

MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM
TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Cllr Robert Canning (Chair)
Cllr Kathy Bee
Andy Bebington, Cyclists' Touring Club
Austen Cooper, Croydon Cycling Campaign (CCC)
Kristian Gregory, Croydon Cycling Campaign (CCC)
Isabelle Clement, Wheels for Wellbeing
Jim Bush, Right to Ride Network
Paul Lowe, Cycling Instructor Ltd
Roxanne Hackwood, Sustrans
Adrian Douglas, Mott MacDonald
Sue Ritchie, Croydon Council
Ian Plowright, Croydon Council
Carole Crankshaw, Croydon Council
Tom Sweeney, Croydon Council
Lewis Campbell, Croydon Council
Andrew Rawlingson, Croydon Council
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council

31/14 Apologies for absence and introductions (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were presented by Cllr Oliver Lewis and Pat Clouder and by Rob McLean (British Cycling).

32/14 Disclosures of interest (Agenda Item 2)

Cllrs Robert Canning and Kathy Bee confirmed that they had registered their pecuniary interests.

33/14 Minutes of the 1 July 2014 meeting (Agenda Item 3)

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

34/14 Brief overview of cycling initiatives in Croydon

Cllr Kathy Bee, Cabinet member for Transport and Environment gave an overview of current initiatives in the borough, which included the following:

- 20 mile per hour speed limits
- one-way streets and contraflows
- a cycle route on Mitcham Road
- cycle parking
- signage

35/14 Progress on Croydon's Cycling Strategy (Agenda Item 4)

Officers stressed that they were keen to complete the borough's cycling strategy soon, which would be based on the best elements of the Mini-Hollands expression of interest. Officers plan to discuss the draft strategy at the 2 December 2014 Scrutiny meeting, after internal sign-off.

36/14 Draft Inclusive Cycling Policy (Agenda Item 5)

A presentation was given by Isabelle Clement of Wheels for Wellbeing. It covered the following points, awareness of which could turn Croydon into the most inclusive cycling borough in the borough:

- awareness that many disabled people can and do cycle
- equality legislation making it illegal to discriminate against the disabled when providing cycling services and infrastructure
- the large number and wide range of disabled cyclists in the capital
- the bike as a mobility aid for people who cannot walk or carry their bikes
- the impact of poor quality infrastructure
- inclusive traffic reduction measures
- the need for pavement or indoor cycling for some disabled cyclists
- the need for inclusive cycle parking and storage
- combining the use of public transport with cycling
- Inclusive cycle signage and other visibility issues

Members discussed travel by public transport and bicycle. It was noted that train operators did not generally allow disabled passengers to take their bicycles on board. Members added that the only step-free mode of transport was the tram, but that bicycles were not allowed on board these either. The Forum heard that discussions with public transport providers had started, to explore the possibility of combining these two forms of transport.

Isabelle Clement was thanked for her presentation. She welcomed any queries Forum members might have about issues affecting disabled cyclists.

37/14 2014-2015 Local Implementation Plan (LIP) schemes (Agenda Item 6)

This item was introduced by Sue Ritchie.

She informed Cycle Forum members that most of the LIP funding for the year was being spent on improving junctions at the top of Gravel Hill and on Kent Gate Way.

38/14 Brief update on 20mph streets, including Church Road (Agenda Item 7)

The Cabinet member informed Forum members that there had been detailed discussions about the pros and cons of establishing 20 mph streets and that £300,000 LIP funding had been granted to the borough for this initiative. The Forum were also advised that a group would soon be set up to steer this project forward.

Forum members heard that some consultation had been carried out prior to the local government elections to ascertain where the demand for such speed limits was. A 80% response was obtained in some areas, mainly in the north of the borough, with enthusiastic support for the initiative. It was observed that the scheme would not be implemented on principal roads in line with lessons learnt from a similar initiative implemented in Portsmouth.

The funding for this initiative is to be spent in 2015-2016, and a report on proposals is due to be presented at Cabinet in January 2015.

It was agreed that an item on the initiative should be included in the agenda for the March meeting of the Cycle Forum.

39/14 Brief Update on Westfield Hammerson development and cycling (Agenda Item 8)

Forum members were reminded that an outline planning permission had been granted one year ago for this development. Developers had been required to prepare a travel plan, and a group had been set up to monitor its implementation. The proposed travel plan includes the creation of a cycle hub including interior parking. However, officers stated that proposals excluded a cyclable east-west route through the development. As stated in a previous meeting, developers will also need to submit a construction logistics plan for the building phase, which the council will monitor.

40/14 Trams and cyclist safety in the East Croydon area

Forum members were advised that council officers were due to meet with TfL and other key stakeholders in early November to resolve safety issues arising from the fatal accident in the East Croydon area. It was stressed that the accident had involved a bus and a cyclist. However, it was the tram tracks that had destabilised the cyclist. Forum members heard that the use of Velostrel to make it safer for cyclists to negotiate tram tracks would be raised.

It was felt that Velostrel should only be used at junctions involving trams and other vehicles, which presented a particular safety risk to cyclists. It was also suggested that this be used in Addiscombe Road, which should constitute a "quietway".

An update on this work was requested for the March meeting of the Cycle Forum.

41/14 Mitcham Common cycle lane consultation (Agenda Item 10)

The Forum was reminded that representatives of Merton, Sutton and Croydon boroughs had met some months before to discuss a plan, which was good in principle but flawed in its detail. Now, Merton Council has come forward with a proposal for a cycle track and pedestrian path, and it has been agreed to hold public negotiations on this draft.

The Forum was advised that Croydon would draw its own proposals, and that all proposed designs would match with each other. A follow-up meeting will be needed to make progress on all proposals.

42/14 London Road Plans

Officers announced that designs had been drawn up for London Road, but that no final decision had been made on them. These works will be funded through the GLA Mayor's funding. As the deadline for spending this funding is approaching, there will not be much time to implement this initiative.

43/14 Space for Cycling

It was explained that "Space for Cycling" was a system whereby councillors could be lobbied across London for cycling ideas. A number of initiatives have been put forward,

including a suggestion for cycling along Brighton Road, in the south of the borough. Officers plan to examine how these ideas blend in with those proposed through the BYPAD process and Croydon's cycling strategy.

44/14 Quietways and Greenways

Officers announced that authorisation had been given three weeks before to create three new quietways, and that members of the Cycle Forum would have the opportunity to get involved in consultation about these new schemes.

Officers were questioned on Greenways. They explained that these were enshrined in Croydon's Core (planning) Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Sections 1 to 9 of the initiative have been completed, but section 10 was awaiting confirmation of changes to cycling by-laws in parks, on which consultation is due to take place in December 2014. Forum members were advised that Sustrans would be holding the council to account on the delivery of this section of Croydon's Greenways.

45/14 Feedback from Traffic Management Advisory Committee (Agenda Item 14)

The following updates were received:-

- Forum members were advised that the Old Town Masterplan was due to be presented at Cabinet shortly and was due to be published on the web on 10 November. In line with the Masterplan, most streets in Old Town will be cyclable in both directions.
- A decision has been made to proceed with the one-way system on Dennett Road
- A low response has been received to proposals for the Crescent, as a result of which it will not be changed into a one-way street.

46/14 Cycling issues at Purley Cross and Fiveways

Cycle Forum members agreed that improvements were needed to make these junctions safer for cyclists. They were advised that a study of the A23 was currently under way, with a particular focus on sections in Thornton Heath, the Lombard roundabout and Purley Cross. It was observed that the needs and views of cyclists had to be taken into consideration in this study. Forum members remarked that the study should not only cover junctions, but also roads that connected to the town centre.

Forum members were reminded that the implementation of any proposals would require third party funding.

it was suggested that an update should be included in the March agenda.

47/14 Guano under Jubilee Bridge

It was announced that this had recently been cleared.

48/14 Updates from cycling groups

The following updates were provided:

- The Bike-It initiative is focusing on the Norbury and Norwood areas with a view to creating a cycling culture in these areas
- An update was given on current cycling courses in the borough and their good take-up during the second quarter of the year
- Wheels for Wellbeing continues to see significant increases in attendances and may be close to reaching capacity; their National Lottery funding had now come to an end and the organisation is looking for sustainable long-term sources of funding

49/14 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 6)

Cycle Forum members reported that clear signage was needed in South End, where pavements had been widened, to improve safety for cyclists.

Cycle Forum members were encouraged to take part in consultation on the Dingwall Road Loop, which was being carried out through an exhibition in Central Croydon library.

50/14 Dates of future Cycle forum meeting

Tuesday 10 March 2015

The meeting ended at 8.32 p.m.