

# MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014

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Present: Cllr Richard Chatterjee (Chairman)  
Councillor Chris Wright  
Jim Bush, Right to Ride Network  
Kristian Gregory, Croydon Cycling Campaign  
Rob McLean, British Cycling  
Paul Lowe, Cycling Instructor Ltd  
Adrian Douglas, Mott MacDonald  
Ian Plowright, Croydon Council  
Sue Ritchie, Croydon Council  
Carole Crankshaw, Croydon Council  
Linda Johnson, Croydon Council  
Jessica Ellery, Croydon Council/TfL  
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council

## **1/14 Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies were presented for Cllr Jane Avis, Isabelle Clement, Andy Bebington and Austen Cooper.

## **2/14 Minutes of the 5 November 2013 meeting (Agenda Item 2)**

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

- Lines 2 and 3 of Minute 40/13 should have stated "However, they highlighted the fact that *the Cycling Commissioner was minded to provide funding for "quietways"*
- Minute 40/13 should have stated "it was proposed that a meeting be held on Thursday 14 November for members of the Cycle Forum *to put forward and prioritise quietways proposals*"
- In minute 41/13, the amount of funding for additional cycle training should have been *£55,000*
- In Minute 41/13, the minutes should have included a "school "bike-it" officer *to be employed by Sustrans*"
- In Minute 42/13, the last sentence, "They stated that this could not be implemented as the space needed had now been set aside for a central boulevard of trees" should be deleted.
- Minute 45/13 should have stated that the initial proposal had been to raise *some of* the carriageway
- The *Cyclists' Touring Club* was included in Minute 47/13 in error

## **3/14 Review of progress on cycling 2010-2014 (Agenda Item 3)**

Officers summarised an exhaustive list of cycling projects delivered over the last four years.

Cycling group representatives expressed their disappointment over the delays in completing the Connect2 project, although it was acknowledged that it had been virtually completed by its deadline in March 2013.

It was also highlighted that some of the routes shown on TfL cycle maps had not yet been agreed, and that there was a time gap between publication and implementation.

#### **4/14 Cycling plans for 2014-2018 (Agenda Item 4)**

Officers announced that funding was available for drawing up a cycling strategy. They added that an announcement was due to be made in City Hall regarding mini-Hollands funding.

The Forum was also informed that TfL was embarking on a study of the A23, which would include an examination of the needs of cyclists on busy junctions along this road.

The Chairman reported that he had received a suggestion from Cllr Avis that consideration be given to establishing a cycle lane on Tennison bridge, as this was currently being rebuilt.

#### **5/14 Mini-Hollands: how to make sure that good ideas are preserved (Agenda Item 5)**

Officers advised the Forum that there was an opportunity to build on the bid put forward by the council through various means such as quietways and the above-mentioned study of traffic issues on the A23.

#### **6/14 Council policy and practice on one-way streets (Agenda Item 6)**

Officers stated that requests had been received for one-way streets from councillors and local residents, and that it was proposed to conduct informal consultation to ascertain the dilemmas faced by cyclists along the roads concerned. It was suggested that representatives of cycling organisations should keep abreast of Traffic Management Cabinet Committee meeting dates and reports, and contribute to the meetings of this committee to ensure that their views on proposals for one-way streets were heard.

Officers undertook to advise representatives of cycling groups of informal consultations as and when new schemes came up for consideration.

It was reported that at a previous meeting of the TMCC, there had been unanimous agreement on the perceived dangers of cycling contraflows. Cycling group representatives commented that the main problems were that traffic speeds on one-way streets tended to be higher than on two-way streets and that cyclists had to weave their way around parked cars. However, it was suggested that there was no published evidence to support contraflows being more or less dangerous than one-way streets.

#### **7/14 Improving consultation of cyclists at micro-and macro-levels (Agenda Item 8)**

Officers announced that there would be a roll-out of several Connected Croydon schemes in a short space of time and that various steering groups had been set up to manage these processes. However, it was observed that there was no direct consultation route in place to capture the views of Cycle Forum members. It was suggested by a member of the Matt Macdonald cycling group that various officers working for this company who regularly cycled along South End could share their feedback on the impact of the works on cyclists.

Cycling group representatives observed that there was no systematic approach to consulting with them. It was agreed that consideration should be given to improving processes and widening the range of consultees to involve. Officers undertook to explore ways of doing so.

#### **8/14 Safety of cyclists during the Westfield construction phase (Agenda Item 8)**

Forum members were advised that a meeting was due to take place shortly to scope issues relating to safety during redevelopment works in central Croydon - there will be 15-20 different projects in all - and officers undertook to share the resulting report with cycling group representatives as early as possible.

Officers explained that effective planning should include providing good signing to help cyclists as well as training to HGV drivers to help them address the needs of vulnerable road users.

Asked whether the report would cover the impact of works on schools and cycle training, officers stated that it might be advisable to avoid the central Croydon area during the construction phase if segregated areas could not be provided for training.

#### **9/14 British Cycling's plans for London for 2014 (Agenda Item 9)**

The representative of British Cycling reported that the organisation had provided guided rides on 200 risk-assessed routes over the last five years. The organisation was hoping to extend the programme London-wide with a seven month programme of 200 rides from April to October, introducing rides in new places to attract new riders. An advertising campaign was due to be launched soon under the name "Let's ride".

Alongside the above programme, the organisation was developing a "Breeze" programme for women only in response to consultation findings, as well as "social network" cycling activities to encourage people to make connections and encourage each other to travel by bike.

#### **10/14 Updates from Cycle Groups (Agenda Item 10)**

The Forum were advised that cycling sessions for the disabled held in Croydon Sports Arena had attracted 400 participants.

The Chairman also shared the following update on the activities of "Wheels for Wellbeing" e-mailed to him by its representative, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting (see 1/14: Apologies for absence):

1- Wheels for Wellbeing are very busy working to secure replacement funding for its current Lottery grant which ends in April (other funding continues until 2016 but the organisation's core costs need to be covered, including the sessions at the Arena)

2- Wheels for Wellbeing are developing their work on cycling policy and would welcome the opportunity to present to the next meeting the "Key Principles of Inclusive Cycling" which have been drafted by the Inclusive Cycling Forum, which Wheels for Wellbeing are coordinating.

3- Wheels for Wellbeing stress that it is critical that the development of the Arena Academy does not impact negatively on the extremely successful session run by the organisation.

The representative of British Cycling reported that an LCC meeting had taken place recently on the topic of inclusive cycling, and that an excellent presentation had been given on tangible measures to include disabled people in cycling activities.

The representative of Cycling instructor Ltd reported that all the funding for cycle training in schools had been used. He added that Saturday cycle training sessions were due to commence at Easter under the name of "On your bike", and that the organisations would supply the trainers. Cycle Forum members were also advised that the organisation had been training new instructors, including one at Bernard Weatherill House, in a deliberate effort to recruit more instructors from the local area. In addition, further to the success of "Exploring Croydon" rides run last year, Cycling Instructor Ltd were trying to identify existing groups that might be interested in running their own cycling programmes, and were getting the Voluntary Sector involved in identifying such groups.

The Cycle Forum were advised that London Cycling Campaign needed a venue for Saturday rides in late March or April.

It was announced that Bike Week would take place on 16 June this year. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Cycle Forum and officers would explore possible activities for that day.

This item ended with an update on highway schemes nearing completion.

#### **11/14 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 12)**

It was highlighted that South Norwood Country Park was waterlogged and that gravel had been washed away by the recent heavy rains. It was pointed out that this area was strategic for cycle rides.

It was reported that highway markings on quiet routes were being worn away. Officers explained that they were dealt with through a reactive maintenance programme, and that markings were also redone after resurfacing of roads had taken place.

Cycle Forum members heard that there did not appear to be any coordination between Tramlink and other agencies on cycle access from Conker avenue to Gravel Hill tram station. It was observed that this land belonged not to the council but to Transport for London, and that these two parties needed to work together to resolve access issues at that location.

It was agreed that the following agenda items would be included in the next meeting of the Cycle Forum:

- **Trams and bike safety** - it was suggested that an invitation to the next meeting be extended by the Cycle Forum to TfL officers involved in tram services. It was agreed that officers coming to the meeting should be able to answer questions on aspirational issues such as the possibility of allowing bicycles onto trams, and that they should discuss the Tramlink view of cyclists and their needs

- **The Draft Inclusive Cycling Policy** produced by Wheels for Wellbeing

## **12/14 Dates of future Cycle forum meetings**

It was announced that confirmation of the dates of 2014-2015 meetings was still awaited and that the date of the first meeting of the year would be shared as soon as the diary of council meetings had been ratified.

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**The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.**

