

Cycle Forum

Meeting of held on Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 6.00 pm in F5 - Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Andy Bebington (Vice-Chair)
Hal Bransby
Jim Bush (Right to Ride Network)
Austen Cooper (Croydon Cycling Campaign)
Adrian Douglas (Mott MacDonald)
Cllr Jane Avis
Cllr Stuart King
Ian Plowright (Croydon Council)
Malcolm Smith (Croydon Council)
Tom Sweeney (Croydon Council)

Also Present: Martin Freeman, Gerardo del Guerzio (Cycling Instructor),
Andy Osborne (Cycle Safety Team, Met Police), Michael To

Apologies: Councillor Maggie Mansell, Councillor Vidhi Mohan and Nadine Knight.

PART A

1/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Margaret Mansell, Councillor Vidhi Mohan and Nadine Knight (Stake Holder Engagement).

Ian Plowright apologised for only being able to attend for the first 30 minutes of the meeting.

2/18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

3/18 Urgent Business (if any)

There were no items of urgent business.

4/18 Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

5/18 **Bicycle Policy Audit**

The Head of Transport updated the forum on the following:

- Audit was first initiated almost 5 years ago. Now that the Cycle Strategy had been adopted and funding for infrastructure secured, it seemed the right time to restart the process. The auditors had been met with. They had indicated that BYPAD had lost momentum at the European level. However, there is the potential to run something similar with the Auditors.
- The alternative to BYPAD is just to work up the detailed Delivery Plan (to implement the Strategy) with the Cycle Forum and report back progress to the Forum (without involving BYPAD auditors).

Members of the forum NOTED this update.

6/18 **Update on junction changes at East Croydon (Cherry Orchard Road/Addiscombe Road/etc.)**

The Head of Transport updated the forum on the following:

- A closure of the tram network in the Town Centre will happen during the Easter break. This will allow the next phase of the Cherry Orchard/Addiscombe Road junction to be implemented.
- Reconfigures pedestrian crossing and included improvements for easier cycling.

Members of the forum NOTED this update.

7/18 **Provisions for cyclists in proposed town centre developments**

The Head of Transport reported on the following:

- He suggested that the needs of cyclists need to be considered in both the construction phase and operational phases of developments. The construction phase of development within the town centre was now underway.
- Quantity of cycle parking during the operational phase was controlled by the standards in the London Plan.

However there perhaps needs to be consideration given to the development of 'quality' standards/guidelines. This would be discussed with the Spatial Planning team.

- Any potential changes would be discussed with the Spatial Planning team

Tom Sweeney, the Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling stated that mapping for cycling in relation to proposed construction vehicle routes would be accessible to keep forum members and cyclists aware of the town centre developments.

A question was raised as to how cyclists would move around the town centre area whilst major construction is underway. An officer responded saying that they would report back to the forum at a later date regarding this.

Since the meeting, HMG has announced that £100M will be made available to highway authorities for fixing potholes.

Members of the forum NOTED this report.

8/18 **DfT Major Road Network funding**

The Head of Transport reported that:

He had submitted an officer response to The Department for Transport consultation regarding creating a 'Major Road Network'. The focus of the Major Road Network concept is on motor vehicle flow. The Croydon response emphasised that it needs to recognise that London is different and to be able to support important London objectives including 'healthy streets' liveable neighbourhoods'.

The Forum asked if the Major Road Network is a potential funding stream for cycling. The consultation suggested funding for Road schemes of between £20-100 million. Any scheme could include a cycling element, however the consultation did not indicate the possibility of funding for projects which were just about facilitating cycling projects. These were not factored into this planned investment.

The forum was informed that the London budget for TfL was cut and that road maintenance funding had been suspended for two years. It was said that Croydon would be bidding for road network funding but it was not clear how the borough and TfL would be considered.

Members of the forum NOTED this report.

9/18 **Cycle Parking**

The issue of Cycle Parking availability and accessibility was briefly discussed by the forum.

The Vice-Chair requested for this topic to be discussed further at the next meeting and that members consider locations at which cycle parking might usefully be installed.

Members of the forum NOTED this discussion.

10/18 **Cycling Strategy**

The Strategy has been adopted by Cabinet. This was planned to be covered under the Bicycle Policy Audit in the next Cycle Forum meeting.

11/18 **Met Police on Closing Passing**

Andy Osborne, Sergeant for the Cycle Safety Team (CST) introduced himself and told the forum what the Cycle Safety Team was and how it operated to make roads safer for cyclists.

It was stated that:

- The team operated throughout London and worked with TfL and traffic management when carrying out their safety tests.
- Tests included putting cyclists in lorries to show them its blind spots.

The Close passing scheme was explained to the forum:

- It was first introduced in the West Midlands and is funded in London by TfL.
- The scheme operated by getting plain clothed Police cyclists who would assess whether cars driving past them had made a dangerous pass.
- If it was considered a dangerous pass the motorists were stopped and told what they had done wrong.
- In the last 3 months there was 84 close pass presentations in which 76 tickets were issued.
- The CTS had met with groups such as the British Horse Society seeking information so they could launch their own close passing initiative.

Andy had stated the CTS was interested in expanding to Croydon. Members of the forum asked how cyclists could make contact with the CTS. It was said that local authorities recommended areas and people submitted locations they thought justified testing via private message on their Twitter page.

Difficult roads to access meant that the CTS could not always carry out the cycling tests but still reviewed the area. The Sergeant welcomed the forum to take part and get in contact for more information.

Members of the forum NOTED this presentation.

12/18 **Cyclist plans for newly pedestrianised portion of High Street and North End**

The Stakeholder Engagement Manager could not attend to present this item.

The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling informed the forum of the following:

- Information regarding progress on high street pedestrianisation was ready to be circulated after the meeting and was added to the published agenda.
- A high street survey to improve public engagement was carried out and ended on Monday 26 March 2018.
- Phase 2 of the engagement was planned to start after the May local elections and would include discussions about potential cycle routes.
- A question was raised about when the results of the high street survey would be ready. It was said that there was no specific timescale for this but it would be incorporated into Phase 2 of the high street engagement.

13/18 **Dockless Bike hire in Croydon**

The Strategic Transport officer had reported that:

The Council had been approached by bike companies such as Pony and oBike to arrange bike hire in Croydon. A trial for how dockless bike hire would be implemented by companies was arranged for May/June 2018. Companies which were interested would propose their methods as part of the procurement process of this scheme.

Any additional information would be reported at the next Cycle forum meeting.

14/18 **Cycle Route signs**

Members of the forum heard that there were some outdated and incorrect cycle route signs visible in some areas which may have confused and been inconvenient for some cyclists travelling on these roads.

The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling reported that some of these signs were produced and placed by our lighting contractors and work was ongoing to resolve this issue. The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling proposed that forum members could send him the locations of where these incorrect signs had been placed so it could be investigated.

In regards to cycling routes it was also said that signage on older London Cycle Network routes were being reviewed and updated by the Council and an interest was expressed in liaising with Google in order to update the cycle route for the Croydon map.

A forum member had asked the officers whether the no cycling signs would be removed. The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling responded saying routes would need to be examined individually and how they impacted the local area before this could be considered.

15/18 **General Updates**

a) TfL plans for Fiveways report on the consultation

The forum heard that the consultation report was available and TfL were changing the scheme design. It was estimated that there would be new results by summer 2018.

b) Liveable Neighbourhood Bids

The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling informed the forum that Transport for London ran a bidding process for liveable neighbourhood bids.

An initial proposal was discussed with TfL last summer. Croydon received feedback and was developing the bid. There was an opportunity to progress and extend a bid to include the Old Town roundabout. The timescale was October/November 2018.

A question was asked as to whether a bid could focus on Mitcham road and Lombard roundabout. The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling replied that Lombard Roundabout was being reviewed by TfL and was likely to be a separate scheme. Changes were being considered across the whole corridor and were likely to be delivered in phases when funding became available.

c) Cycle hub at East Croydon

It was said that Interim, GTR and TfL planned to install a storage unit opposite East Croydon station for cycle parking. For other areas the forum heard that:

- It was hoped that Stanhope Schroder would help find a new site for cycle parking

An officer stated that Head of Transport and Cycling Transport Manager were better informed to provide specific details on these matters.

d) One way route on Bedford park

The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling informed the forum that this route would join the new cycle crossing. Wellesley Road had been approved by the Traffic Management Advisory Committee. The detail of how to implement this whilst other construction sites are in the area was being figured out.

More information regarding this development will be included in the next agenda.

It was stated that an undertaker carrying out road works had erected “Cyclists dismount” signs on Brighton Road, Purley. The Programme Manager for Walking and Cycling stated that if members of the forum could send the permit numbers of contractors to him then this issue could be taken up with colleagues in Network Management.

Update on Cycling Groups - members of the forum reported on the following:

Cycling Instructor – Courses for children had been fully booked for the Easter holiday. Level 3 advanced biking training was also being offered.

It was also said that set up trial to start adults and group lessons had been arranged for the next month.

Wheels of Wellbeing – Some courses over the last few Saturdays had been cancelled because of the weather.

Members of the forum NOTED this update.

16/18 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This was not required.

17/18 **Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 7.34 pm

Signed:

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Date:

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