

Harrogate District Cycle Forum - Minutes

Attendee: Cllr Ireland (HBC), Cllr McKenzie (NYCC), Malcolm Margolis, Gia Margolis, Kevin Douglas, Rupert Douglas, Ian Kendall, Thomas O'Donovan, Daniel Harper.

Apologies: Tom Horner

1.0 Admin Arrangements:

1.1 The Place-shaping and Economic Growth service is currently carrying out a service wide review. As part of this review we are looking into options as to how this forum could be administered.

2.0 Role of HBC Transport:

2.1 Dan Harper outlined the role of Harrogate Borough Council's Economy & Transport Team, and its place within the wider Place Shaping and Economic Growth service. A list of key projects and priorities was outlined, emphasising that the cycle forum is important to HBC, but is part of a wider programme of work and therefore difficult decisions have to be made with regards priorities.

2.2 There was a request to add timescales to the list of projects provided by HBC, so it could be seen when the ideal times to look at new work would be.

2.3 There was a request to investigate the possibility of using the funds set aside to support the creation of a Harrogate to Knaresborough cycle way for smaller projects as it was expressed that this is not a project that is likely to happen any time soon.

2.4 It was suggested that HBC transport team needs greater resources, including a delivery arm. It was also asked whether it was possible to make this case directly to the Chief Executive of HBC.

2.5 The final request was to be able to examine the list of projects, previously presented to the cycle forum, at the next meeting to see if they can be progressed by HBC.

2.6 Cllr McKenzie outlined the progress with the Transforming Cities Fund joint bid from HBC and NYCC and emphasised the close working between NYCC and HBC.

3.0 Key project updates:

3.1 *Otley Road:*

Cllr McKenzie updated the forum on progress with the Otley Road cycle way. The road has now been resurfaced, ready for the TdY and UCI championships. There has been some objection to the cycleway from local residents; though overall there would appear to be support for improved and increased cycling infrastructure.

3.2 *Harland Way:*

Work on this has been paused while the Secretary of State is deciding whether the application requires reviewing.

3.3 *Harlow Moor Road:*

There appears to have been confusion over who is the responsible officer for Section 106 enquiries, and that maybe there needs to be a single point of contact for enquiries. Work in on-going to resolve the issue.

3.4 *Nidderdale Greenway:*

With substantial work by Malcom Margolis funding has been raised to undertake feasibility work for the Darley to Pateley Bridge greenway.

Sustrans have brought in David Hall to support this work and is in this capacity as a volunteer. David Hall previously worked on the current Greenway.

Malcom and David have already held meeting with landowners, these are not farmers but homeowners with sections of driveway or garden that now overlap the old rail bed. They were met with suspicion initially but they were able to form broad agreement with the scheme and had suggestions for potential ways to work around some local obstructions.

The plan is to create a shovel ready scheme and work with Sustrans on future development.

3.5 *Open Harrogate:*

Questions were raised about the inclusion of sections regarding the preparation of getting proposed schemes around Harrogate ready so that they could be submitted for funding bids in future. It was not clear who included this section in the bid as the work being carried out by Open Harrogate is all for revenue expenditure.

Kevin Douglas asked if there was an opportunity to see the Stage 1 Report. Cllr McKenzie is going to look into what can be presented to the forum.

3.6 *Ripon:*

Ian Kendall presented information on a range of projects that he would like to see happen in Ripon.

- **Harran Homes S.106 funding:**
At the moment it would appear that the developers are trying to claw back the £70,000 that had been agreed. It was made clear that although it was a negotiation HBC was looking to retain the full agreed amount to assist in the development of cycling in Ripon.
If S.106 funding is reduced then HBC should examine whether payment can be made earlier and in full.
- **Ripon Grammar School cycleway:**
There has been no progress with this proposal and the playing fields are now being dug up, meaning that they will end up being dug up twice if the proposed cycleway gets the go-ahead in future.

It was suggested that the £70k s.106 funding from the Bishops Glade development - *specifically for this potential route* - should be drawn upon to create the path while the 3G development is taking place.

It is understood that the £70k is only released on the occupation of 50 dwellings; Cllr Ireland agreed to investigate whether £50k (suggested as a cost by Cllr Mike Chambers) could be drawn upon to get the works done before the completion of the 3G pitches.

3.7 Whitcliffe Lane – Ripon to Fountains Abbey cycleway:

Whitcliffe Lane could provide an initial route to Fountain Abbey/Studley Royal from Ripon however; it is not clear whether or not this is adopted highway. The road has reportedly been damaged to prevent vehicle access some time ago. Google Maps currently shows the road closed for road works until June 2019. Cllr McKenzie to investigate.

- *Harrogate – Ripon line Greenway*

Ian Kendall wanted to establish whether it was possible to make the old track bed a bridleway and use volunteers to support clearance of undergrowth. It has been established that the line is protected in local plans for sustainable transport use.

4.0 Any Other Business:

4.1 Sustrans have been awarded £21m nationally. £7m of this is available in the north of England but needs to be spent by March 2020. As a result shovel ready schemes are required

4.2 Ian Vickers, the proposed replacement for Melissa Burnham at Area6 NYCC, did not take up the position with NYCC

Actions:

- Cllr McKenzie to look into what information can be presented relating to the Open Harrogate project and the development of 'shovel ready' schemes.
- Dan Harper to feedback on plans to have a single point of contact regarding section 106 enquiries once review has been completed.
- Cllr Ireland to investigate options to release £50,000 for cycle works at Ripon Grammar school developments, while work is on-going at the site rather than digging it up again in future.
- NYCC, through Cllr McKenzie, to investigate whether Whitcliffe Lane, between Ripon and Fountains Abbey, is public highway.
- NYCC to update on officer to represent NYCC on cycle forum
- HBC and Cycle Forum to investigate possible schemes for Sustrans £7m funding; which needs to be spent by 31st March 2020.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 24th June 2019 10am-12pm.

Signed by the Chairman : Cllr Phil Ireland

Date: 24/06/2019