

# MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2013

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Present: Councillor Chris Wright (Chairman)  
Councillor Richard Chatterjee  
Councillor Kathy Bee  
Andy Bebington, Cyclist Touring Club  
Austen Cooper, Croydon Cycling Campaign  
Kristian Gregory, Croydon Cycling Campaign  
Graeme Bromilow, Croydon Cycling Campaign  
Jim Bush, Right to Ride Network  
Isabelle Clement, Wheels for Wellbeing  
Rob McLean, British Cycling  
Paul Lowe, Cycling Instructor Ltd  
Ian Plowright, Croydon Council  
Sue Ritchie, Croydon Council  
Carole Crankshaw, Croydon Council  
Jessica Ellery, TfL / London borough of Croydon  
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council

## 1 /13 Apologies for absence

Apologies were presented for Alex Goodship (TfL).

## 2/13 Minutes of the 6 November 2012 meeting

Minutes were agreed as a true record, with the following amendments:

- Item 30/12: Delete the words highlighted below:

“It was commented that the East Croydon bridge constituted a missed opportunity as the ramp was too steep to be used safely by cyclists”

- Item 32/12: Amend to “*Despite the success of last year’s Bike Week, it was observed that next year’s event could be improved further by...*”

## 3/13 Matters arising

### - Access to Bikes

Efforts are being made to launch a bike shop in Croydon with 20 apprentices. Following a similar initiative in Islington, officers will be hoping to gain from their experiences

### - Olympic Legacy grant

3-4 groups within the community have applied for this funding and results should be announced by mid-April

### - Barclays sponsored bikes

These are being replaced by Barclays sponsored bike clinics

### - Cycle Hub feasibility study

This is going well and officers are hoping to establish a permanent cycle hub for East Croydon

#### **4/13 Update on the development of Croydon's Cycling Strategy**

It was announced that resources had been identified to produce a strategy. Officers suggested that a Biking Borough Report be prepared and that a separate meeting be convened to consult cycling stakeholders. It was observed that there was a natural link between the strategy and available funding streams (see agenda item 5/13). In addition, the council's public health role may bring about further opportunities to encourage cycling in the borough.

#### **5/13 Additional funding opportunities for Cyclists**

Officers outlined forthcoming TfL funding streams for cycling and explained that ideas for possible projects were beginning to be drawn up both at a borough and a sub-regional basis. Guidance on bidding was still awaited from TfL.

There will be two stages to the bidding process:

- From April to August 2013, development funding will be made available for councils to draft proposed initiatives
- From October to December 2013, successful councils will be invited to develop detailed proposals

Councillors suggested that schools should be invited to participate in developing some projects to encourage children and young people to cycle. It was also suggested that some projects be developed with London Cycling Campaign. In response to these suggestions, officers explained that no formal partnerships needed to be formed until TfL guidance was received. However, input from relevant stakeholders would be welcome.

It was observed that a number of new schools were due to open in Croydon. This was likely to lead to a significant increase in traffic volumes. It was suggested that cycle hub Biking Borough funding might present an opportunity to develop cycling programmes in these schools.

Officers stressed that it would be important for the borough to indicate its interest in bidding at the earliest opportunity.

#### **6/13 Update on the implementation of LIP funded cycling projects**

A progress report was provided on cycling related projects in the following areas:

- Oakfield Road
- Ashburton Park
- Signage on Roman Way, Mitcham Road, Abbey Road, Sydenham Road, Gravel Hill and Whytecliffe Road (Purley)
- Works on a diversion from Fitzjames Road to Mapledale Road
- A cycling route from Kingsdown Road (South Croydon) to Woodcroft Road (Purley)

#### **7/13 Update on Connected Croydon and Connect 2 Programmes**

Officers reported that bids had been assessed and that processes needed to be formalised with preferred bidders. In addition, designers have been appointed for the East and West Croydon projects.

It was suggested that matters relating to Connected Croydon and Connect 2 might be discussed at the meeting to be held on the borough's cycling strategy (see item 4/13).

With regard to the Old Town Masterplan, stakeholders were invited to provide their input on cycling issues in the area.

### **8/13 Purley Cross, Fiveways and central Croydon**

Cycle stakeholders expressed their views regarding future risks and opportunities for cyclists in Croydon as the town centre was due to undergo major redevelopment. They pointed out the need for an increased footfall in the borough as well as the health risks presented by a rising level of nitrogen oxide in the air due to high levels of car traffic. It was hoped that cycling facilities would form an integral element of forthcoming planning applications. It was also pointed out that cycling facilities could address the transport needs of both shoppers and new residents of housing to be built alongside the shopping centre. There was agreement that existing cycle routes should be extended from peripheral roads all the way to central Croydon to encourage shopping journeys to the town centre.

It was stressed, however, that a key priority for Croydon was to find ways of drawing in shoppers and regenerate the local economy.

### **9/13 Proposal for a new cycling route running west to east through the town centre connecting with North End**

Proposals for a new cycling route through the town centre were described. The route would run past the Minster, Reeves Corner, St Ann's car park, North End, Wellesley Road, Lansdowne Road and the roundabout leading to the new pedestrian footbridge to East Croydon railway station.

Officers confirmed that these plans had been forwarded to the Design Consortium. While they stated that there were no strategies to link these proposals to, it was acknowledged that finding a safe way for cyclists to get across the East Croydon railway lines continued to represent a challenge.

The forum discussed practical cycling routes across railway lines in the borough. Cycling stakeholders were informed that a bid had been submitted to the Department for Transport to strengthen and widen the bridge over South Norwood railway lines (part of Tennison Road) and that works would include new cycle lanes.

### **10/13 Bike Week**

It was suggested that Fell Road be closed for Bike Week, but cycling stakeholders were reminded that this could only be justified if the proposed activities required it. In addition, it was acknowledged that footfall in the area tended to be quite low during the weekend.

Past events had included a "kids' crash area", entertainers, trying out different types of bicycles, but it was acknowledged that an events organiser was needed to make all the necessary arrangements.

North End was suggested as an alternative location for Bike Week in view of its high weekend footfall. In addition, it would give officers the opportunity to reach out to non-cyclists.

Exchange Square was also considered. It was felt that it might be suitable for a large event or for a yearly festival which could draw increasing numbers of viewers, but would not be appropriate for a small scale event.

### **11/13 Update on contraflows**

Officers reported back to the forum on decisions regarding contraflow plans at various locations in the borough.

### **12/13 Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling Campaign**

Officers reported that Croydon was one of the five London boroughs to have subscribed to the terms of the campaign. Work was taking place to raise lorry driver awareness of risks to cyclists, and contact was being made with freight companies. Stakeholders also heard that TfL had agreed to provide London-wide training to lorry companies as risks to cyclists extended beyond borough boundaries. Officers reported back on training held in Norbury and announced that further training was planned for April-May.

### **13/13 Safety Issues on Mitcham Road**

Stakeholders reported dangers to cyclists along the whole length of Mitcham Road with motorists getting out of their cars presenting a particular risk. A range of solutions were discussed. Officers highlighted the fact that this area was linked to the cycling superhighway and that the Mayor's vision could provide a number of options for improved safety.

### **14/13 Results of the feasibility study into bringing cycle hire to Croydon**

Officers announced that the feasibility study was still awaited.

### **15/13 Removal of ghost bike memorial from the site of the fatal accident on Mitcham Road**

Stakeholders stressed that the Council should consult the community on the proposed removal of ghost bicycles and wished to know whether compensation would be paid out for damage done to the ghost bicycle removed from the location of the recent fatal accident on Mitcham Road. They were advised that the police had consulted with the family and had asked the council to remove the bicycle.

Stakeholders in turn stated that the family had not been informed and that compensation should be made for the removed bicycle, as a notice had been attached to the bicycle stating who to contact to remove the bicycle without causing damage.

### **16/13 Updates from cycle groups**

- Wheels for wellbeing have put in a successful bid to Sport for England to set up a London-wide network of organisations provide cycling for the disabled.
- Cycling training programmes continue to 80% of primary schools in the borough.
- Stakeholders described the “Skyweb” cycling social network encouraging cyclists to create their profile, link up with other cyclists and encourage each other to cycle more frequently.
- Expressions of interest were being sought to hold a “sky-ride”, possibly in the south of London; the overall cost would be £40,000.

### **17/13 Any other business**

Croydon Cycling Campaign are lobbying to improve road crossing facilities on the A22 by Hayes Lane. A “win win” solution for all is being sought.

### **18/13 Dates of future meetings**

2 July 2013  
5 November 2013  
11 March 2014

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The meeting ended at 8pm