

APPENDIX 13A

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Tuesday 7 June 2011, Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton

1. Present

Miles Kenny (chair)	Geoff Shinner	Peter Carty
Adrian Penney	Graham Pocock	Peter Mathison
Alan Boardman	John Smyth	Peter Walden
Alison Kennedy	Kate Mayes	Philip Pool
Allen Timbrell	Ken Thorpe	Richard Davies
Andrew Seabourne	Lisa Barlow	Richard Harman
Bill Dorrell	Mike Arthur	Tim Rutherford
Dave Clarke	Nigel Pocock	Will Chambers
Dave Thomlinson	Peta Sams	

2. Apologies

Brett Kibble	Jenny Leese	Martin Beardwell
Chris Pennington	Jim Leach	Mary Diggory
Derek Owen	John Leese	Mike Clarke
Doug Saltmarsh	John Petty	Peter Lloyd
Emma Bullard	John Short	Ray Hughes
Gavin Ashford	Julie Potter	Reg Potter

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

No matters arising

4. Film – Cycling on the Long Mynd

Forum members enjoyed watching Douglas Saltmarsh's 20 minute film which include footage of cycling through Church Stretton and over the Long Mynd, as well as historical anecdotes. The route used was based on Shropshire Council's Church Stretton Cycle Rides leaflet. [For more information about this film and others in the series, please see http://www.automonkey.co.uk/](http://www.automonkey.co.uk/)

5. Mountain biking on the Long Mynd

Peter Carty described how the draft mountain bike map, produced in 2010, has been 'field tested' and is ready to go to print as a final version. Alan, Kate and Peter have been looking at sources of funding. **Action: Alison to also ask Tim King, Shropshire Council's Tourism Officer, for funding.**

There was a discussion about whether the map should be available free or at a cost. It was agreed that the map should be available online without costs. Mountain bikers visiting local shops are often prepared to pay for good local information. It was suggested that a voluntary donations system could be put in place, with any funding raised used for reprinting of maps or upkeep of trails and way marking. [Following the Forum, Shropshire Council and the National Trust were able to fund the printing of 10,000 maps and these are online at http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cycling.nsf/viewAttachments/AMOS-8K5MJ3/\\$file/long-mynd-mtb-map-2011.pdf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cycling.nsf/viewAttachments/AMOS-8K5MJ3/$file/long-mynd-mtb-map-2011.pdf)

6. Church Stretton town centre plans

Alison brought plans showing 3 options for changes on Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton. Suggestions were invited for cycle parking locations.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/news/2011/06/have-your-say-about-church-stretton-improvements/>

7. Events

Bike Week 2011 – a range of events were being organised around the county, including a full week of activities in Bishop's Castle and Telford. Ideas for other local events where cycling could be promoted included:

- 2 July – Chain Reaction Cycle Sportive, Marshbrook
- 9 July - Shrewsbury Green Fair
- 30 July – Oswestry Traders Day
- 28 August – Ludlow Green Fair

8. Updates – Telford and Wrekin

E-mailed updates were provided by Gavin Ashford and Derek Owen. Telford Council submitted a Local Sustainable Transport Fund Bid. Two key projects as part of the bid included 1) upgrade of the of the Silkin Way 2) Telford - Newport - Stafford cycleway improvements.

As part of Bike Week the Council are launching the Cycle to Work scheme in partnership with Halfords and their local independent retailers. 24th June will be Bike to Work day with cycle maintenance sessions at both Civic Offices and Darby House.

BMX news:

- a National BMX track is proposed in the Phoenix School BSF proposal and is aiming for detailed planning by September 2011.
- A new £100k skate park facility is proposed in Donnington. The bespoke free flow concrete design is aimed for BMX freestylers
- Telford's Urban Games incorporates Shropshire's only BMX 'open' racing takes place on 10th July at Leegomery BMX track.
- Birmingham's new BMX track at Perry Park is holding European Championship racing on the 18th / 19th June.
- Wrekin Riders BMX club have purchased a new portable pneumatic start gate (with traffic lights and sound system) which is available for hire, as is their coaching staff.

9. Updates – Shropshire

The Sustrans/ Local Authority agreement has been signed at Shropshire Council and will now be circulated to Sustrans rangers and officers.

National Cycle Network routes

- Route 44 – progress is being made on detailed design for the path between Pontesbury and Minsterley
- Route 32 – is currently unsigned but Sustrans are concerned about safety of the route where it crosses the A49 (near All Stretton) and on the A458 between Weeping Cross island, Shrewsbury and the Berrington road.

- Route 45 – Alison thanked members who joined in the inaugural ‘Daffodil Ride’ along the disused railway section between Bridgnorth and Coalport. New leaflets are now available. The agreement for this privately owned section allows for 10 year permissive access, so Forum members were invited to use the route and to help promote it. There was discussion of access gates and ‘tank traps’ for horses/ motorbikes. Peter M mentioned that CTC are developing a policy on disabled access.
- Route 45/ Route 31 in Whitchurch – there is a major planning application for a Tesco superstore adjacent to the Hatton Way section. Forum members were invited to make comments, as proposals for pedestrian and cycle access seem limited. Geoff noted that the new Tesco store in Madeley has good cycle access
- Route 81 – the cobbles that were retextured in 2010 seem to have improved the issue of slippery surfaces under Shrewsbury Station bridge.

Other Shropshire cycling projects

In Shrewsbury, a number of infrastructure schemes are continuing with Local Transport Plan funding; proposals to extend cycle tracks on Mytton Oak Road; opening of 20mph zone on York Road; construction of Toucan crossing and mini roundabout on Radbrook Road.

Alison also circulated LSTF (Local Sustainable Transport Fund) proposals maps which indicate potential schemes in Shrewsbury, such as London Road, Ludlow and Oswestry. Tim asked about the status of Oswestry projects. Shropshire Council has already undertaken preliminary design work for routes between Unicorn Playing Fields, Shelf Bank and Town Centre, and a structural survey of the disused railway line. A full feasibility study of the disused railway line is proposed as part of the LSTF bid.

In early July, Shropshire Council and Telford Council both heard that they were successful in their LSTF bids. For more information:
[Telford](http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/100011/transport_and_streets/516/transport_policy/2)http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/100011/transport_and_streets/516/transport_policy/2 and
 Shropshire<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/traveltransport.nsf/open/87FA92B12AB8B93C80257871002D24DB>
 DepartmentforTransport<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=202&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=420264&SubjectId=36>

Cycle parking in rural locations

Alison circulated photos of cycle parking installed at rural visitor attractions including National Trust’s Attingham Park, RSPB’s Venus Pool and Shropshire Council’s Rea Brook Valley Nature Reserve. Forest Enterprise have recently provided cycle parking at Haughmond Hill and Fordhall Farm will shortly be installing wooden cycle stands. Shropshire Council is keen to provide cycle parking and can work with private landowners if their site is used by members of the public. Further suggestions for rural and urban cycle parking included the Three Horseshoes Pub in Bridges and Shropshire Wildlife Trust HQ and Monkmoor Recreation Ground in Shrewsbury.

10. Any other business

Meres and Mosses

Lisa Barlow from Shropshire Wildlife Trust outlined plans for a major project in north Shropshire, Cheshire and Wrexham. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is planned and funding could include cycle route improvements on a disused railway and canal towpath, plus new cycle parking, leaflets and events.

11. Next meetings

Wednesday 14th September - Shirehall

Tuesday 6th December - Shirehall