

Harrogate District Cycle Forum

20/07/2020 14:00:00

Attending:

Cllr Phil Ireland (PI)	Malcolm Margolis (MM) - HDCA
Dan Harper (DH) - HBC	Gia Margolis (GM) - HDCA
Louise Neal (LN) – NYCC	Kevin Douglas (KD) - HDCA
Melissa Burnham (MB) – NYCC	Rupert Douglas (RD) - Sustrans
Gordon Milne (GM) – NYCC	John Rowe (JR)
Ian Kendall (IK)	Tom O’Donovan (TOD)

Apologies: Cllr MacKenzie & Tom Horner

Minutes of last meeting:

- Question to get minutes of meetings out sooner (JR)
- Approved as an accurate record
- MB to chase up lapsed S.106 funding issue with RHS Harlow Carr

Key project updates:

COVID-19 Response Measures:

1. Update on Tranche 1 implementation
(LN) – NYCC only awarded half of their potential allocation. NYCC have committed to delivering all of the measures put forward, all proposed measures are now being delivered: Beech Grove will be delivered in the next couple of weeks.
2. Tranche 2 bid – approach and proposed schemes
(LN) - Tight time scales, 7th August deadline for submission. NYCC has been pulling together lists of suggested projects and LCWIP. Due to tight timescales it will only give people about a week to review these projects – LN to circulate.
3. Ideas submitted by the public
(LN) - Been taking ideas from the public and will continue to do so.

(JR) – Can we share comments on issues shared in the last few days – level of ambition does not appear to be very high compared to the level that the government has put out. 1.5m width cycle lanes (below recommended standard), believe the government is looking for more than work arounds if the schemes are going to be permanent. Concern that the plans will not be approved. Beech Grove for example has been restricted by the parking provision remaining in place. Other examples include Wetherby Road Crossing or Starbeck to Knaresborough.

(LN) – ambition levels, had a conversation with the representative from the DfT that will be able to go through these issues prior to the bid being submitted and there is a little more time this time around to have these conversations, which were not on offer last time around.

(GM) – Beech Grove – designed as part of a pop-up scheme, it’s not as robust as some of the other proposals. It’s a trial that could be made more robust. It says on the design 1.5m but is likely to be closer to 2m.

(RD) – Understanding that this is to support the use of public transport and that this would point to Knaresborough Starbeck route as this is where the train line is going to suffer from lower use.

(IK) - not aware of any schemes for Ripon, have there been any?

(MB) – not done any designs for cycle routes, have put in measures for social distancing.

(IK) – concern about the potential for projects around schools.

(KD) – did anything come from the Open Harrogate project, is there an opportunity to join these projects up? They did have funding to create ‘shovel ready schemes’

(TOD) – submission from HBC including Ripon, Knaresborough and Harrogate, are they still being included for consideration for Tranche 2?

(LN) – Yes

(MM) – very disappointed with the lack of ambition. Tranche 2, key that DfT see that progress has been made against the Tranche 1 projects, if there is only one cycling scheme it needs to show progress (Beech Grove). These schemes need to be ambitious and advanced. Cycle lanes need to be up to the width that is recommended. Knaresborough Rd say 1.5 but will be 2m. DfT need to know that the proposals will be up to the standards and transformational. What is going to bring more people via walking and cycling. It needs to be along the arterial routes.

(RD) – What are the timescales for the Tranche 2 work to be completed? Are the resources available to undertake the required work?

(LN) – End of the financial year and budget available are the challenges for this work.

(KD) – are you going to be able to commit the resources needed to do all of this work?

(MB) – working with contractors, there’s no reason that it can’t be done in terms of resources, they go to the framework and it should be able to be delivered.

(MM) – DfT may be more impressed if the schemes could be accompanied by 20mph speed limits.

Otley Road Cycle Way

NPIF:

(MB) Waiting on Northern Powergrid, still waiting for confirmation of what they need to do. Some costs have been submitted but these seem very high. Awaiting a site visit with NPG which is due to take place in August. This covers junction improvements and cycle improvements.

(DH) Stray Exchange Land – cabinet agreed to approve public consultation on land exchange options. Waiting for General Purpose Committee will approve amendments to the Stray Bylaws. Stray consultation aiming to go public in August. Consulting on Stray land exchange and bylaw amendments.

(MG) – IS 12 weeks required for Stray consultation

(DH) – Yes

(MG) – what amendments are required?

(DH) – Need amendments to the annex plan. Government requested that HBC also update the model that the bylaws are prepared in to bring them into line with a national standard.

(GM) – Questions for MB and LN – Revisited NPIF bid – in that bid there was no mention of land acquisition being an issue, no mention of stakeholders to be considered (SDA and Duchy) who was the project manager

and when were they appointed? Can see the blame for delays being shifted to HBC when it should've been clear that these was issues that needed to be considered.

(MB) – HBC and NYCC working collaboratively, and there is no blame to be shifted. Requested that GM questions are e-mailed, and they'll be looked into.

(DH) – keen to still receive format consultation responses from the cycle forum and the public, even though some good work has been carried out to

Follifoot Underpass update:

DH – the position still stands from Feb, action taken to speak to NYCC again. Position remains the same. The issues have not changed around the bridge and the cost of concreting under the bridge, Bridges Team clear that they do not want the underpass to be concreted. Also the issue of expanding the bridleway remains. NYCC not able to take on the extra responsibility. This rules out the flexi-pave and the position now is for the S.106 funding to be spend and what can deliver best value and an improvement on the Follifoot underpass scheme:

- Type 1 stone compacted
- Concrete aprons either end
- Drainage to improve the approaches
- Type 1 stone to improve the approaches

Week Commencing 24th August scheduled for work to go ahead. This work has been approved by the County Council.

KD – back to where we were in 2013. What has happened to the money that HBC were going to put in? Come full circle in seven years.

DH – displays proposals for the work via Microsoft Teams. Project will be funded by S.106 money, and will all be covered by the £10,000. HBC funding will need formal agreement to be spent elsewhere, Officer recommendation to ring-fence £50,000 for other cycling schemes. This is a decision for members. TH has said previously that we'd be keen to have suggestions for what this can be used for. HBC does have a spending freeze at the moment, doesn't mean it cannot be spent but there is more stringent governance on this money. We'd be looking to work with cycle forum to spend this.

KD – Whatever scheme we come up with is at the behest of NYCC as they are the highway authority and this brings us back to where we are now. Very frustrating situation.

MM – This not appropriate for cyclists as it is not going to be usable all year round. Can we have a crossing solution, so there is a safe crossing on the bypass. It's on the national cycle route. This is the preferred solution and the right solution.

PI – February meeting DM did say there are some prohibitive costs associated with it this is one for NYCC to come back to. All in favour of ring-fencing £50,000 for cycling projects, and will be recommending this. Final decision lies with the council.

MB – message through Teams, Will ask Signals Teams to look into the crossing. This is likely to be costly but we'll also need data on usage.

MM – DM comments were that if they did it there they'd have to do it in other places that cyclists wanted a crossing. MM has pointed out to DM that the difference in this instance is that a crossing at Follifoot would be part of the national cycle network.

MB – Pegasus crossing on Ripon Road, usage is important to deciding this as well.

RD – Disappointing after all the effort that has been put in for the scheme. Can DH send the details so Sustrans can feedback on them? Has there been further consultation with the riding school? Is there a precedent for a crossing of a busy A road, this could be a way of solving this? Also, an issue with speed and volume of traffic approaching the underpass from Spofforth and Rudding Park. Urge MB to review this from a National Cycle Network point of view the proposals do not meet NCN standards.

IK – Ring fencing of £50,000 what is this £50,000

PI – funding for this project from Council general fund. HBC will aim to keep this for another cycling project.

DH – HBC ring-fenced £900k from capital strategy for transport projects, vast majority of which has been ring-fenced for cycling projects. All earmarked for sustainable transport reserve. We'd be looking for suggestions for other projects to be supported.

RD – Do need to try and find a way to provide a safe crossing of the A-658, ideally at grade, and not to completely give up on this.

GM – Funding: KD has raised this repeatedly, we can't just keep discussing schemes and not delivering.

Transforming Cities Fund update:

DH - £7.9m awarded to Harrogate Station Gateway scheme.

Strategic outline business case has been approved by WYCA

Outline business case being developed, want to work with the cycle forum and stake holders to inform the development. Awaiting modelling data to come back, due September. Summer/Autumn is key to developing this business case. We're not yet in a position to do so yet. Extra-ordinary meeting of the cycle forum likely to be called to discuss proposals one we're able to. This work needs to be submitted by January 2021. Need modelling data before we can engage with stakeholders in details.

MB – Appointing to posts for the project, appointment due to start in September. Like to think that NPIF could be started before Christmas (2020).

Ripon Developments:

MB - £70,000 due for cycling study from the Harron Homes Development. MB to check where this is up to.

IK - £70,000 very close to being triggered. Who is going to be the lead on the £70,000? It's believed it will be HBC, but this needs to be clarified. Would like to get something moving in Ripon, in terms of consultation to go into the study. TH has assured IK that once the money is in we will get going with some kind of consultation to see what people want in Ripon. Wording of the agreement was such that it would contribute to a cycle way on Clothholme Road. Put a cycle way around the back of the primary schools as part of the development on the Grammar School. Would be useful to have some of the funding from Follifoot put towards these projects in Ripon.

GM – It's third party so it's difficult to give too much detail. Do we know if land-owners are on board?

IK – all local authority land, no private ownership

GM – safeguarding issues been discussed with schools?

IK – Yes, meeting with Grammar Schools this week to discuss this further.

Barracks Site:

GM – Transport assessment needs submitting, nothing confirmed as yet.

IK – believes that one has already been completed. Whose hands is this in and who is allowed to read it.

MB – It may have been completed but it hasn't been submitted as part of the planning process.

IK – some of the proposals seem very exciting, however, route south through the current training area, going to be maintained as a country park. This will have a route purely for cycling. Taken a cycle path to Galphay Lane but not addressed the junction with the bridleway and Galphay Lane. They have tried to keep the cycle way and foot path within their land but comes out at a cliff face. Minimised the on-road route, but does not seem practical. IT seems like more work needs to be done to make this a useable and safe route.

MB – NYCC need to assess whether the proposals are deliverable, and this will be fed back to the developers.

RD – attended a meeting in Littlethorpe in January, looking at a potential for a realignment of the NCN between Littlethorpe and Ripon. This looked to have some promise. Wondering where those discussions may have got to.

IK – it all stopped when the floods came in January. Canal and Rivers Trust have been busy fixing the damage and then COVID has come along. Whatever process is gone through to develop the study the people in Ripon would like an opportunity to feed in their ideas to develop a cycle way into Ripon. Would like to see an LCWIP for Ripon.

Any other Business:

GM – S.106 allocated on various developments. Many of these allocations are for very small strips. Because there is no one at NYCC to go over these they don't tie into what already exists. The network isn't joined up, so many different people are running different projects. Miller Homes hasn't been spent to link up to the Otley Road project. When we write to NYCC, through Area6, it seems Area6 does not cover all of these S.106 projects. Need someone with a strategic overview to review these projects and make sure that they join up properly and act as a one-stop-shop.

MB – 106 agreements don't always deliver enough money for the projects as well. Conversations have been had with the new team leader. Want to make sure that things that are delivered are of significance and fit a strategic approach.

RD – Still working on the report for extending the Nidderdale Greenway, delayed by COVID, but still being worked on. Hope to share as soon as possible

MB – LCWIP key document going forward for discussions going forward for S.106 discussions.

MM – Informed forum members that he had resigned from Climate Coalition Transport sub-group, PI will discuss this privately outside the meeting

TOD – Update on Boroughbridge and Knaresborough Cycle racks.

PI – TOD to send out a Doodle Poll for next meeting

Actions:

MB to chase S.106 funding around lapsed Harlow Carr developments

GG – Send updated plans for Follifoot Underpass to Rupert Douglas at Sustrans

MB – investigate with signals team feasibility of putting a dedicated crossing on A658

HBC – Secure the £50,000 set aside for Follifoot Underpass to support other cycling projects in the district

MB – Check on the S.106 funding from the Harron Homes development in Ripon.

TOD – Doodle Poll for the next meeting

GM – email questions to MB regarding Otley Road cycle way