

Shropshire Local Access Forum	Item	Paper
13 July 2011	14	E
10.00 a.m.		

## MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Wednesday 2 March 2011, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

### 1. Present

Miles Kenny (Chair)	Emma Bullard	Paul Wagner
Alex Grant	Gavin Ashford	Peta Sams
Alison Kennedy	Geoff Shinner	Peter Bird
Angela Shenton	Jean Breakell	Peter Crofts
Brett Kibble	Jo Ridgway	Peter Mathison
Brian Luesby	John Shenton	Peter Walden
Diane Smith	Kate Westgate	Philip Saltmarsh
Douglas Saltmarsh	Mac Hoskin	Reg Potter
	Mike Clarke	Tristan Ralph

### 2. Apologies

Andy Goldsmith	Julie Potter	Richard Harman
Derek Owen	Malcolm Potter	Samantha Tharme
John Petty	Martin Beardwell	Terry Egglestone
John Smyth	Mike Arthur	
	Phil Pool	

### 3. Previous minutes (7 December 2010) and matters arising

Minutes accepted. Matters arising:

- Local Transport Plan 3.** Gavin gave an update for Telford and Wrekin. There are two parts; a policy document and a 5-year delivery plan (2011-16) which includes schemes to be delivered with Local Sustainable Transport Fund funding if the LSTF bid is successful. Workplace travel plans are a key focus. T&W are discussing joint areas of work with Shropshire. [http://www.telford.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.aspx?documentID=516&pageNumber=2](http://www.telford.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?documentID=516&pageNumber=2) Alison Kennedy said Shropshire's LTP will go to councillors on 16 March. The LSTF bid is for just under £5m over 4 years (2011-5). Most of this is for revenue schemes including cycle promotion, training etc in Shrewsbury (Cycle Shrewsbury), Ludlow and Oswestry. <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/traveltransport.nsf/open/87FA92B12AB8B93C80257871002D24DB> Miles Kenny asked about other neighbouring authorities e.g. are we working with Staffs, Powys? We need to try and get continuity of quality. [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk) national scheme was mentioned
- Contra flow cycling in Shrewsbury** Meadow Place scheme has been implemented and other proposals will be going to formal consultation. Alison summarised the comments:
  - widespread support from the cycling community
  - main criticisms were of the Belmont contra flow and shared-use section in Shoplatch. These will now be dropped. Remaining schemes were generally supported and will be taken forward. Mike Clarke asked how to get similar schemes in the market towns. Alison hopes that the Shrewsbury schemes will set a precedent. ACTION: all to send

suggestions for further contra flows. Members congratulated Alison on getting these schemes agreed.

- **A442 Telford.** Geoff said there is now an alternative route on one of the LEJOG websites, and it has also been offered to CTC. Other possible alternative routes were mentioned.
- **Cycle Shrewsbury rides for women** Emma explained that research shows women are less likely to cycle and more likely to say they would like to start. They are therefore an obvious target for Cycle Shrewsbury whose aim is to get more people cycling, more safely, more often. There is growing demand for leisure rides and a variety is needed to suit different people; for instance the existing Sunday rides for women do not suit those who go to church on Sunday mornings. Paul stressed it was important for people to have 3rd party insurance which is available through CTC membership and other schemes. Peter Bird said he is registered as a club with British Cycling to run his leisure rides from the Bicycle Hub. ACTION Emma to look into this. Paul also suggested a monthly “introduction to cycling” session at Shrewsbury sports village and said he could supply people to help. Emma is also working with Radbrook Surgery in Shrewsbury to organise local cycle rides and provide information about cycling.
- **Cycle parking in the Square, Shrewsbury** Alison said there has been some progress and we hope to see some more stands installed in the next month, including new stands in Princess Street. This has been delayed due to a shortage of ‘heritage’ cycle stands.

#### **4. Telford Town Park Project. Peter Bird, Bicycle Hub and Jo Ridgway, T&W Council**

Jo gave a presentation on the Southwater Development and Parks for People project in Telford town centre. Southwater is a large-scale redevelopment and plans include better integration with a revamped Telford Town Park. Work in the park has already started, and involves moving the lake among other things. A new visitor centre will open in September 2011, further south and closer to the Silkin Way. The overall Parks for People project and new Civic Offices, Learning and Media Centre will take about 2 years. Other investment will follow.

Peter said the existing Bicycle Hub will stay in Jackfield and a new cycle centre will open as part of the new Town Park visitor centre. Inspired by his visit to the US Bike Show he plans to provide cycle hire and other services including a “commuter station” where commuters can leave their bikes in return for a banana?!. The new centre will have lots of scope to promote cycling as it will be close to 50 miles of cycle route (National Cycle Network Routes 45 and 55), mostly traffic-free and with gentle gradients.

#### **Comments**

- Members felt that signage is very important, at present it is difficult to find Silkin Way from the railway station. Cycle signage should use both local signs and primary destinations; as road signs do. Signing is included in the master plan
- Reg asked for cyclists and pedestrians to be segregated. He said he had raised this with T&W as the proposal is not to segregate in the centre of the Southwater devt. Gavin said that the core area will be car-free (buses and taxis only)
- Mike asked for provision for touring cyclists on NCN routes: shelters to get out of the rain, and a walkers'/cyclists camping area. This might attract LEJOG riders.

#### **5. Updates – Telford and Wrekin. Gavin Ashford**

- Will be offering staff the Cycle to Work scheme during April as a pilot to gauge the level of interest. Halfords is the chosen supplier
- Have secured Bikeability funding for 2011-12

- Are undergoing internal restructure so not sure yet who will have responsibility for key cycle routes and ongoing issues of signage and maintenance.
- Have secured £80k from NHS for grants to businesses for active travel
- TBUG will provide funding for the walking and cycling map
- Are still looking at the Sustrans/ Council agreement

Reg asked about cyclists (on cycle track) having priority across entrances to businesses on business parks. Gavin said this will not be happening as the businesses were opposed.

Reg also asked about improving cycle parking as part of the Newport regeneration work.

## 6. Updates – Shropshire Alison Kennedy

- **NCN 45 Ironbridge to Bridgnorth.** Official opening and Severn Hospice Daffodil Ride will take place on Sunday 27 March. The landowners will be responsible for maintenance from now on but any problems can be reported to Shropshire Council to pass on. Alison is meeting Bridgnorth Endowed School about creating a better link into Bridgnorth across their land by improving the existing footpath.
- **NCN 81 in Shrewsbury.** Alison asked members to suggest alternative routes for when the riverside path is flooded and also for when the Quarry is closed for events. In the latter case there is confusion as it should be possible for people to be escorted through the event but often staff on the gate do not know or offer this. There was a discussion about various options. Brett suggested the same diversion route could be signed for floods and events (though floods affect a much wider area) ACTION all to suggest diversion routes.
- **Cycle Shrewsbury updates**
  - Mytton Oak Road toucan crossing: official opening on 15 March
  - Heathgates Island: refuge widening/ green surfacing is taking place. Paul noted that neither drivers nor cyclists understand green surfacing. Mike asked for priority schemes like the London superhighways (although these are criticised as they are not enforced)
  - Tri cycling: this course combines bikeability, BMX and mountain biking over 3 days and is proving very popular (October 2010 and February 2011). Peter Mathison was one of the instructors and found it very positive.
  - A new leisure ride leaflet, “wildlife and waterways” was launched as part of the Darwin Festival in February. It can be downloaded from <http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/cycle-routes/cycling-for-fun/family-friendly-rides> or a paper copy can be ordered.

## 7. Any other business

- Geoff asked about the Shropshire Council agreement with Sustrans. Alison said it is awaiting signing
- Alison reminded people about Bike Week 18-26 June ACTION: please let us know details of your events
- Doug and Phil Saltmarsh have made a film about cycling in Shropshire which will be available for sale soon.

## 8. Content, dates and venues of 2011 meetings

Tuesday 7 June, Carding Mill Valley - and cycle ride from Shrewsbury (leaving Column at 5pm)

Wednesday 14 September, Shirehall – BMX tryout before meeting?

Tuesday 6 December, Shirehall