

## MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM MEETING TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

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### PRESENT:

Cllr Robert Canning (Chair)  
Cllr Kathy Bee (Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment)  
Andy Bebington, Cyclists' Touring Club  
Austen Cooper, Croydon Cycling Campaign (CCC)  
Jim Bush, Right to Ride Network  
Paul Lowe, Cycling Instructor  
Rob McLean, British Cycling  
Adrian Douglas, Mott MacDonald BUG  
Michael To, Croydon Cycling Campaign (CCC)  
Mike Barton, Croydon Council  
Sue Ritchie, Croydon Council  
Ian Plowright, Croydon Council  
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council

Also in attendance: Philip Yeoell

### **34/15 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)**

Apologies were received from Councillor James Thompson, Isabelle Clement and Linda Johnson

### **35/15 MINUTES OF THE CYCLE FORUM MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2015 (Agenda item 2)**

The following comments were made:

- In minute 20/15, '*traffic in Boswell Road giving way to traffic along Ecclesbourne Road*' should be amended to '*traffic in Ecclesbourne Road giving way to traffic along Boswell Road*'
- In answer to a query, officers gave assurances that the speed measurements made for the 20 mph initiative had been accurate
- Council officers undertook to provide a brief outline of benefits arising from the Pearl Izumi races in June for Cycle Forum members
- Forum members were advised that the proposal to extend cycle lanes on Church Road Upper Norwood would be examined further.

- Members of the Forum enquired about an update to developments on Fiveways (see 21/15) and were advised that this would be provided at the November Forum meeting. They were also informed that there would be an agenda item on cycling in parks on the November agenda.

### **36/15 THE SENIOR TRANSPORT PLANNER / BIKING BOROUGH PROGRAMME MANAGER POST (Agenda item 3)**

The Forum acknowledged the hard work done by Carole Crankshaw in Croydon and a vote of thanks for her contribution to cycling in Croydon was proposed by Austen Cooper, seconded by Andy Bebington and supported by the whole membership.

Forum members were advised that Peter Salter has now taken over as Croydon's Cycling Transport Manager. Officers added that there was still a Bike-It officer in post, doing work with schools which was funded by TfL and Sustrans.

### **37/15 PRESENTATION ON 20 MPH LIMITS (Agenda item 4)**

The Cabinet Member thanked the Cycle Forum for their awareness-raising work and their contribution to lessons learnt from consultation in the north of the borough as its residents had voted in favour of a 20 mph limit on residential streets in this area.

The presentation given to the Cycle Forum covered the following areas:

- The current administration's manifesto pledge and the aims of proposed 20 mph area-wide zones
- The composition of the working group implementing the initiative
- The five proposed 20 mph zones in the borough
- Reasons to retain the *main* road network at 30 mph
- The order of implementation
- How the initiative in the north of the borough is to be implemented
- The consultation process and results
- Lessons learnt

It was observed that the working group had overestimated the link between expressions of support and subsequent numbers of votes in favour of the initiative. Members also discussed the amount of misinformation from the "No" campaign, including the assertion that even main roads were going to be subject to a 20 mph speed limit.

The Forum was advised that there had been a significant response to consultation (about 75,000 responses).

Asked what measures were to be taken to maximize the response to consultation in other areas, Cycle Forum members asserted that the key was to sharing key messages as widely as possible. It was noted that no other borough had carried out such public consultation before and had merely resorted to a public notice seeking residents' views on proposals for speed limits. Southwark had tried to introduce speed limits across the whole borough but the proposal had not been implemented through lack of support. In Inner London, a number of 20mph zones have been established but in far smaller areas than Croydon's first initiative in the north of the borough.

A number of suggestions were put forward to increase the response rate to consultation on the next area in Croydon:

- It was suggested that publicity should commence very early on to sow the seeds of interest in the initiative and encourage wider involvement from people living and working in the area
- A Royal Mail "mail drop" to the relevant area was suggested, with questionnaires featuring unique reference numbers to prevent the risk of multiple entries
- It was suggested that schools should be invited to get involved in consultation to encourage young people to take up cycling
- Local residents' associations should also be targeted
- Publicity should include Frequently Asked Questions on matters which had caused confusion or concern during consultation in the north area

Cycle Forum members were informed that the second area to be consulted on 20 mph speed limits would include eastern wards such as Ashburton, Shirley, etc.

### **38/15 PRESENTATION ON LORRIES AND THE WESTFIELD DEVELOPMENT (Agenda item 5)**

The Chair announced that this presentation would be postponed to the November meeting as the officer who was to give it was unwell.

### **39/15 UPDATE ON QUIETWAYS (Agenda item 6)**

Cycle Forum members were reminded that Croydon had been awarded one of the first quietways in London and had now been awarded two more. Officers had started work on these with the support of Sustrans and consultation had taken place at the height of

the holiday season in August, which it was acknowledged had not constituted very good timing.

Forum members discussed the DIY streets project in Norbury Avenue and difficulties encountered with regard to the proposed a street closure as part of the initiative. It was suggested that the street closure might be replaced by a “plug no entry” alternative. However, the forum agreed that it was necessary to demonstrate to TfL that the borough was serious about implementing quietways.

It was observed that quietway destinations had shifted over the last few months and that the borough’s retail core was the top priority. East Croydon too was seen as a high priority for cyclists. It was pointed out that up to 45% of train journeys in Holland were linked to a cycle journey.

It was acknowledged that there were poor cycle routes from the west to the east of the town centre. Scrutiny members had visited some of these areas prior to a recent committee meeting. Officers stated that there were plans to take steps to break down current barriers to cycling in the next few years.

#### **40/15 CYCLING ALONG NORTH END (Agenda item 7)**

Officers reported that written objections had been received on this initiative and that checks would be carried out with DfT to ascertain the feasibility of two way cycling traffic. They explained that this was a non-standard speed limit which required the authorization of DfT and stressed the need for enforcement when this was exceeded in this pedestrian zone.

#### **41/15 CROYDON CYCLE HUB AND BROMPTON HIRE DOCK (Agenda item 8)**

Officers announced the forthcoming launch of the Cycle Hub on Friday 18 September at 11.30am with media coverage. The initiative was acknowledged to be a welcome addition to transport options in Croydon. It was highlighted that you could hire a bicycle in Croydon but leave it in another borough operating the same scheme.

#### **42/15 UPDATE ON ONE-WAY STREETS AND ASSOCIATED CONTRAFLOWS INCLUDING HIGH STREET AND FRITH ROAD CONTRAFLOWS (Agenda item 9)**

Officers reported that they were going through safety audits on proposed contraflows and high streets after which they would be presented at the Traffic Management Advisory Committee and implemented in January 2016.

#### **43/15 UPDATE ON CHERRY ORCHARD ROAD AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CORONER (Agenda item 10)**

Officers stated that the coroner had recommended that the council should improve

safety for two-wheeled vehicles including signage. Discussions are being held with officers working on the Super-Highway and warning signs are currently being put up regarding tram traffic. In addition, short-term measures are being introduced to clarify how to enter the junction from Cherry Orchard Road.

The Forum were advised that tram signals were due to be changed and that this constituted an opportunity for the council to change the layout of the junction. Designs are currently be finalized with computer imaging. It was reiterated that tram lines constituted the main danger to cyclists and Forum members asked whether the installation of Velostrel covers over the lines was to go ahead. Cycle forum members were advised that the decision whether to do so was down to Tramlink. It would involve reconstructing the foundation of the rails. Forum members were advised that it was unlikely to be done in the town centre.

#### **44/15 CYCLE FORUM REPRESENTATION AT PUBLIC TRANSPORT LIAISON PANEL AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

Forum members were advised that the Public Transport Liaison Panel met three times a year in the morning. The meetings were attended by three councilors and all transport operators providing services in the borough.

Traffic Management Advisory Committee, whose members are councillors, meets 5-6 times a year in the evening and is a more formal occasion than Public Transport Liaison Panel meetings. TMAC meetings discuss mainly traffic management orders and residents wishing to comment or object can do so in statements which should last no longer than two minutes.

Cycle Forum members were invited to decide whether they wished to attend either or both of the above and whether to receive agendas for their meetings.

#### **45/15 UPDATES FROM CYCLING GROUPS (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

Forum members were advised that 346 people aged over 16 and 549 young people under 16 had received cycle training during the last financial year. In addition, 298 received scooter training.

For the first time in Croydon, decathlon organisers offered free bikes for "hire" to local residents - no thefts were sustained. Some bikes were also sold. Forum members were advised that attendances had been very good and it is hoped that this enthusiasm will be built on in weeks and months to come.

The representative of British Cycling highlighted "Choose cycling", a network of businesses campaigning for better resources for cycling.

Forum members received a brief update on the work of Sustrans on the "Bike-It" project and their work with ladies on the Breeze network.

A lot of users came back to rides organized by Wheels for Wellbeing after the summer recess, with 130 riders taking part at the weekend. 6000-7000 people have taken part in rides over the last year, with many return riders.

#### **46/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 13)**

Forum members discussed developments in Paris enabling cyclists to go through red lights when turning right.. It was felt that there was greater conflict in the UK between cyclists and vehicles, which could lead to an increase in accidents if this was implemented in this country. Forum members undertook to monitor the situation in Paris.

Forum members discussed the loss of cycle lanes in Broad Green along the north-south route through the borough. They also commented on the increase in traffic that was likely to follow the opening of a new school opposite Lidl. Officers pointed to a quietway through Kidderminster Road avoiding the traffic congestion along the main road.

A suggestion was put forward to convert one or more lanes on Jubilee Bridge (Roman Way) into a greenway as had been done in Chicago, New York, Tower Hamlets, etc. It was pointed out that this was a TfL road and that the council had no powers to implement such a project. Council officers undertook to check what plans there were within the Old Town Masterplan for this area.

Forum members were asked whether they would like to move the start time of their meetings to 6.30pm. There was no support for this change so meetings will continue to start at 6pm.

Cllr Wright had contacted the Chair to highlight a spate of bicycle thefts in the borough. It was suggested that a presentation could be given on this issue at a future meeting, possibly in March 2016.

It was suggested that the November meeting should include the following agenda items:

- cycling in parks
- a presentation on lorries and the Westfield development postponed from this meeting due to illness
- an item on plans for Fiveways.

The meeting ended at 8.27pm