

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

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Wednesday 16th September 2009, Shirehall

1. Present

Miles Kenny, Shropshire Councillor (chair)
 Alison Kennedy, Shropshire Council, Cycle Shrewsbury
 Andrew Seabourne, Bishops Castle District Cycling Group
 Angela Parton, Shrewsbury cyclist
 Angela Shenton, Shrewsbury cyclist
 Brett Kibble, Sustrans Ranger
 Carol Price, Shrewsbury
 David Gibson, Telford and Wrekin Council
 Geoff Shinner, Sustrans Liaison Ranger (Telford and Wrekin)
 John Petty, Shrewsbury
 John Shenton, Shrewsbury cyclist
 John Smyth, Bishops Castle District Cycl. Grp
 Jon Tandy, Shropshire Councillor
 Kath Pickwell, Shr Council Community Working

Ken Tyrrell, Shrewsbury cyclist
 Marian Hoskin, Shrewsbury cyclist
 Martin Beardwell, CTC Shropshire
 Michael Connor, Shrewsbury Tourism Association
 Paul Flynn, Transition Town Shrewsbury
 Peta Sams, Ludlow Cycling Support Group
 Peter Crofts, CTC Right to Ride Officer Shrewsbury
 Peter Walden, Shrewsbury cyclist
 Phil Pool, Friends of the Earth
 Philip Saltmarsh, Rickshaw Phil
 Robert Price, Shrewsbury
 Ruth Stafford, Shropshire Council Travel Plans Officer
 Terry Egglestone, CTC, Mid Shrops Wheelers, Zutphen Twinning Committee

2. Apologies

Beth Holgate	James Purkiss	Paul Wagner	Peter Mathison
Bill Craig	Jim Leach	Peter Bird	Reg Potter
Chris Pennington	John Short	Peter Carty	Stephen Handley
Dave Rolfe	Julian Symondson	Peter Holgate	
Emma Bullard	Mike Clarke	Peter Lloyd	

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- Quiet Lanes – no update yet
- Cobbles under railway bridge in Shrewsbury – **Action: Miles** to take up as a health and safety issue

4. National Cycle Network – issues and updates

A new Midlands route leaflet was circulated – contact Alison for further copies.

Route 81, Shrewsbury

Issues were raised regarding conflict with vehicles accessing the Dorset Pools site off Telford Way, Shrewsbury. The main concerns related to:

- Use by motor vehicles (particularly at weekends) and conflict with cycles
- Anti-social behaviour by some drivers

Problems have been reported in the past and environmental health officers followed up issues with horse manure on the cycle route in 2008.

Suggestions from the Forum members included:

- Establish extent of Rights of Way and land ownership – **Action: Alison**
- Discourage use of lower gate – top gate is more suitable

- Widen path to underpass with segregated cycle track – considered an expensive last resort option
- Provide signs for drivers and cyclists to raise awareness of the national Cycle Network route and vehicles on this section – **Action: Alison/ Richard**

Route 45, Coalport to Bridgnorth

Shropshire Council contractors, Enterprise, started work this week (for 4-5 weeks) on surfacing the southern section of the disused railway between Coalport and Bridgnorth (Phase 1). This followed the signing of a permissive access agreement with the landowner earlier this summer.

Phase 2 (extending the route to Coalport) is planned for 2010. The Forum members agreed that this would be worth celebrating and promoting nationally. **Action: Alison** to pass on the Forum's thanks to Shropshire Council's legal and estates teams.

Phase 3 (path around sports field to Riverside and Bridgnorth Low Town) will follow on from phases 1-2. In the short term, it is proposed to sign a route along Bramble Ridge. It was suggested that the existing gates at the sports field could be made more cycle-friendly – **Action: Richard**.

Route 45, Upton Magna signs

Additional black and white Route 45 signs (pointing south) were requested for the main junction in the village. **Action: Alison/ Richard**.

Route 45, Upton Forge

The preferred alignment for Route 45 around Upton Forge was supported by members of the Forum. Further work will need to establish the extent of highway and bridleway as well as landownership. There seems to be plenty of evidence of use by local people as well as businesses. **Action: Alison**.

Route 81, Albrighton

There is currently an unsigned section of Route 81 from Cosford to Albrighton and the Staffs boundary. The section within Albrighton has been delayed due to local utility works and discussions over design. **Action: Alison** to ask for this to be reviewed again prior to agreeing the programme for next financial year.

Sustrans Rangers

There are a number of local Sustrans members who volunteer their time to collate reports on the National Cycle Network routes near them, and to discuss these with Sustrans and local authority officers. Larger areas have a 'Liaison Ranger'. Principal contacts in Shropshire have recently changed:

- Geoff Shinner – Liaison Ranger (replacing Paul Cronin) Telford and Wrekin area, covering Route 81 from Upton Magna to Albrighton, route 45 from Upton Magna to Bridgnorth, plus route 55 from Coalport to Newport.
- Mike Clarke – Liaison Ranger (also replacing Paul Cronin) – covering the remainder of Shropshire including Route 45 from Whitchurch to Upton Magna, Route 81 west of Shrewsbury, Route 31 and Route 75
- Other Sustrans members also help on local sections, including Brett Kibble (Route 81 in western Shropshire and Powys), John Smyth and

Dave Thomlinson (Route 44 near Bishops Castle) and there are local contacts in Highley (Route 45) and Wolverhampton (Route 81)

Additional help was welcomed. **Action: Peta** will ask if the Ludlow Cycling Support Group can nominate a contact for Route 44. It was also suggested that the Shropshire Rangers met up to discuss roles and responsibilities.

5. Telford and Wrekin cycling projects

The Forum welcomed news that Telford PCT is funding a 2year Active Travel Project, including new infrastructure at 3 industrial estates and cycle training for 500 adults. There was some interest in adult cycle training - support is now available in Telford and Shropshire to help those new to cycling, as well as those who wish to improve their on-road cycling skills. There is now a register of 20 cycling instructors in the Telford area.

A transition project with Year 6 pupils has also been set up to build up their cycling confidence ready for secondary schools (Year 7). This project runs until 2011.

New walking and cycling maps will be published within the next 2 months.

6. Shrewsbury Railway Station

Peter Crofts had undertaken a review of cycling at Shrewsbury station, inspired by Lord Adonis' example in London. Terry distributed photos of the cycle store at Zutphen Railway Station.

The early results from the online Cycle Shrewsbury station survey were also discussed (for full details please contact Alison). These include support for more cycle parking, particularly at the front of the station. Cycle Shrewsbury has now agreed with Arriva to fund the purchase of new stands, likely to be installed by Arriva within the next 6 months.

Other points raised by Forum members about the station included:

- Access from the Riverside – there a number of alternatives to the steep steps, including St Mary's Water Lane, ramp to Castlefields and ramp with steps to the Prison
- Smithfield Road cycle route – keen to see this introduced
- Abbey Foregate/ Gay Meadow link – although Network Rail and Arriva are reluctant to see this reintroduced, it remains an aspiration for the Forum and Shropshire Council. There may be opportunities to improve this when new development takes place on the Gay Meadow site

7. Cycle Shrewsbury/ Connect 2

Alison provided an update from the project group meeting held the day before. This focussed on working with employers and found out more details of how the cycle purchase salary sacrifice scheme works. This has already been

introduced by local employers such as the National Trust, Fire Service and Mouchel but is still being investigated by Shropshire Council.

There has also been considerable success with new pool bikes - being used regularly by officers and councillors to attend meetings and site visits around town. **Action: Ruth** to update more on this and initiatives at other council sites around the county at a future meeting.

John Grimshaw (advisor to Cycling England) will be in Shrewsbury next week to review infrastructure and take a workshop for engineers, planners and other officers involved in the cycling infrastructure.

Alison encouraged people to sign up as members on the Cycle Shrewsbury website. As well as offering discounts at local shops, members will also be consulted on future schemes. People without internet access can apply in writing to become members.

A number of questions and suggestions were raised on Shrewsbury issues:

- Milk Street – contraflow? – is under investigation
- Abbey Foregate cycle track near Wakeman School – proposed improvements are part of English Bridge scheme
- Old Potts Way – unswept broken glass
- Abbey Foregate – faded cycle symbols
- The Square - more cycle parking? – is under investigation
- Crash barriers – has been raised with CTC
- Asda – poor quality of new stands – to be taken up again with Asda

8. Transition Town Shrewsbury

The Transition Town movement is a local response to climate change and peak oil and Paul Flynn described how it is getting going in Shrewsbury. It incorporates local groups who are already working on cycling, food production and trading without money.

Forum members were encouraged to check out the website <http://transitiontownshrewsbury.org.uk/> and to take part in the cycle event on Sunday organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition and local churches.

9. Any other business

- Maintenance issues and responsibilities were raised – to be discussed at a future Forum. **Action: Alison/ Kath** to put together a list of contacts including the 28 community working officers, Shropshire Council, Highways Agency and others.
- BMX proposal has been put forward by the Community Working team – for more details contact Kath Pickwell
- Wolverhampton Wheelers races at the Shrewsbury Sports Village this Saturday

10. Date of Next Meeting = Wednesday 2 December 2009, Shirehall