres each. Cllr West also noted that the visibility was adversely affected by the overhanging trees and that the surface of the road was poor in places next to the curb. AH suggested that the trees need to be thinned. Cllr Lawton said that he has no objection in principle to the painting in of the remainder of the cycle path lining.

Connect2

No report is yet available on the progress on the Bournemouth scheme. The meeting was told that the Steering Group for the scheme will meet on 30th January. JH expressed concerns about the delivery of the scheme. He and LM will be in attendance.

Forum Wish List.

AH said that he is developing a Bournemouth/SE Dorset cycling strategy. He referred the meeting to his paper which formed part of his BBC Officer's Report – see Appendix A. He referred to the report mentioned by MH from the NHS (<http://www.nice.org.uk/PH008>) and another from Cycling England promoting cycling as a means to improving health. In his strategy he stated that it will be important to consult with many different groups including cyclists and non-cyclists.. He will also be working with the Leisure and Tourism Department of BBC looking at cycling routes.

Mark Kelly of Dorset Police suggested blocking off roads to stop “rat runs”. He said it is important to recognise problem areas and to join up cycle routes where possible. AH said there was a need to what the routes are. It was noted that signing needs to be improved. Cllr West said that too many barriers in alley ways made some cycling difficult. The meeting was told that a report was needed on the gyratory system at Ensbury Park. Richard Nelms told the meeting that RBCH was going to increase car parking by developing a “double decking” of the current car park. Along with this they intend to create bus parking at the front of the hospital and increase the amount of cycle parking. John Thraves reminded the meeting that it is important for a “core strategy” to be created for Dorset and for communication between the various councils and cycle groups. Cllr Smith advised that a paper has been prepared on the future use of cemeteries. These form big land areas in Bournemouth which could be used for cycling. LM said this had been discussed at the council's cycling meeting.

JH suggested that we should ask Dorset County Council to carry out a test situation by putting in a cycle path alongside the Wessex Way from Christchurch to the Blackwater junction. It was also noted that a cycle path is needed outside RBCH because cyclists currently have to cycle on the road – which is very busy.

The meeting agreed to defer discussion on the NICE document – (guidance on environments to encourage physical activity) until the next meeting.

Officers Report

A full, detailed copy of the officers report is attached.

However the meeting also noted the following:-

Lansdowne to Mallard Road - new double yellow lines has removed parked cars and has improved the route for cyclists.

Richmond Park Road – this needs to be made easier for cyclists. Double yellow lines down one side has improved the road for cyclists but there is still a section of road where yellow lines need to be put down. The route is also not signed. LM to investigate with MH.

Wellington Road – MH said that the introduction of double yellow lines and then a cycle path on either side has very much improved this route for cyclists. AH welcomed the comments and requested members of the Forum to feedback on other roads where schemes do/do not work well.

Cemetery Junction – this was again noted as being an area that really doesn't work for cyclists. The meeting noted that whilst there had been a fatality of a foreign student at this junction the accident had not been due specifically to the junction itself. The council acknowledges the concerns about this junction. LM to visit with MH. Cllr smith said that there was need to stop roads from becoming “car parks”. AH agreed that there is a need to maintain traffic flows.

Holdenhurst Road/Kings Park. – MH requested that a cycle path was developed on the grass verge alongside Holdenhurst Road from the underpass under the Wessex Way to the roundabout which is at the end of the slip road off the Wessex Way/ entrance to Kings Park. He noted that there was clear evidence of people using the underpass and then cycling on the grass up to the roundabout. Cllr Smith agreed with this need. AH/LM agreed to review Wessex Way.

Cycle Parking Schemes.

AH says BBC has 50 cycle stands in store to allocate out. LM to view areas of the town to decide where to site them. MH advised that the Forum has been offered £2000 for cycle stands in Boscombe. Cllr Lisa Northover expanded on the reason for the offer. There is an urgent need to hand this money over – though the Forum currently does not have a bank account. JH suggested that DCN and CTC have bank accounts where the funds could be lodged temporarily whilst the Forum decide on both the location and the type of stand. It was suggested that the stands should be put as close as possible to the point of “destination”. Peter Dulieu propose that the stands be put in appropriate places in the precinct. The proposal was seconded by MH – LM to investigate and arrange the spending of the money. AH advised that there have been requests for cycling across the Square to the Pier. He advised that the council has to be mindful of all users.

Corhampton Rd cycle path. Peter Dulieu queried why this cycle path was in place. AH suggested that it was because this was a parallel route to the main Boscombe to Iford link which is very busy with traffic.

Chair’s Report.

JH told the meeting that he had got a press release and photo in the Bournemouth Echo concerning the Forum. AP represented the Forum at the Scrutiny panel meeting. The Forum agreed to provide a “contact” group to meet with AH and LM to look at schemes. It was proposed, and agreed, that the group comprise John Hayter, Martin Handford, Ben Prescott, Inspector Neil MacBean/ Mark Kelly, a representative from CTC, a representative from DCN, a representative from Sustrans, Angela Pooley. Cllr Smith suggested that all of the above be on an email group to facilitate the passage of information.

JH told the meeting that he had discussed the cycle parking at Beales Place with Roger Parker, Town Centre manager. Some stands have been removed whilst gas work is carried out. He suggested removing a car space and replacing with stands.

Cllr Smith requested that any old bikes left on stands which have then been vandalised need to be removed to keep the town tidy. Sally Funnel said that Poole borough council first put a notice on the bike advising the owner that the bike will be removed if left there. DCN run a scheme to “recycle” bikes in Weymouth. Mark Kelly said that the Police are working on the removal of old bikes.

AOB

Cllr Lisa Northover advised that she and Julie White have received funding from Urban Evolution to purchase 5 bikes to hire out in Boscombe to locals and holiday makers. The bikes will be load carrying bikes and maybe hired out from the sea front.

Date of the next meeting

AH is to look at the council calendar and advise JH of appropriate possible dates

Bournemouth Borough Council Officer's Report
for Bournemouth Cycle Forum Meeting 29.01.2008

1. Appointment of a Cycling Officer and a Rights of Way Officer

- 1.1 Lucy Marstrand has been appointed as a dedicated part time Cycling Officer. Bev Lagden has also been appointed as a dedicated part time Rights of Way Officer and will deal with bridleways and byways.

2. Bournemouth / S.E. Dorset Cycling Strategy

- 2.1 In order to secure improvements in cycling facilities within Bournemouth and the wider area it is important that proposals receive local support if they are to be implemented.

- 2.2 If this is to be achieved it is important that a robust Cycling Strategy is in place, backed by clear evidence of the reasons why it is important that cycling facilities are improved. Often in the past individual cycling schemes have not gained support as local people have not understood how the scheme fits into the important 'bigger picture'.

- 2.3 Within Bournemouth we have therefore just embarked on a complete review of our cycling strategy. This review will include, but not be limited to: -

- Highlighting the importance of cycling and how it relates to other initiatives, e.g. climate change, tackling obesity etc.
- A detailed consultation exercise with user groups, members of the public, non-users etc;
- Identifying and assessing cycling routes, i.e. commuter routes; school routes; social routes; recreational routes; (this will include looking at existing routes, proposed routes and requests for new routes – e.g. the BCF Wish List);
- A review of cycle parking and other such facilities;
- A review of employers' Green Travel Plans and the facilities that employers provide to encourage cycling.
- How to improve the promotion of cycling, e.g. campaigns, maps etc.
- The production of a Cycling Action Plan

- 2.4 We understand the importance of providing a joint strategy for the S.E. Dorset area. We have therefore also held preliminary discussions with the Borough of Poole, Dorset County Council and the health sector who have all agreed the need to develop a S.E. Dorset Cycling Strategy.

3. Update on Cycle Schemes in Bournemouth

- 3.1 Talbot Avenue Cycle Facilities.

There has been feedback from the Forum that some users consider that the current discontinuous line markings are inadequate. The matter has been taken up with Cllr Lawton but it would be helpful if any evidence that Forum members hold on user's views is passed to the Council officers in order to support any case for altering the markings.

3.2 Lansdowne Rd to Mallard Rd Cycle Route

This route continues to be pursued. Double yellow lines are being installed down parts of Richmond Park Road.

3.3 Manor Road/Gervis Road.

This scheme incorporates a shared cycle path/footway as a contra-flow to the one-way system. Work starts in first week in March.

3.4 Wellington Road Cycle Lanes

This scheme has now been operating for 8 months.

3.5 Cemetery Junction

Lucy Marstrand will undertake a review of this junction with other traffic officers.

3.6 Wessex Way Cycle Route

Using existing footpaths it will be possible to link existing cycle paths from Wellington Rd to Queens Park. Final design work is now being undertaken – and will be brought forward for implementation subject to approvals.

3.7 Poole Road Cycle Route

The Queen's Road junction scheme has commenced. Advanced Stop Lines will be provided on the main Poole Road but not the side roads. The reason that they are not being provided on the side roads is to satisfy visibility design criteria.

3.8 Cycle Parking Schemes

50 cycle stands are in store. Locations will be identified and a programme developed for installation. Tuckton Library cycle stands are on order and suitable locations for stands at Tuckton and Southbourne crossroads have now been established

4. Cycling on the Bournemouth/Poole Promenade

4.1 Following discussions with Cllr Lawton the decision has now been taken not to alter the cycling restriction dates in Bournemouth. Therefore Bournemouth will retain the summer restrictions of July and August only. As previously reported Poole is changing its cycle restriction times to 10am-6pm to tie in with Bournemouth (previously 10am to 7pm) and is now also looking at whether to change their dates from mid-June to mid September to July/August. However, this may not be possible for this summer 2008.