

## MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM

Tuesday 27 March 2012 Shirehall, Shrewsbury

**1. Present**

Miles Kenny (Chair)	Eliz-Anne Williams	Keith Mason Mike Clarke	Philip Pool Richard Harman
Alison Kennedy	Emma Bullard	Miles Kenny	Tim Rutherford
Angela Shenton	Geoff Shinner	Nick Holden	Wendy Pettit
Beth Holgate	Jenny Willmot	Peter Crofts	
Brett Kibble	Jill Henderson	Peter Holgate	
Dave Ashley	John Shenton	Peter Mathison	

**2. Apologies**

Chris Pennington	John Morris John Petty	Peter Lloyd Peter Walden	Kim Williams Mary Diggory
Derek Owen	Julie Potter	Reg Potter	
John Leese	Paul Wagner	Rob Fris	
Jenny Leese	Peta Sams	Simon Jones	

**3. Previous minutes (December 2011) and matters arising**

From the list of possible future topics, the following were most popular:

- Cycling and canals – British Waterways have agreed to speak at the June meeting
- Highways Agency – will be invited to a later meeting
- 20mph zones – will be discussed tonight.

**4. Times “Cities fit for Cycling” campaign**

Alison gave an introduction to the campaign, which initially focussed on safety but has widened to include broader issues. There is an 8-point manifesto which can be seen here

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/article3367277.ece>

; there has also been a well-attended debate in Parliament, details here

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/article3329483.ece>

The Times campaign has also led to the Government allowing the use of convex mirrors at signalled junctions and opened up the debate on residential 20mph zones.

**Convex mirrors at signals:** or “trixi” mirrors, are designed to make junctions safer by making sure that drivers of HGVs can see cyclists waiting on their inside – sometimes in a feeder cycle lane to an advanced stop line for cyclists. Mirrors cost about £150 each including installation, and their use has been authorised by the DfT as a result of the Times campaign. RH said that we can look at accident figures and ask for feedback from the public, to see if any junctions in Shropshire are appropriate. Please send comments to Richard Harman.

**20mph zones.** There was a discussion during which the following points were raised:

- Current SC policy is that 20mph zones are only considered outside schools and in town centre shopping areas. The speed limit must be “self-enforcing” ie traffic conditions are such that average speeds in the area are already below 20mph
- Members were doubtful that 20mph would be enforced by police. RH said that the police may be changing their policy on enforcement.

- A trial scheme has been running in Portsmouth with a city-wide 20 zone, apart from arterial routes. DfT have not given their view on this trial.
- TR asked about “shared-space” areas where all road markings are removed; how do the police enforce these?
- MK suggested that the election of local police commissioners in November 2012 may be an opportunity to make speed limits and enforcement an election issue.

**Agreed: MK will sign up to the Times campaign on behalf of the Forum; and will suggest that Shropshire Council also does so (as other local authorities have)**

## 5. Social cycling groups

There are a number of informal groups in Shrewsbury – thanks to Paul Wagner for the attached notes. Paul recommends keeping things simple; planning routes to avoid right turns off main roads; and having third-party insurance through the CTC or other provider. Other informal groups round the county:

- COG rides – Cycling Oswestry Gently  
[http://www.oswestry21.com/?post\\_type=whatsons](http://www.oswestry21.com/?post_type=whatsons)
- Castle Cyclists in Bishop’s Castle <http://www.castlecyclists.org.uk/>
- Wrekin Wrinklies contact Reg Potter

Useful tips from members:

- Beth Holgate: riding with a group means you can get help with a puncture
- Brett: start with a Dr Bike session to check the bikes
- Nick H gave details of a ReaVEN cycling event on 12 May. See <http://www.reaven.org.uk/index.html> for future events
- Peter Mathison: has helped to run basic cycle maintenance classes which encourage people to go out on cycle rides. The classes are free and more are planned for Ludlow, Shrewsbury and Oswestry later in the year.
- Tim R – started the COG rides in December 2011. Roughly one a month, for all ages. Turnout has been over 30 each time so the group has split with two options: approx 10 or 14 miles for flatter routes and 7 or 12 miles for more hilly ones. There is always a pub or café stop where the two groups meet.
- Insurance: several members recommended taking out individual third-party insurance (this can be done without becoming a member of CTC or British Cycling, if preferred).

## 6. Ride leader training

**The Breeze network** has been set up by British Cycling to encourage more women to cycle informally (at present far more men than women cycle). Breeze are training women to lead rides; there will be a free one-day training course in Shropshire (venue tbc) on **Saturday 16 June, please tell any women you know who may be interested**. More information can be found at <http://www.goskyride.com/News/ShowArticle/New-Breeze-champion-training-courses-announced?retURL=/News>

**Cycle Shrewsbury ride leader training:** the first free one-day course was held on 24 March. 9 people attended, with a wide variety of cycling backgrounds, and all found it useful. The course will be repeated later in the year and can be held in other parts of the county to suit demand. Tim R said that he found the course excellent. He has also referred less-confident cyclists for the free adult training and has had very good feedback – this should be promoted more widely.

## 7. Telford and Wrekin update

- Jill Henderson has joined the team to promote cycling. [Jill.henderson@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Jill.henderson@telford.gov.uk)
- June will be “Bike Month”; there will be a launch in Telford Town Park (new visitor centre and cycle hire) on 2 June
- Council staff are receiving driver training to be more aware of cyclists
- NCN Stafford-Newport-Telford: first section due for completion by the end of March
- Plans for better cycle signage between Telford Station- Town Park – Silkin Way
- Cycle to work scheme and new staff travel plan due soon for council staff
- Ironbridge Park and Ride opens 2 June.
- Looking at options for bikes on buses

### BMX update:

- 7 Shropshire riders from Wrekin Riders BMX club qualified for the BMX World Championships in Birmingham in May.
- The BMX club membership has significantly increased to 120 members.
- Donnington Skatepark (BMX led design) has been completed and is receiving rave reviews from across Shropshire. Many visitors from across the country are coming to use the facility after it received national press. A regular monthly competition (Jam) with other activities has been organised.
- The National BMX track at Dawley, Telford is currently being designed and will go to detailed planning application (already has outline) in July.
- Numerous free coaching activities / events are being put on by Wrekin Riders BMX club this year including The Urban Games on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, several fun days and at least one week long summer BMX school.

## 8. Shropshire update

Sustrans Big Pedal – Shropshire schools did well

**Ludlow** walking and cycle audit – was very useful, found options for improvements in the network. Could be repeated in other places.

**Pontesbury:** bid for market towns regeneration funding for cycle parking. Work has started on boundary work for the shared-use path alongside A488. AONB is helping to promote the Pontesbury-Malehurst section of the old railway line. Eastridge trails partnership is proving successful with 2 events planned in 2012.

**Oswestry:** the package for the next 3 years has been agreed with local members. Work is under way to deliver the town centre section of the greenway ( alongside Cambrian Railway) as soon as possible. Harlech Road link is currently being constructed

**Shrewsbury:** Beth H had a concern about the junction of Roushill and Mardol and the new contraflow. Extra markings may be needed to warn drivers to expect to see cyclists crossing all the way across the junction. Feedback about the contraflows has been generally positive. RH reminded everyone to use them. Phil had some concerns before they went in but the markings are very clear.

Northern Gateway is being consulted on (the plans were approved unanimously by the Planning Committee in May).

London Road scheme is being designed; consultation closes on 25 May.

<http://www.cycleshrewsbury.co.uk/cycle-network-improvements/have-your-say/london-road>

## **9. Any Other Business**

- Update on St Julian's Friars, Shrewsbury: there will be an "experimental traffic order" for anticlockwise traffic flow; once this opens there will be pedestrian and cycling improvements on St Julians Friars itself (from the Corn House junction)
- Closure of Porthill Bridge – some cyclists are now using Frankwell footbridge to access the town centre and so a wheeling ramp was requested. Action: Alison to forward to the Bridges team and find out what improvements are planned for Frankwell footbridge as part of the Riverside shopping development
- "Tour de Ludlow": Saturday 30 June
- Severn Hospice cycle rides: 4 August for the Cambrian Century (100 miles) and 2 September for the Great Big Bike Ride (50k or 100k options) more information here <http://severnhospice.org.uk/events/>
- Oswestry Bike Fest: Sunday 8 July, as part of the Oswestry Games.

## **10. 2012 Forum dates and topics**

Wednesday 27 June, Carding Mill Valley – presentation by British Waterways

Tuesday 25 September, Shirehall

Wednesday 5 December, Shirehall