

Harrogate District Cycle Forum: Minutes: 24th February 2020:

In attendance:

Cllr Phil Ireland (HBC)	Ian Kendall
Cllr Don Mackenzie (NYCC)	John Rowe
Helen Firth (NYCC)	Malcolm Margolis
Dan Harper (HBC)	Gia Margolis
Tom Horner (HBC)	Kevin Douglas
Genevieve Gillies (HBC)	Rupert Douglas (Sustrans)
Tom O'Donovan (HBC)	

Apologies: None

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed as an accurate record, request made that minutes are released sooner after meetings to ensure that they can be checked as an accurate record and actions get actioned.

Otley Road Update:

Update from Helen Firth (HF) regarding the NYCC work on the Otley Road Cycle way.

- The work is currently focussed on two phases
- Phase one is currently being held up by utilities providers, Northern Powergrid being the remaining operator to respond. Work cannot start until this has been resolved. There is no indication from Northern Powergrid as to when this will be; they are currently focussed on other work.
- Phase two cannot commence until Stray exchange land has been identified and consulted upon and Stray Byelaws proposed amendments have been consulted upon.
 - Questions were raised regarding the validity of the Duchy's response to the offered exchange land given that a precedent has been set previously.
 - HBC officers explained that the legal position of the Duchy has been reviewed and found to be the technically correct stance.
 - **Dan Harper to send Malcolm Margolis the relevant wording of the Stray Act (actioned)**
- Phase three still under development.

Cycle Parking Updates:

Update from HBC staff on installation of new cycle parking across the District

- **Knaresborough Cycle Racks:**
Tom Horner updated the position with the Knaresborough market place cycle racks. Highlighting the issues that have arisen since their installation and their relocation to Waterside car park and replacement with Sheffield type stands from the Small Transport Grants Fund allocation for Waterside Car Park. New cycle rack installed in Castle Yard car park.
- **Ripon Market Place**
Tom O'Donovan updated that Ripon Market Place now has its new cycle racks in place.
- **Small Transport Grants Fund**
Tom O'Donovan updated that the Small Transport Grants have all been accepted and the vast majority are for additional cycle parking.

Follifoot Underpass:

Genevieve Gillies (GG) gave an update on the progress with the work on Follifoot Underpass and approaches. (see briefing note)

Kevin Douglas (KD) drew attention to the fact that this project has been talked about since February 2013 and that he would like to challenge the NYCC position that concreting the underpass is not possible.

Rupert Douglas (RD) questions what the projected £30,000 related to the bridge work costs from NYCC would cover.

GG explained that it would cover:

- Cleaning of the tunnel structure
- Painting of the structure
- Sealing the structure with resin
- Concrete

Any further repairs that would need to be made to the structure could incur costs up to £70,000.

RD pointed out that a like for like replacement of the path is not an improvement.

Gia Margolis (GM) questioned whether any Bridges team officers were present at the site visit. GG confirms that there were not.

RD suggests that the path be adapted to a full 3m of flexipave on the approaches to the underpass.

GG explains that Steven Best from Sustrans said that this would not be suitable for the horses at the site meeting.

GM explained that Follifoot is cut off from facilities, such as the rugby club, as there is no suitable crossing over the A-658. There is a code of practice for the sharing of facilities and that people would be courteous when using the path. Asks when the tunnel was last inspected.

Cllr Don Mackenzie (DM) will check when the underpass was last inspected by the Bridges Team (actioned)

Malcolm Margolis (MM) Stated that the route is part of the National Cycle Network and that there is an obligation to do something to improve its condition.

Cllr Phil Ireland (PI) stated that there are no barriers from Councillors at HBC or NYCC

MM stated that there needs to be a crossing for the A-658 if the underpass is not going ahead and that a crossing would be a more desirable option.

DM stated that there is still a high cost for a crossing.

DH stated that HBC are caught in the middle, that officers are doing all they can to support the project, engage with stakeholders and ensure that improvements are undertaken but HBC is not in a position to deliver the work as it does not have the final say over the land or PROW.

MM stated that he is supportive of a road crossing as a third option.

DH suggested that further exploration of what can be done was needed between HBC and NYCC. DH will get in touch with the heads of service and set up a meeting to focus on Follifoot Underpass.

PI agrees.

Ripon Updates:

TH updates that the original S.106 agreement still applies as far as HBC is concerned and that the development is approaching the trigger points for the release of funding.

- TH to chase planning team to clarify trigger points and when they will be met.

Ian Kendall (IK) explained that there is a developing interest in cycling and cycling provision in Ripon, that it would be good to get a group set up to start progressing some of the work that could come out of the cycle study, funded through the S.106 money. Increasing support from Ripon Together, a community interest company.

TH then provided an update on progress with the Ripon Barracks site.

Section 106 Discussion:

HF update on royal Horticultural Society S.106 agreement involving £35,000 which has now lapsed. Talks are on-going with RHS on this matter in order to secure the s106 monies. The original project was going to cost twice what was allocated as a result could not go ahead.

GM stated that there did not seem to be systems in place to manage the monitoring of S.106 funding effectively. Is there no mechanism to use it? Could it have been paired with the NPIF funding?

DM explained that all other projects, including NPIF, have been completed with S.106 funds but that they had not been “up to the mark” in this instance and that this was the only instance of S.106 funding not being used.

TH provided an update on how the local plan is going to help with this process through linking to Community Infrastructure Levy payments to pull them together to provide additional cycling infrastructure.

- HF to investigate whether this can be used for Phase 3 of the Otley Road Cycle Path.

MM explained that he had been asking for Harrogate District Cycle Action to be a consultee on planning applications for some time.

TH pointed out that this had been responded to previously, but that HDCA can sign up to receive planning alerts and can then respond to planning applications. Cycling infrastructure is to be embedded in new plans for developments in Harrogate.

- TH to e-mail developers to get in touch with HDCA

District Transport project Updates:

- **Transforming Cities Fund**

TH gave an update on the TCF fund progress and the three scenarios that had been submitted.

- **Future Mobility Zones**

TOD provided an update on the FMZ programme and what it entailed. Still awaiting an announcement of the results from the DfT.

- **Congestion Study**

HF provided an update from NYCC and explained that they are looking at 20 junction improvements in Harrogate with potential trials taking place to examine their impact on traffic flows and congestion.

- **Electric Bus towns**

DM explained that NYCC had been looking at the all-electric bus town proposal from the DfT and had concluded that Harrogate would be the most obvious place in North Yorkshire to go for this and that HBC could apply on their behalf.

Additions to cycle was in the district:

MM updated that Hookstone Lane cycle lanes to be repainted exactly as they were previously.

MM updated with progress on the Nidderdale Greenway, met up to 50 landowners. Looking to get the report completed soon.

RD updated that the Green Hammerton cycleway is close to getting funding. Sustrans are looking to support this work.

MM Killinghall to Nidderdale no progress and looks likely to be CIL funding

- TH – Need to priorities the type of infrastructure required
- RD – Can CIL be used to fund maintenance? More things needs to be given to maintenance of infrastructure not just the cost of building
- TH – to talk to Sam Walker with regards to the maintenance of HBC owned paths.
- TH – see if we can develop a list of projects that we'd like to see and bring that to the cycle forum

GM states that there needs to be a single person in each council responsible for the overview of the implementation of S.106 projects

HF agrees

DH – HBC have just appointed Laura Bromley to such a role. She may be able to be introduced to the cycle forum once she has settled into the new post – does not take up the role until 1st March 2020.

Any other business

NPIF still has £50,000 to use for sustainable transport at Cardale Park

Discussion around 20mph limits and cycling to school

Proposals around a trial of closing roads in the vicinity of schools during pick up and drop of times.

PI updated on the climate coalition:

- Who is involved
- Coalition's aims
- MM would like to be part of the sustainable transport sub-group.

Questions around how cycle forum members can engage with Harrogate BID team.

- PI explains HBC role in the BID
- DH agreed to send the BID manager contact details to JR (Actioned)