

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Tuesday 6 December 2011 Shirehall, Shrewsbury

1. Present

Miles Kenny (chair)	John Shenton	Peta Sams
Alison Kennedy	Keith Mason	Peter Lloyd
Angela Shenton	Martin Beardwell	Peter Walden
Bill Dorrell	Mary Diggory	Philip Pool
Emma Bullard	Mike Clarke	Reg Potter
Geoff Shinner	Paul Wagner	Rob Fris

2. Apologies

Beth Holgate	John Morris	Peter Crofts
Chris Pennington	John Petty	Peter Holgate
Cllr Simon Jones	John Short	Phil Saltmarsh
Derek Owen	Julie Potter	Richard Harman
Gavin Ashford	Kim Williams	Sten Lloyd
Jenny Leese	Mike Arthur	Terry Egglestone
Jenny Willmot	Mike Willmot	
John Leese	Peter Bird	

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- **Wem bike track:** MK reported that Alison had drafted an excellent letter to Wem town council in support of the project, which had been sent on behalf of the Forum. The town council had sent a nice reply.
- **Maintenance on the A5 cycle track:** this has been followed up with the Highways Agency and Amey who have said they will take action but to date have not done so.
- **Shrewsbury BMX:** Sean McCarthy had sent apologies and provided an update. The skate park/BMX consultation ended on 11 December and a public meeting was scheduled on 18 January at Shirehall to present the consultation findings.
- **Wrekin Riders:** Derek Owen had sent apologies and provided an update on the new and proposed tracks in Telford: Donnington Skate park was due for completion in February; there is a community BMX track in Benthall; Sport England have agreed funding for the proposed national BMX track in Dawley.

4. Lands End to John O Groats: Mary Diggory

Mary made the trip on her own in May and June 2011. She took 18 days, which included 2 days in the Isle of Man, and averaged 56 miles per day, covering 1,047 miles in total. The shortest day was 22miles (Chester to Isle of Man) and longest was 82miles (Pitlochry to Tomatin near Aviemore). Some very brief highlights include:

- She only paid for 5 nights' accommodation and mostly used <http://www.warmshowers.org/> to find places to stay
- Memorable cream teas; she averaged two teashops per day.
- The Sustrans route in Scotland along the old A9 (empty roads for miles).
- Stunning views from the Okehampton railway line
- Sculpture on the Strawberry Line, Cheddar to Axbridge
- No punctures

- Completing some tough days but learning about your inner strength

Mary raised £550 in sponsorship which was divided between the Severn Hospice and the Stillbirth Trust. She was warmly thanked for her presentation and there was a brief discussion of other touring ideas.

5. Open Forum

Points raised included:

- MC felt there should be an official signed LEJOG route
- PW used to run “teapot tours” in Shropshire which toured the local countryside visiting tearooms and sometimes staying at youth hostels. These were very enjoyable and people could join for a longer or shorter time; the lesson being that there is wonderful touring country near home
- “Cycle touring is an art”
- MB can offer experience of touring in the Western Isles. He also recommends Knighton as a touring centre if you like hills.
- PW described the ride to Cape Wrath on the NW tip of Scotland along an 11-mile track.

6. Sue Collinson and her father did the LEJOG ride with a supported group in September 2009. Sue was not able to give her talk but her photos looked enticing and we hope to hear more about them another time.

7. Love Your Bike month, October 2011

Events were held in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ludlow. As in 2010, new members of Cycle Shrewsbury (who don't have to live in Shrewsbury) were offered free lights; and there were almost 350 new members during the month.

Rob Fris produced the first edition of CycLOPS, a new magazine covering all types of cycling in Shropshire. It was well-received and he now plans to make it a quarterly publication. There will be a small print run and free copies will be available in cycle shops. A longer version with more articles will be available to order online for a small charge. Please email cyclopsmag@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

8. Telford and Wrekin update

Geoff Shinner reported that the final NCN Route45 Mercian Warrior has been installed in the car park by the Iron Bridge.

9. Shropshire events and latest infrastructure projects.

Alison Kennedy noted progress on the following:

- Shrewsbury: Radbrook Road Toucan was completed and officially opened in October
- Shrewsbury: Connect2 junction improvements at Raven Meadows/ Smithfield Road were completed and opened at the end of November
- Market Drayton: a new zebra crossing is proposed outside the Grove School
- Ludlow: Sheet Road – traffic speeds are being checked following the safety Audit into a proposed zebra crossing near Harry Tuffins
- Ludlow: a walking and cycling audit is taking place during January.
- Oswestry: Wilfred Owen Green paths are being considered for improvement

- National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 45: a new 'A' frame access gate is being ordered for Bramble Ridge, Bridgnorth. The disused railway section of route between Bridgnorth Golf Club and Coalport will be closed from 1 November 2011 to 1 February 2012
- NCN Route 44: signing proposals for Bromfield underpass are still progressing (slowly)
- NCN Route 44: Sustrans volunteer rangers are improving the signing through Pontesbury, and Shropshire Council is hoping to create new boundaries in advance of major works next year on the cycle track/footway alongside the A488 to Minsterley
- Cycle parking – cycle stands are still on offer for private landowners to install at sites visited by members of the public. Recent requests include; Oswestry Station; Ludlow Touring Park; Ludlow Town Council; and Ludlow Racecourse. At schools, cycle parking has been reviewed at all Oswestry schools and extra cycle parking is being ordered. Rural schools are also requesting stands including; Rushbury, Whixall, Cockshutt and Dorrington.
- Shrewsbury: Porthill footbridge will be closed for maintenance work between 12 March and late July 2012.

10. Dates for 2012

- 15 January: national cyclo-cross event at Shrewsbury Sports Village, promoted by Mid-Shropshire Wheelers
- 13-19 August: CTC birthday rides based at Ellesmere College. More information can be found at birthdayrides.org

11. Any other business

- Martin Beardwell said that there have been many improvements for cycling in Shrewsbury in recent years. He is doing a survey to find out about people's favourite improvements, major or minor, and invited forum members to contribute to this.
- There was a request for two minor improvements: extend the dropped kerb at Millers Way across the entrance to the cycle track; and provide gaps at the side of the rumble strips at Berwick Wharf, they are very uncomfortable to cycle over
- During the meeting, a paper was circulated with ideas for future Cycle Forum agenda items. This indicated the following order of priority:

Ideas for agenda item	Number of people interested in this
Cycling alongside canals - presentation by British Waterways	14
Cycling on trunk roads - the role of the Highways Agency	11
How to promote cycling to work?	7
<i>Other topics?</i> 20 is fast enough campaign and effect of local 20mph legislation	7
How to promote cycle tourism?	6
Cycling to school, Bike it and other projects	5
Open access street mapping	5

Inclusive cycling, and opportunities in Shropshire for people with disabilities	4
The Bike Business (in Shropshire) - bike shops, bike hire, holiday companies	3
Cyclo-cross and Mid Shropshire Wheelers	3
Olympics - what can they contribute to local cycling?	3
How to comment on a planning application?	3

Action: Alison to try and schedule presentations on higher priority topics during 2012.

12. Dates, venues and topics for 2012 meetings

- Tuesday 27 March, Shirehall
- Wednesday 27 June, Shirehall or Carding Mill – British Waterways
- Tuesday 25 September, Shirehall
- Wednesday 5 December, Shirehall