

MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM
TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2015

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
Clive Kershaw, Croydon Council
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council
Catherine Osborn Sustrans
Lindsey Parker, Bike-It officer

Also in attendance:

Hal Bransby, Angus Hewlett, Scott Hart, Charles Martin, Michael To

17/15 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Agenda Item 1)

Andy Bebington nominated Cllr Robert Canning as Chairman. This nomination was seconded by Austen Cooper.

Jim Bush nominated Andy Bebington as Vice-Chairman. This nomination was seconded by Cllr Robert Canning.

Cllr Robert Canning and Andy Bebington were duly elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

18/15 Apologies for absence and introductions (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were presented by Cllr James Thompson.

19/15 Minutes of the 10 March 2015 meeting (Agenda Item 3)

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

20/15 Presentation on the Waterloo to Croydon Quietway (Agenda item 4)

The presentation on Quietways, a £120m programme to be delivered over ten years, with £1m allocated for the Waterloo to Croydon Quietway, covered the following areas:

- The qualifying criteria for Quietways, as defined by TfL and Cycling Commissioner
- The role of Sustrans in developing Quietways
- Details of Quietway route 77 from Waterloo to Croydon
- Key interventions planned for this route

Officers informed the Forum that road safety audits had been carried out in preparation for works to establish this cycling route, and that the schedule for completing works was very tight.

They added that a lot of engagement with Norbury Avenue residents was taking place to redesign this residential road into a quieter and more pleasant environment. Officers announced that formal consultation would start on 26 June with the implementation of trial closures.

The following comments were made by Cycle Forum members:

- Norbury Avenue might benefit from better signalling to manage the heavy traffic flows along this thoroughfare
- Current proposals include traffic in Boswell Road giving way to traffic along Ecclesbourne Road whereas arrangements had previously been the other way round. A need for consistency with past practice was called for but officers observed that this risked creating a new rat run
- It was felt that the signalling and road markings at the Dingwall Road junction leading to East Croydon station should be redesigned to ensure safe traffic at this very busy junction

21/15 Update on Fiveways consultation (Agenda item 5)

Forum members were informed that public consultation on two alternative options had come to an end and that the consultation report would be published on the TfL website. A technical assessment of the two options will be undertaken by TfL during the summer. Construction works were scheduled to take place in 2018-2019.

Officers observed that the catalysts for these works had included the general lack of road traffic capacity and the search for opportunities to encourage walking and cycling in the area.

It was suggested that an update on designs for Fiveways should be included in the agenda for the Forum's September meeting.

22/15 Presentation on 20 mph roads (Agenda item 6)

The presentation covered the following elements:

- The main aims of this project
- The five areas which will be considered one at a time, starting with the north area ("area 1")
- The key features of the scheme and its enforcement
- Consultation on proposals for area 1, which was to come to an end on 24 June

Officers also explained that Frequently Asked Questions on the project would be produced to give residents an overview of key issues.

Cycle Forum members emphasised the need to measure speeds accurately - and therefore to use accurate instruments to do so - in order to establish a realistic baseline for the project. Officers gave reassurances that the equipment in use was very precise and reliable.

Officers reassured Cycle Forum members that the I.P. addresses of electronic responses were being analysed by Sustrans staff to capture multiple responses from individual computers. They stressed the need to encourage as many as possible to respond to the consultation to obtain a balanced picture. Forum members were advised that the Bike-It officer would be working with parents to obtain their views on this project.

23/15 Presentation on Connect2 and cycling in parks (Agenda item 7)

The presentation covered the following:

- The strategic context (TfL Quietways, Mini-Hollands, existing Greenways and other local links)
- The timeline for the implementation of routes in 'Connect2 Parks', with implementation scheduled for January 2016
- Maps of key locations e.g. Wandle Park, Park Hill Recreation Ground, Lloyd and Coombe Park

Officers stated that there may be some tree planting included in the project.

It was stressed that the aim would be to have "considerate cycling" in parks, allowing both walkers and cyclists to exercise safely and enjoy these locations.

Cycle Forum members were encouraged to contribute their thoughts on the following:

- the detail of the route alignment and design details
- cycle safety
- pedestrian safety

24/15 Scrutiny request for Cycle Forum members' views on the Transport Vision for Croydon (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman announced that Cycle Forum members were invited to contribute to the scrutiny of the Transport Vision for Croydon, which had been presented at the 16 March Cabinet meeting. They were encouraged to send any written statements by 17 June and/or to attend the 30 June Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The Committee Clerk was asked to send Cycle Forum members the link to the Cabinet report and appendix on the Transport Vision for Croydon.

25/15 Capturing Cycle Forum views of the cycling strategy ahead of public consultation (Agenda item 9)

Cycle Forum members were encouraged to read the document "Towards a cycling strategy for Croydon" and to take part in consultation on the cycling strategy. It was proposed to have a draft consultation document drawn up in summer and to consult on it after the summer recess.

26/15 Suggestion for a shared-use arrangement on the southern footway, west-bound, between Inwood Close and Hartland Way, Shirley (Agenda item 10)

Officers responded to the above suggestion by stating that the council had no authority to implement on this highway (the A232). It was suggested that they should address their suggestion to their GLA member, Cllr Steve O'Connell. However, officers observed that they would not advocate the shared use of cycling and walking in the area concerned.

27/15 Thornton Heath High Street regeneration: request for improved facilities for cyclists (Agenda item 11)

Cycle Forum members were advised that the council had secured funding for improvements in Thornton Heath. The scheme was still in very early stages and officers had set the scene with local residents and businesses. Cycle Forum members were encouraged to contribute their views and ideas or to e-mail them to officers after the meeting.

There was agreement that the High Street was a hostile environment to cyclists and was not used very much by them, hence the underused cycle racks. Forum members commented that the street had very wide pavements, a couple of sets of traffic lights, and it was observed that it adjoined a Quietway and a 20 mph zone.

Officers stated that £2.8m had been allocated to carry out regeneration works but that not all of this funding was to be used on improvement works to the highway. Initial designs were scheduled to be drawn up in the next two to four months, and implementation was likely to take place about two years afterwards.

28/15 Mitcham Road Cycle Path (Agenda item 12)

Forum members were informed that the cycling officer in Merton had moved to another post and that TfL's in-house design team had been asked to work on these improvements. They have agreed that improvements were needed but haven't got the staff time to do the work required, as a result of which Croydon would have to contract out the work.

29/15 Progress update on the town centre contraflow lanes (Agenda item 13)

Officers announced that construction work was due to commence in September.

30/15 Items put forward by Crystal Palace Transition Town (Agenda item 14)

➤ Update on Church Road cycle lanes

Forum members were advised that advisory cycle lanes had been put in late in 2014 but that anti-skid material had not yet been laid down.

➤ Feasibility studies for future filtered permeability schemes eg traffic counts

A plea was made for resources to carry out this work as there was some demand for it. However, it was stressed that this need had to be considered alongside other priorities such as Quietways. As Crystal Palace did not get a Quietway, it was suggested that some work should take place with the London Borough of Bromley in a few years' time to establish something similar in the area.

➤ Feasibility for shared footway and crossing at Goat House Bridge

It was suggested that officers should explore what opportunities were offered through the cycling strategy to carry out such work in future.

31/15 Updates from cycling groups (Agenda item 15)

- Forum members discussed the **Pearl Izumi Tour Series races** in Croydon on 2 June. They commented that it could have benefited from more widespread publicity although the international publicity gained from televising the event had been appreciated. It was hoped that officers would have longer lead-in times the following year, allowing them to improve publicity for the event. It was acknowledged that the school cycling races held earlier in the afternoon had been a great success. Forum members also mentioned the legacy of this event, namely the Croydon Cycle Club for young people, with activities planned for the summer. Council officers were thanked for their hard work at short notice and cycling groups were thanked for their contributions to the event.
- Forum members highlighted the impact of school building works at the Arena on cycle training courses held at that location, as a result of the loss of the car park where training for beginners had previously taken place. It was proving difficult to find alternative locations for these training courses. It was stressed that the role of Scott Hart had been pivotal in negotiating with builders to manage this difficult situation. Forum members were told that 385 trainees had undergone training in the last 12 months with most trainees (mostly women) beginning at level 1.
- The representative of Wheels for Well-being reported back to the Forum, stating that Tuesday sessions had had to stop because of sports days at the Arena, thus removing the only chance of physical activity for a number of participants. Despite the challenges faced by the organisation, it was continuing to grow: in the previous two years, 31,000 disabled rides had taken place with over 8000 disabled cyclists. In particular, the Saturday rides had had a very good take-up, with about 150 people coming to the Arena at the weekend.
- Croydon Cycling Campaign have held engagement sessions at Norbury Avenue and a cycle mechanic has been on hand to carry out bicycle repairs during these sessions; Wheels for Wellbeing have also been involved in these community engagement sessions with Sustrans.
- The London Borough of Sutton LCC co-ordinator, who had come to observe this meeting of the Cycle Forum, expressed his interest in this model of consultation and stated that he had found it very worthwhile.
- Cycle Forum members were advised that the Traffic Management Advisory Group had approved the pilot to allow cycling on North End but that this experimental traffic order had not yet been implemented. Representations will be invited in its first six months, and the order will be fully implemented within twelve months of its commencement.

32/15 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 16)

There was none.

33/15 Dates of future Cycle forum meeting (Agenda Item 17)

Tuesday 15 September 2015
Tuesday 10 November 2015
Tuesday 8 March 2016

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

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