

Shropshire Local Access Forum	<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u>
20 October 2009	13	B
10.00 am		

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Wednesday 10th June 2009
Shirehall, Shrewsbury

1. Present:

John Petty, John Shenton, Angela Shenton, Terry Egglestone, Peter Crofts, Keith Mason, Paul Hayward, Jim Leach, Paul Wagner, Peter Lloyd, Stephen Handley, David Rugman, Miriam Walton, Alan Gouter, Bill Craig, Martin Beardwell, Paul Flinn, Kath Pickwell, Emyr Poole, Philip Saltmarsh, Peta Sams, Paul Cronin, Ruth Stafford, Julie Potter, Anna Morris, Alison Kennedy, Emma Bullard, Phil Pool, Bill Dorrell.

2. Apologies:

Miles Kenny, Neal Challinor, Peter and Beth Holgate, Jenny Leese, Reg Potter, Peter Mathison, John Smith, Bishop's Castle cyclists, Mike Clarke, Peter Walden

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- Still waiting for information from engineers on quiet lanes
- Ludlow cycle stands are now in and being used
- Some progress on Coalport to Bridgnorth link on National Cycle Network Route 45 (Mercian Way). Agreements almost signed with landowners. Some work may happen over the summer on southern section.
- Section of river path under railway bridge, Shrewsbury still needs attention. Some degreasing of this cobbled section will be done in the short term. Discussions with Network Rail taking place over longer term solution.

4. Cycle Shrewsbury Website – presentation by Anna Morris

Anna described the reasons for developing the website, which include giving 24 hour access to information for people about cycling in Shrewsbury, and enabling the public to interact with the Cycle Shrewsbury team and give feedback and opinions. The website aims to give support to those who do not normally cycle and may lack the confidence to do so, by giving tips, advice, suggested routes, etc.

It gives regular updates of cycling events, such as the Dr. Bike sessions, and has a membership scheme, which enables members to have a discount car for cycle shops and to contribute to the BLOG. Some interactive mapping has been introduced and from Autumn 2009 there will also be an on-line cycle journey planner for Shrewsbury. There are now 88 pages available on the website and Anna was congratulated on her achievement in getting this into operation so efficiently.

A question was asked about monitoring cycle movements within town and increases in cycling. New cycle counters have been installed and Sustrans/ Cycling England/ Shropshire Council will also use traffic counts and household surveys to monitor cycling.

The aim of the website is to be as inclusive as possible and not to alienate car users. Tips for driving are included, and members of the cycle forum were asked to make any further suggestions for items they would like to see included and for links to further relevant websites.

5. Cycle Shrewsbury Campaign Launch Events – Emma Bullard

Emma outlined some of the events that have taken place:

- 11th May – the website went live
- 11-15th – Dr. Bike sessions were held at the supermarkets, including Asda, Sainsburys and Tesco
- 18-23rd – Roadshow in the Darwin Centre included a 30 second commercial about Cycle Shrewsbury shown on a big screen, and a small survey with a limited response
- 19th – School cycle parking launch involving 9 schools. This took the form of a relay with 2 pupils from each school going on to the next school for the “official opening” of their cycle parking, starting at Greenacres Primary, Harlescott and ending at St. Winefride’s in the town centre. Radio Shropshire came to Mount Pleasant Juniors and did a live broadcast from there, interviewing some very articulate children! They put out further broadcasts about the event during the day.
- Radio Shropshire has given further coverage to the adult beginners who were non-cyclists and both learned to ride bikes by their second lesson.
- Newspaper coverage has been in the Star, Chronicle, Country and Border Life and Taste Magazine.

6. Cycle Shrewsbury - Schools

Increasing cycling to school was one of the 3 strands in the cycle town bid, and progress has been made in a number of areas:

- Bikeability – lots of level 1 and 2 training going on, with 3 teams out this week.
- Advert for cycle coach to run cycle clubs is due out tomorrow – will be working with the School Sports Partnership and based at Sundorne.
- Bike It officer – interviews taking place today for this post.
- New cycle parking as discussed above. Some more orders will be going in for further cycle storage and scooter racks at schools.

A successful Bike Day was recently held at Radbrook Primary School with 130 children cycling to school, and enjoying cycle skills sessions, Police bike marking and smoothies!

Questions were tabled as to whether the new cycle coach might be able to support the BMX club at Monkmoor, and why the cycle coach at the Sports village was being made redundant. Action: answers will be sought to these questions.

7. Workplaces

Ruth Stafford introduced herself. She is the Workplace Travel Plan Co-ordinator and will be working throughout the county and particularly with the Council workplaces to encourage sustainable travel to and for work. Bike Week is happening next week and Cycle to Work days are planned for the Guildhall and Shirehall, the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Sixth Form College. Contact has also been made with the Police and supermarkets to promote cycling. Cycle Shrewsbury can give grants to provide cycle storage and produce leaflets for businesses.

The issue of encouraging women to cycle was raised, particularly in the context of the RSH, where improvements along Mytton Oak Road would help give safer access. Plans are linked to development of Shrewsbury south hospital site and are on hold at present.

Leicester (and Zutphen) apparently has an excellent cycle facility in the town centre, providing safe storage, cycle repair and cycle hire, and the possibility of offering something similar in Shrewsbury was mooted. Alison has already spoken to the Rail Officer about using the station for a similar facility and discussions are planned with Arriva and Network Rail to try to take this forward.

8. Cycle Shrewsbury - Infrastructure – Alison Kennedy

An update was given on projects:

- Counts have been done at 11 crossings in Shrewsbury where concerns have been raised. Numbers of pedestrians and cyclists were counted and the delays they experienced were noted. The 2 with highest priority that emerged from this were the Roman Road/Longden Road crossing and the Heathgates roundabout, so further work will be looked at for these.
- English Bridge is going to have an experimental cycle lane for a period to test impacts on road traffic
- Initial design work has been completed for Bayston Hill signing and new links to new Oakmeadow Primary School.
- Other projects at the design stage include Oteley Road improvements, Welsh Bridge signals (Connect2), Crowmeole Lane possible road closure and London Road cycle track. Conversion of footways alongside A roads is in the programme for 2010/11
- Construction is almost complete at Greenfields Recreation Ground
- Construction should start in July on the path improvements between Whitchurch Road and Carmel Drive

There was concern about the installation of new crash barriers on Hazledine Way and the impact this has had on the existing cycle track. Alison explained that an adjacent section of cycle track would be widened to compensate for the lost space, and the signpost had been relocated.

It was noted that the Howard Street signals are not detecting cyclists. Action: Alison to follow this up.

9. Shropshire Cycling Projects

Photos of the new eastern Oswestry paths (already in use for the school journey) were circulated.

Cycle parking requests are also being followed up in Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock, Highley and Wroxeter.

10. Bike Week events

Events are taking place throughout the county, particularly in Telford, Ironbridge, Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Bishops Castle. Terry highlighted the Thursday cycle races at the Sports Village, Shrewsbury.

11. Any other business

Kath mentioned the new community working team for the central area.

Anna noted the new Shrewsbury Cycle Rides leaflet

Paul C is planning a Sustrans Ranger work day on NCN Route 81 behind the Sports Village and welcomed other volunteers

12. Next meeting Wednesday 16th September 2009