

BOURNEMOUTH CYCLING FORUM



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 commencing at 6pm

Members present:

John Hayter (Chair) - JH
Martin Handford (Secretary) (BU) – MH
Andrew Graham (JPM Bug) – AG
Lawrence Harrell - LH
Ian Kalra (BBC) - IK
Angela Pooley (East Dorset FOE)- AP
Tim Sanders (Discover Dorset) - TS
Lucy Marstrand (BBC) – LM
Ray O'Luby Throop/Townsend Forum – Ro'L
Mike Turner (BBC) - MT
Terry Walsh (CTC) – TW
Richard Nelms (RBCH) – RN
Cllr Cheryl Johnson (BBC) – CJ
David Chesworth (CTC) – DC
Barry Rossell – BR
Steve Garrett – SG
Tony Prickett (CTC) – TP
Jenny Ansell (FoE) – JA

Apologies

Peter Dulieu (CTC, DCN) – PD
Cllr Parker (PBC) - RP
Ben Prescott – BPt
Sally Funnell (PBC) - SF
Jason Falconer (Sustrans Bike It Officer) – JF
James Duncan BBC) - JD

Minutes of meeting 17th December 2008

It was noted that, due to an administrative error some people had not received copies of the minutes of the previous meeting. However copies of the minutes were given out at this meeting and were then reviewed. LM asked that the minutes be amended to say that cycle commuting is one of the main issues of the council's cycling Strategy. Other main issues are Safer Cycling to schools and Leisure Cycling. Other than this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Ensbury Park Gyrotory

Ian Kalra (BBC) introduced the discussion on this major road system. He presented preliminary drawings/maps and discussed the major considerations facing any scheme for this area. He said that both North to South and West to East routes were main

routes. The system also carried major bus routes and there were a number of schools in the very near area. However the council recognises the need for cycle routes here. Accordingly they hope to have an exhibition of proposals on show at one of the local schools to get the views of the public. The whole junction is very sensitive to traffic signals. Incorrect positioning and/or working of traffic signals can lock up the whole of the gyratory. Considerable consideration has already been given to this road system over a number of years. The council want to reduce the traffic queues in Columbia Road. Currently traffic on Redhill Drive can also queue. It is hoped that the current proposal will enable the “offroad” cycle paths to be extended. However this scheme would see the removal of the subway. Extra crossings would be brought in as well as more advance stop lines. The council say that they now bring in advance stop lines when carrying out other road improvements.

(With the meeting discussing ASL’s (advance stop lines) Cllr Johnson suggested that ASL’s were urgently required at the junction of Richmond Park Road and Bennett Road. Angela Pooley said that the junction of Alma Road and Charminster Road needed ASL’s were needed on all sides. Martin Handford said that similarly ASL’s were needed at the junction of Alma Road and Heron Court Road.).

Steve Garrett asked that access ways were made long enough for cyclists.

The council reminded those present that schemes have to have a “balanced” design to meet the needs of buses, cycling, cars and pedestrians.

Talbot Avenue – Update.

The design process has been brought in for this scheme. The council staff have expressed concern about taking out the centre line because of documentation available (see note at the end of this item with further information supplied by Lucy Marstrand subsequent to the meeting) about the effect of such action on such roads with high volumes of traffic. An accident analysis was carried out. Consequently the council officers now recommend just putting in “green” cycle paths at the side road junctions plus a further 10 metres on one side of the junction. The centre line will now be kept. MH said that many would be disappointed with this change to what had been promised as it is a major cycling route used by students, school children going to schools in Ensbury Park, and many workers travelling in from Canford Heath and Poole, Ensbury Park etc.. Although it is also a major route for cars coming into Bournemouth these cars are invariably slow moving or stopped in rush hour. Angela Pooley and Andy Graham agreed that proper markings on the road for cyclists were needed. The Forum agreed that it must make a strong representation on this. Cllr Johnson agreed with the need for proper road markings and also asked that the road speed be reduced to 20mph. She also suggested that whole route from the university at Wallisdown to the Lansdowne should be changed to 20mph. Ian Kalra said that to achieve a 20mph limit along Talbot Avenue would require extra facilities in the road.

The meeting then discussed the possibility of an “off-road” route. This suggestion had been discussed on many previous meetings for this scheme but had been rejected by the home owners in Talbot Avenue. Lucy Marstrand said that an analysis of accidents so far in Talbot Avenue were to cyclists who had taken to cycling on the pavement in that road. A high volume of cyclists now refuse to cycle on this road and so cycle along the pavement instead. The meeting agreed that continuity of information for the cyclist on the road is of vital importance. It was noted that using other routes that Talbot

Avenue was less likely to happen as they would take cyclists away from the route that is most direct. John Hayter suggested that the Forum should at least support the planing off of Talbot Avenue and the putting in of green tarmac at junctions. The council suggest that the re-surfacing will probably take place about April.

(The following additional information was not available at the meeting but has been supplied to the Secretary separately supporting the Officer's concerns as mentioned above.

A recent study, and the only study I have found on this, shows removing centre lines slows traffic and reduces collision rates – this was on roads of 12,000 vehicles per day or less. Talbot Ave has 22,000 vehicles per day and there was a “feeling” that it would not be appropriate to remove the centre line here. I have not seen any empirical evidence on the effect of removing centre lines on roads with comparable volumes, and I am not sure any such documentation exists. In fact a Professor of Engineering had been interested in studying the scheme if it had gone ahead.)

Big Green Fortnight

Angela Pooley told the meeting that this event will take place across the town from the 15th – 31st May. She queried whether the Forum wanted to be involved. The meeting was told that the NSPCC are having a sponsored ride and Jason Falconer may host a Bike Try Out event. It was suggested that the Forum could have a stand at an event at the Pavilion on the middle Saturday.

Connect 2 – Throop to Hurn

John Hayter lead the discussion on this route. He told the meeting that he and Lucy had just returned from a long meeting at Throop. He had also attended a stakeholder meeting the week before. Christchurch Council had come up with a new scheme with a new bridge. The meeting at Throop had voted in favour of the Throop Mill Scheme. The Delivery Partnership (Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Sustrans) had announced that they were proceeding with this scheme. Sustrans say that there is only until the end of March to “sign off” the scheme in order to get funding. Bournemouth Borough Council have said that they will make a serious financial commitment to this scheme. However John Hayter said that it is expected that Hurn Councillors and residences will object to the necessary bridleway applications and planning applications for the new bridge and other elements of the scheme.

Wessex Way Improvements

The meeting was told that Dorset County Council have been given £23 million to re-build the Wessex Way around Blackwater Junction. Accordingly they have agreed to build in cycle ways along the verge from the Cooper Dean roundabout to Blackwater Junction. This is likely to take place during 2010/11.

Cycling Officer's Report

Full details of the report are shown in Appendix A.

Peter Dulieu commented by email on the Poole Road Advance Stop Line. He has asked for the council to have another look at the lead in lane on the Clarence Road junction.

Richmond Park Road

John Hayter said that there is no pedestrian phase on the lights at Richmond Park Road/Charminster Road junction and that these were “old” lights. The meeting was told

that there is no plan for the replacement of these lights. However the council recognise that some improvement works are needed at this junction and have therefore noted this request for improvements to pedestrian facilities. LM said that she is compiling a list of pedestrian crossing requests. It was noted that changes often start via the Local Transport Plan and Accessibility Schemes. The council said that the list of requests compiled by the Forum had now been included in a much bigger list and council officers were now “ranking” the requests.

Cycling Strategy

The meeting was told that it is planned that all schools will in future have to have Travel Plans. Poole Borough Council is re-working its cycling strategy and BBC and PBC have now agreed to work on a joint strategy.

New Conurbation Map.

The proof of this new map is now with LM for her to approve.

Horseshoe Common Cycle Route

A progress report on this scheme was requested. No information was able to be given to the this meeting at this time.

Development of Sustrans Route 2

John Hayter was invited to a meeting on this. Pressure is building for a new pedestrian crossing at Two Rivers Meet – across the A35.Stony Lane. However LM she had conflicting information about this. The meeting then discussed Tuckton Bridge. The meeting was told that the bridge is “listed”. It was queried whether there is a proposal to build a second bridge alongside the current one. LM said that Cycling England had viewed the location and had recommended in their report that traffic be removed from the bridge and only bikes and pedestrians be allowed to use it. Councillor Johnson suggested that there might be some match funding available as Bournemouth is a tourism centre for which some funding is available.

Cycle Storage

Cllr West had asked for this topic to be discussed in his absence. He noted that much of the new development in Bournemouth over the last 5 years had not provided secure cycle storage facilities. He asked that the council and the Forum agree to ensure that all new developments include this in future. Lawrence Harrell said that the Local Development Framework is looking at this and would like information to be given to them. Cllr Johnson said that more cycle stands were needed throughout Boscombe Precinct. JH said that the Boscombe Centre Manager has resisted cycle stands being put in the centre of the precinct. LM has said that she is working through the list of requests that she already has for more cycle stands. The Forum agreed that it would like cycle stands within the Precinct to be considered in any new Precinct scheme and for a new cycle route through the precinct. LM said that the new cycle strategy would be looking at all pedestrian areas and cycling.

Cycle Safety DVD.

Martin Handford showed the Forum part of a 20 minute DVD on cycling Safety (The Chair decided that, due to time it was not possible to show the entire DVD). Martin told the meeting that the DVD had been produced by Bournemouth University and its production company, Red Balloon Productions, in association with Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset Police, Dorset Ambulance Service and Dorset Fire and

Rescue Service. It is proposed to distribute the DVD free to all universities and colleges throughout the country and to local language schools. He suggested that he would also like to see it offered to local schools and through many other cycling related schemes. After watching the DVD, which was very well received Cllr Johnson and John Hayter said that they would like to see local senior schools having a copy each. Martin said that anyone interested should contact him at the university.

Dates of future meetings

The dates for the next meeting was not decided but was suggested for some time in the 1st or 2nd week of June in advance of the National Bike Week. JH to advise all Forum members.

It has subsequently been agreed that the next meeting will take place in the Phoebe Room at the Town Hall on Tuesday the 2nd June from 6 pm

Appendix A

CYCLING OFFICERS REPORT 4th March 2009

Update on Cycle Schemes in Bournemouth

1. Talbot Avenue

Following concerns from Road Safety and other managers, this scheme has been safety audited again. The new proposals include minimum recommended width 1.5m advisory cycle lanes at side road junctions but the road was deemed too narrow to include continuous cycle lanes.

2. Connect 2

A decision will have been made by the date of the BCF. At the last stakeholder meeting, CBC/ Hurn Parish Council threw in a new route to consider (more of an East West Route than the current preferred option) The preferred option is generally supported by landowners, Natural England, horse riders, owners of Throop Mill etc.

3. Poole Rd

Cycle lanes now down on road

4. Richmond Park Rd

No further info at this stage.

5. Cemetery Junction

A traffic count has now been carried out here. I have asked Cycling England to do a detailed report on this junction.

6. Christchurch Rd

Bus and cycle lanes beginning to be installed along this road between St. Swithun's Rbt and Knyveton/Manor Rd/Christchurch Rd junction.

Other Items

- LM and Ian Selby (Safe Routes to Schools Officer) are working with the Head of Leisure services, Roger Brown, and Sustrans to put in a bid for money from Cycling England for a route through Woodlands Walk and Kings Park
- The PCT is funding a Bike It Officer from Sustrans who is going into specific schools in Poole and Bournemouth to encourage children to cycle.
- Cycling Strategy: It has been decided to write a joint Poole and Bournemouth Cycling Strategy (as we have for Walking Strategy and for LTP) I have met with Poole Cycling Officer, Sally Funnell to discuss how to do this.
- Map is still being drawn up by cartographer.