

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM
Wednesday 2nd December 2009, Shirehall, Shrewsbury**

1. Present

Miles Kenny (chair)	John Petty	Paul Wagner
Alison Kennedy	Kath Pickwell	Pauline Mackintosh
Angela Parton	Keith Mason	Peter Crofts
Bernard Goodman	Ken Thorne	Peter Holgate
Bill Dorrell	Ken Tyrell	Peter Lloyd
Brett Kibble	Mac Hoskin	Peter Mathison
Chris Pennington	Martin Beardwell	Peter Walden
Emyr Poole	Mary Diggory	Phil Pool
Geoff Shinner	Mel Bailey	Reg Potter
Heidi Gomm	Mike Arthur	Richard Harman
Jim Leach	Mike Clarke	Terry Egglestone
John Mackintosh	Nick Holden	

2. Apologies

Adrian Penney	Emma Bullard	Kay and Chris
Andy Hyde	James Purkiss	Dartnell
Ben Procter	John Short	Martin Taylor-Smith
David Currant	John Smyth	Phil Saltmarsh

3. Previous minutes and matters arising:

- Shrewsbury – cobbles under railway station – (underwater at the time of the Forum) **Action: Alison and Richard to investigate alterations to surface and new warning signs**
- Shrewsbury – Dorset Pools, Telford Way – land ownership still being checked. The Forum agreed to install an additional National Cycle Network warning sign close to Telford Way **Action: Alison to follow up**
- Ludlow – Route 44 contact – Sustrans Ranger Mike Clarke is planning to meeting March 2010 with Ludlow Cycling Support Group
- Maintenance/ community working team contacts – Kath Pickwell distributed leaflets with community working team contacts. Other contact numbers were also displayed (see box below). More detailed Highways Agency contacts to be obtained for future meetings. <http://www.fillthathole.org.uk/> and <http://www.fixmystreet.com/> were also suggested. Maintenance will be looked at in more detail at the March forum

Shropshire Council 0345 678 9000
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

- Potholes/ surface defects – Highways Maintenance
- Glass/ vegetation – Environmental Maintenance
- Surfaced cycle routes away from the road – usually Highways Maintenance
- Unsurfaced routes away from the road/ Bridleways/ Byways - Countryside
- Other local issues – Community Working Team

Highways Agency 08457 50 40 30

ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

A5, A483, A458 and A49 south of Shrewsbury

4. Shropshire Cycle Forum – new terms of reference?

Alison explained that the Shropshire Cycle Forum was set up in 1996 but that changes in the council's organisation, funding for cycling and interest in cycling for leisure and transport mean that it is timely to set out terms of reference for the Forum. Five questions were put to the Forum:

- What is the purpose of the Shropshire Cycle Forum?
- Who should attend?
- How often should the Forum meet?
- Where should the Forum meet?
- What sorts of topics should be discussed?

The responses are included in the Shropshire Cycle Forum Terms of Reference (draft 1) attached.

5. Update on National Cycle Network

Route 45

- Coalport – Kath noted that the resurfaced section is looking good
- Coalport to Bridgnorth – Phase 1 was completed in November (Apley Estate near Bridgnorth) and next section due for construction next year if legal agreement is signed. The new section is already being used and feedback is very good.
- Upton Magna – signs are to be added. Mike C suggested adding route numbers (black and white) to existing fingers **Action: Alison to check**
- Upton Forge – this is the preferred long-term route. It is proposed to install removable bollards to prevent motor traffic travelling over the bridleway onto the weak bridge over the River Tern. There was concern over the Royal Mail van which uses this route

Route 81

- Shrewsbury - there was some discussion over possible diversion routes during floods and Quarry events. Sustrans rangers offered to help with temporary signing. Suggested route alternative between Porthill and Kingsland Bridge (during Quarry events) was to use the Beck's Field path and Burr's Field to Kingsland Road, Longden Coleham and back over Greyfriars Bridge. Possible diversion routes during flooding on the riverside could use Underdale Road.
- Albrighton – Sustrans Rangers have signed either side of A41 but there is currently no designated crossing point

Route 55

- Reg described the need to continue investigation of R55 from Donington to Newport and the Staffs border

NCN Signing

- Ranger signing – Sustrans Rangers are happy to do signing work (put up temporary signs, clean signs and clear vegetation) but are looking for agreements with local highway authorities and helping sign new routes such as Regional Route 33 (Shrewsbury to Church Stretton)

6. Shropshire updates

Ludlow

Advanced stop lines for cyclists are proposed at the junction outside Tesco (Corve Street/ Station Road). John M reported that cycle detection is working fine on the ASLs installed last year

Disused railway feasibility studies - Shrewsbury to Crosshouses

Students at Concord College have met with Alison to discuss the idea of a cycle route from Acton Burnell to Shrewsbury along the Roman Road and disused railway. If any members of the Forum would like to work with the students on this, please contact Alison for details. Mike C has already looked at the section from Weeping Cross to Crosshouses and thinks most of it may be National Trust. There are problems with missing bridges!

Disused railway feasibility studies - Shrewsbury to Minsterley

Nick Holden noted that the Rea Valley Environmental Group (ReaVen) has commissioned a feasibility report from Les Lumsdon and the University of Central Lancashire on the disused railway from Minsterley to Pontesbury and Hanwood and links back to Shrewsbury. Hanwood to Minsterley is Phase 1. The report will look at land ownership and local demand (from questionnaires). The forum offered support, even for short sections such as Shorthill. Shropshire Council is also looking at a new route alongside the A488 which could compliment the disused railway route and provide a key link to school.

Cycle Shrewsbury - cycle hoop

A trial is taking place of a new type of cycle parking. It is intended to be additional to 'Sheffield' cycle stands and is easier to install. The cycle hoop bolts around existing signposts and is being trialled in the Square, Shrewsbury (Richard is also looking at more permanent parking solutions at this location). The advantage of the cycle hoop as opposed to locking bikes around posts is it gives directional stability.

Cycle Shrewsbury - red surfacing on cycle lanes

A new type of surfacing is being trialled on Monkmoor Road, giving clear priority to cyclists on cycle lanes across the mouth of side roads. Although this is not new in the UK, it's new to Shrewsbury. Martin spoke in support of this new measure.

Cycle Shrewsbury – consultation

Consultation is taking place over the next few months for:

- Connect2 Welsh Bridge – new signalised crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists. Martin noted that it may be an imperfect solution but it is a

tremendous opportunity and a major step forward for the town. Other members agreed. Plans were available for comment

- Bayston Hill Safer Routes to School – zebra crossing, mini-roundabout, new pedestrian/ cycle access to school and minor improvements. Plans were available for comment
- York Road Safer Routes to School – traffic calming, 20mph zone and new pedestrian and cycle path across Kynaston Fields. Plans were available for comment
- Crossing improvements are planned at Heathgates Island, Roman Road / Longden Road Island, Old Potts Way (Asda), Radbrook Road (near Bank Farm Road) and Weeping Cross Island. Plans will be available within the next 2 weeks
- Meadow Place contra flow – plans are available now but work will continue on other cycle contra flows (including investigation of Milk Street and Bynner Street)

Cycle Shrewsbury

Other suggestions were made including; link to Wem from north Shrewsbury; link from Shropshire Wildlife Trust to English Bridge (some advanced stop lines have recently been installed); faded cycle symbols on Abbey Foregate.

7. Any other business

- Shrewsbury – Shoplatch cycle stands are out of action due to the Christmas tree and Domino pizza motorbikes. It was noted that Shropshire Parking Service are reluctant to address the motorbike parking. **Action: Alison/ Richard to follow up**
- National Trust – are looking to buy a disused quarry near Wenlock Edge which has potential as a mountain biking centre. This would complement the disused railway line that they already own along Wenlock Edge
- Wrexham and Shropshire Railways – Shropshire Council is in discussion with them to promote cycle carriage on trains. Keith also updated the Forum on the issues associated with the train franchise and rolling stock
- Remote access to Cycle Forum – it was suggested that a satellite link could be set up for people who live in less accessible areas of Shropshire
- Raising awareness of the Cycle Forum – suggestions included information in the Shropshire magazine, more word of mouth and SCF cards/ fliers in bike shops (including next year's dates) **Action: Alison to follow up**
- Cycle leaflet for Bridgnorth - Geoff mentioned that more input is needed on cycle rides in the Bridgnorth area. If anyone is interested please contact Alison/ Anna Morris
- Highley to Arley path was also mentioned – Shropshire Council has no further plans in this area

8. Content, dates and venues for future meetings

- Wednesday 10th March, Shirehall – discussing maintenance
- Wednesday 16th June, Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton
- Changed (by popular vote) to Tuesday 7th September, Shirehall
- Changed to Tuesday 7th December, Shirehall