

HARROGATE DISTRICT CYCLE FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING 6TH FEBRUARY AT 10:00am.

Held at Council Offices Crescent Gardens, Committee Room

PRESENT: Councillor Rebecca Burnett (Chair), Jo Armstrong HBC, Andrew Noman HBC, Kevin Douglas HDCA, Gia Margolis HDCA, Malcolm Margolis HDCA, Martin Weeks HDCA, Rupert Douglas Sustrans, Yvonne Skelton HDCA, Melissa Burnham NYCC.

APOLOGIES: Tom Horner HBC, Councillor Don Mackenzie NYCC

Yvonne was welcomed as the new Secretary.

Melissa was congratulated on her promotion to Highways Improvement Manager.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

1. 8c. GM's expressed her concern about the delay of a detailed study of the Local Plan Proposed Development Areas in relation to the cycle network. She was concerned that opportunities will be missed. AN said that there was an intention to put this work out to a consultant. RB said she would get a detailed time frame to GM. **ACTION RB**
2. AN said there was some air quality funding from DEFRA which could push forward a number of small schemes. The outcome of HBC's bid for this funding was due late January but it has been delayed two weeks. **ACTION AN**

AWARD OF £1M GOVERNMENT ACCESS FUND TO ENCOURAGE CYCLING & WALKING

3. KD Congratulated NYCC for being successful in their bid. In his view one reason for the the success was due to the involvement of community groups such as HDCA. MB said she had met with her colleagues at NYCC and they are recruiting two staff to lead the project under the management of Fiona Ancell. Fiona will manage the project until these staff are in place. The area covered will be Harrogate, Scarborough, and Skipton. As Harrogate is more prepared than the other areas, they will be the first in terms of a feasibility study. The commuter areas which will be covered will be Cardale Park, Hornbeam Park, and Plumpton Park. RB asked MB to advise her when the new recruits are in post so they can attend the next Cycle Forum. **ACTION MB.**
4. RD referred to the NYCC press release paragraph 3: *"Work will also be done to prepare cycle infrastructure development bids to take advantage of future funding opportunities"*. RD said that in many cases, particularly in Harrogate the plans for the development of cycle routes are on the shelf and ready to implement.
5. MW made the point that schemes for cycling were now being prepared with obviously no immediate prospect of funding, and this again highlighted the contentious statement in LTP4 that NYCC would not be prepared to undertake such preparation. The statement as it stood was discriminatory against cycling and was now factually wrong. He requested that this be corrected. MB agreed to look at this. **ACTION MB**

HARROGATE RELIEF ROAD

6. RB said the Relief Road Steering Group had met to discuss time-frames, sustainable transport, what consultants will do, when consultation will take place etc. The Engagement Group will be

set up soon. The Steering Group is looking at either a relief road with sustainable transport alongside it, or sustainable transport on its own. Over the next 4-6 weeks parameters will be agreed, options identified, engagement with stakeholders including the Cycle Forum, Sustrans, Residential Groups, the Nidd Gorge Conservation group, other campaigning groups, etc.

7. The schedule so far looks to be:

- Stakeholder engagement in May/June 2017
- Public consultation Sept/Nov 2017 over a 6 week period
- A decision will be made at the end of the year as to what option to take forward.

8. TH and AN are inputting into the process and supporting RB on behalf of HBC.

9. KD referred to the consultation for Bond End where sustainability in the form of an afterthought that “cycling will be considered” was unacceptable and expressed doubts that Mouchel would take the sustainability option seriously. MW said that the consultant’s brief for the Relief Road was key to getting the strategy right. This would ensure sustainability was at the core of the work. RB agreed to look into this and would ask to see the consultant’s brief. **ACTION RB.**

10. RB said any work done on the Relief Road will need to be mindful of its effects on air quality. He mentioned the New Air Quality Action Zone at York Place, which is now largely caused not by HGVs but by diesel cars.

STRAY ACT CONSULTATION

11. RB said that more detailed information has been put out to the public via the Harrogate Advertiser, Stray FM, NYCC Facebook, Twitter, etc. MW expressed his thanks to RB for this.

12. The response has been quite high. Consultation ends today. The next stage is to look at the outcome and to approach the Duchy of Lancaster, who will want to see overwhelming public support for whatever HBC want to do.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

With Tom and Andrew on board, we are now making more progress. There have been meetings with NYCC looking at section 106 funding. AN confirmed continuing work was being done with planning application proposals.

13. Small amounts of funds from S106 were often difficult to use as they can be part of a larger scheme that is waiting on other funding. Having a good forward set of proposals through the Local Plan was key to resolving this.

14. KD said it is not just having the schemes - they have to be based on a Strategy. But we don’t have one. The LPT4 said NYCC were going to produce a county-wide one but they still haven’t started. This is a weakness and it is important to be able to show how schemes links back not just to the plan, but to the strategy. Developers will challenge on that basis.

15. RB said HBC’s view is that it would be a lot better if developers could incorporate sustainable transport schemes alongside the building of a development rather than mid-way or at the end. People already in new developments will have got into the pattern of not using sustainable transport unless it is provided from the first day of occupation. MW said once again the car takes priority as NYCC thinks about the impact on existing roads, not about the impact on walking, cycling etc. This relies on NYCC policy and the planning conditions that flow from that. MB agreed to take the views back to NYCC. **ACTION MB**

16.RD said that he was concerned about the remoteness of NYCC when it comes to larger applications being sent to County Hall rather than being dealt with locally. He referred to a large application at Selby. MB countered this by saying that the officer who looks after Selby knows the area well. RD was however concerned that sustainable schemes to counteract traffic growth never get any priority.

17.MB wants to make the link to sustainable schemes stronger. This was about having discussions as early as possible to get it into developers mindset early. **ACTION MB**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

18.This was distributed previously. **YS** to put this item on the Agenda as a standard item.

LOCAL PLAN SITE OPTIONS WORKSHOP - Flaxby and Hammerton, Knaresborough and Ripon.

19.AN provided several plans of the above areas. These showed existing committed development areas and Local Plan proposed development areas in relation to the existing cycle network and proposed schemes in the Cycling Delivery Plan. There was a discussion on sustainable travel possibilities and details were taken away by AN.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Follifoot Underpass

20.Sustrans has been commissioned to put forward a design brief which will include approach paths. A draft will be produced by early March, and once approved, it will be costed. Stakeholders, including the riding school will be consulted. The project should be completed by end September, the summer being the best time when conditions will be better for construction.

The Maintenance of Cycling and Walking routes in Harrogate

21.For the last five years, Gia has been asking for a schedule of works for the maintenance of cycling and Walking. TH will forward information on this to GM. **ACTION TH.**

22.MB is gathering information to see if she can get a regular work timetable organised, but she has no budget for this work. However, the Public Rights of Way Manager has a big group of volunteers who are keen to help. The HBC ranger is also keen to help. HDCA to draw up a list of priority preferences and send it to MB. **ACTION GM/MB**

23.RB said that £60,000 has been committed to cycleway improvements by NYCC but the 2017/18 programme shows that no cycle schemes have been included. There appears to have been no discussion with HBC and stakeholders about what could have been put forward. Large maintenance, for example, could have been added. MB said she was not aware of this but would follow it up. **ACTION MB.**

Cycling Infrastructure in Harrogate

24.Car Parking on grass verges on Hookstone Road is happening again, and there was the continuing concern about parking half on the Stray along Oatlands Drive. Options to stop this are small white bollards, a mandatory cycle line, or double lanes. Sending out Parking Inspectors to patrol the area and send out warning notices would be a quick way of getting the message across. **ACTION RB**

25.RB has asked for cycle racks outside the toilets on the Stray. An existing hardstanding was discussed - Sheffield Stands could fit there. **ACTION AN.**

26.AN reported there is trouble (again) with motorbikes on the Greenway (at the Starbeck end). This has meant that the cycle gates have been temporarily narrowed.

27.LEP funding - Andrew Bainbridge has said no money had been applied for through the next financial year for cycling infrastructure proposals and this was a concern that an opportunity had been missed. MB will follow this up. **ACTION MB.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24th April at 10:00am at Council Offices Crescent Gardens, Room H49.

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

| Action By | Para | Description |
|-----------|------|--|
| RB | 1 | Time frame on detailed study of the Local Plan proposed development areas. |
| RB | 9 | Relief Road - Ask to see consultant's Brief to ensure sustainability options are included. |
| RB | 24 | Reduce car parking on grass verges on Hookstone Road and Oatlands Drive. e.g. ask for Parking Inspections or send out warning notices. |
| AN | 2 | HBC's bid for funding from DEFRA - has it been successful? |
| AN | 25 | Cycle racks outside the toilets on the stray. |
| TH | 21 | Schedule of works for the maintenance of cycling and walking. TH to forward information to GM. |
| TH/AN | 19 | A load of work arising from workshop. |
| MB | 3 | Advise RB when Access Fund recruits are in post so they can attend the next Forum Meeting. |

| Action By | Para | Description |
|-----------|------|--|
| MB | 5 | To look at LPT4 statement that cycling schemes had no immediate prospect of funding. This is now factually wrong. LPT4 needs to be amended so there is no confusion. |
| MB | 15 | Discuss with NYCC the need to look at policy and planning conditions to require that developers incorporate sustainable transport schemes alongside the building of a development rather than mid-way or at the end. |
| MB | 17 | Discuss with Developers the need for for sustainable schemes earlier than current. |
| MB | 22 | The Maintenance of Cycling and Walking Schemes in Harrogate - set up a regular work timetable. |
| MB | 23 | Cycleway improvements - The 2017/18 programme shows that no cycle schemes have been included. This needs following up. |
| MB | 27 | LEP funding - no money has been applied for through the next financial year for cycling infrastructure. An opportunity has been missed. MB to question this. |
| GM | 22 | The Maintenance of Cycling and Walking Schemes in Harrogate - draw up a list of priority preferences and send these to MB. |
| YS | 18 | Financial Statement of Funding for Projects - add this to the Agenda as a standard item. |
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