

## SHROPSHIRE CYCLE FORUM - TELFORD & WREKIN BIKE USER'S GROUP (TBUG)

Minutes of the meeting held in Wellington Library

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00pm

### Present:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor Miles Kenny | Chairman, Shropshire Cycle Forum   |
| Geoff Skinner          | Acting Chairman, Telford & Wrekin Bike Users Group,<br>And Sustrans Co-Ordinator |
| Joerg Niehoegen        | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Claudia Niehoegen      | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Nick Jeggo             | Newport Cycle Club   |
| Jeremy Eatough         | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Trevor Davies          | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Dave Rolfe             | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Tim Nelson             | Newport Town Council   |
| Stuart Chapman         | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Jon Wellman            | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Nigel Brunton          | Telford & Wrekin   |
| Alex Grant             | Shropshire   |
| Jean Breakell          | Shropshire   |
| Bill Dorrell           | Shropshire   |
| Helen Gilmour          | Shropshire   |
| Paul Kirby             | Shropshire, Sustrans Ranger  |

### In Attendance:

Benjamin Smith, Manager, Telford Cycle Centre  
 Dominic Proud, Group Manager, Transport, Strategy & Road Safety, TWC  
 Derek Owen, Outdoor Recreation Officer, TWC  
 Jill Henderson, Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Officer, TWC  
 Emma Bullard, Promotions Manager, Sustainable Transport Project Team, SC  
 Ray Hughes, Project Officer, Sustainable Transport Project Team  
 Katrina Baker (Minute Taker)

## **11. Welcome & Introductions**

Councillor Miles Kenny opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanked Telford & Wrekin Council for hosting the event and particularly Jill Henderson, for making the arrangements for the agenda, venue and refreshments.

## **12. Apologies**

The Gorge Parish Council

John Morris

Peter Mathison

Colin Pettit

Corrinna Wade

Reg Potter (ex. TBUG Chair, has now resigned from TBUG and moved to Ireland)

## **13. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were accepted as a true record. Matters arising are included within the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

## **14. Telford Cycling Centre**

The meeting welcomed Benjamin Smith, from Cycle Experience, Manager of the Telford Cycling Centre, who gave a short presentation on the work of the Centre, which is based in Telford Town Park. Cycle Experience work with local authorities across the UK, running around 35 contracts. CE launched the Telford Cycle Centre at the end of July 2014.

They were able to offer a diverse programme of activities over the summer, including hiring, training and servicing bikes. There were activities available for adults and children and due to the additional promotional work, sales have been good too. This will continue into the winter season, and are holding a Bike Roadshow in conjunction with T&W at October half term.

The Centre will be working with TWC into the future, ensuring that they remain sustainable with emphasis on health and fun.

The facility is currently self-funded, but they do intend to apply for grants (from government) next year. They believe it to be important to maintain the ethos and encourage family interest in all sections of what they can offer. They are working with local businesses. They have a wide range of equipment available, including carts and tandems and have adapted bikes available under flexible arrangements for sessions or individual use.

Mr Jeggo thought that there might be opportunities to link with Newport Nocturne and discussions could take place in the coming months.

## **15. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) presentation**

The Chairman introduced Dominic Proud, Group Manager, Transport, Strategy & Road Safety at Telford & Wrekin Council who explained that The Marches LEP covers Herefordshire, Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin. Whilst there was initially little money available for this organisation, it was more of a partnership between the public and private sectors.

Whilst explaining how the partnership is managed, we heard of the LEP Board (senior business & council leaders), the Executive Board (executive and key officers) and Stakeholders representing areas such as skills, housing and transport.

Organisations, such as the Forum, can work with their relevant Local Authority as scheme promoter to consider projects for potential submission to the LEP Board for consideration of future funding.

The Marches LEP has secured £97m from EU funding over a 5 year period which will be managed by the Partnership. Along side securing £75m of Local Growth Funding. TWC has secured £17m for the Growth Point Package which will see £275,000 allocated towards cycling & sustainable transport along with securing £1m of LSTF for 2015-6. As part of this T&W are looking to develop a cycling & walking strategy, A consultation will take place between now and the end of the year and will look at considering the barriers to encouraging more people to walk & cycle and how the strategy could address these.

TBUG members will be invited to come to a meeting in December to follow up on this.

Information was available regarding road and planning schemes and how they should take into consideration cyclists within current design structures. It is essential to work towards a cycling strategy, for example to be included in the Shaping Places document, to link into the planning system as consultees.

It is good to know that more people are cycling these days, with many new cycling shops opening, encouraging cycling sports and a focus on all cycle users should feed into the strategy.

## **16. Shropshire Update**

Emma Bullard and Ray Hughes are from the Sustainable Transport Project Team at Shropshire Council and both shared information with the meeting regarding

- Love your Bike Month (October) with leaflets about the events taking place.
- Cross-border Cycle Ride – Bridgnorth – Coalport on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Unfortunately, Shropshire's bid for LSTF funding for 2015-6 was unsuccessful, more information should be available at the next meeting about cycle promotion after April 2015

*The 2 Sustrans 'Bike It' officers will be available to assist in supporting cycling in Shropshire until July 2015*

Emma has received a reply from Victoria Merrill, Area Transport Commissioner, regarding NCN45 in Bridgnorth. The plan is to build a path across the school playing fields when funds are available. Sustrans may be able to include this path in a package of measures for funding if Shropshire Council can provide some match funding and can deliver the path in 2015-6. Victoria is liaising with Henry Harbord about this.

The Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package is to include provision for non-car drivers – further information will be available at the next meeting.

## 17. Telford & Wrekin Cycling Update

Jill, Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Officer, TWC, presented information regarding:

- Bike Week in June, lots of activities including the virtual 'Tour de Telford', which had been very successful
- Active cycling clubs flourishing in Wellington & Newport.
- New Community Interest Company in Brookside 'Telford Bikes' – hopefully a model for the future, building up cycling interest in central Telford.
- Health Trainers – sponsored two volunteers who gained a MIAS qualification and are now leading regular fortnightly mountain bike rides in Telford Town Park
- 'Catch 'em Young' – Bikeability will work to ensure that Yr 5s and 6s in every school attain level 2, and it is hoped to be rolling out Bikeability for all Yrs 3 and 4 in early 2015. They should attain level 1
- The Bike Roadshow continues in secondary schools – Lots of workshops for year 7, including the popular 'Get You Home' – students learned how to replace an inner tube
- Participated in National Cycle To Work in September – build on business contacts
- Another successful Newport Nocturne at the end of August, organised by Nick Jeggo of Newport Cycling club
- Cycling Experience are holding half term Bike Road Shows in the Town Park
- Planned Production of a Commuter Map – showing the good links between the major industrial estates and the Silkin Way
- Southwater – well used new cycle parking facilities near Shopping Centre and Southwater One
- Planned Production high volume of cycle maps in early spring. Increased demand from new Library and Leisure Centres. Meanwhile the T&W Walking and Cycling map is also available on the website. [http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/7019/walking\\_and\\_cycling\\_map\\_overview](http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/7019/walking_and_cycling_map_overview)
- 55 – good news that Staffs have decided to complete the unfinished 2.5 km stretch linking them to T&W. Thanks to everyone who helped to nudge this forward, the work should be completed by February 2015.
- Finally, a thank you to all the helpers for the summer competition, there were over 500 entries.

Derek Owen, Outdoor Recreation Officer, TWC, shared the good news about the success of the new BMX Club, operating out of the new BMX Track at the Phoenix School. There had been 12,000 participants within the first 3 months. There had been more interest than anticipated and consequently more trained coaches are required.

The facility is proving to be popular with all ages, they have a 2 year old who is excellent and a 5 year old who is one of the top 5 in the country. There has been a 300% increase in the number of 5 – 11 year olds taking part.

Two events have taken place, with 500 riders coming to Shropshire for the first time for a major event, over 2000 people attended. They hope to host the Midland Regional Trials. With regards to participation rates, there had been 1500 different users from the general public not including schools or clubs. Next year, it is hoped that an invitation will go to all schools to take part (maybe as part of the curriculum).

Flood Lights are still on the agenda, a planning application will be required.

It is hoped to hold community events in 2015, such as The Strider Cup – balance bikes for all ages including adults. A championship across the country counting towards a National Championship.

Mr Jeggo explained that as there are insufficient coaches for his regular Saturday morning sessions; the numbers are growing. It would be helpful if people were channelled towards Go Ride schemes, as this would assist to find more coaches and bring opportunities for more funding.

#### **18. Next Meeting Shropshire Forum**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2015      7pm                      The Shirehall or The Gateway (to be confirmed)**

**Suggested item for the agenda – Tourism – route planning / CTC**

**Telford Bike User Group (TBUG)**

**Not 20<sup>th</sup> January as planned, but in December, date to be advised asap, to consult with TBUG and Local Access Forum on the Walking and Cycling strategy for T&W.**

#### **19. Any Other Business**

- a) The new off-road path from Minsterley to Pontesbury has been completed. R44 (Six Castles) could now be signed this way subject to the links at each end being satisfactory – Shropshire Council will look into this.
- b) Regional Route 32 from Church Stretton to Shrewsbury is not signed. There are concerns over the junction where the route crosses the A49 at All Stretton. Henry Harbord now says it is for Shropshire Council to decide whether to sign it and the local Sustrans group would support it being signed.
- c) Route 552, crosses the A41, a traffic refuge has been installed
- d) An invitation has been received for anyone to take part in a community event on 26<sup>th</sup> October – the Pontesbury Pedal along the new path. This is part of Love Your Bike month and organised jointly with Quest 88
- e) The Community Council For Shropshire (CCS) are collecting good second hand bikes, for use on the Wheels To Work project – contact Lindsey Stirton, Wheels to Work project officer, on 01743 237883. [lindsey.stirton@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:lindsey.stirton@shropshire-rcc.org.uk)
- f) Route 81 repairs – still not done. Cllr Kenny agreed to speak with the relevant Cabinet Member at SC

- g) Cycling 4 All Shropshire is an inclusive cycling group affiliated to CTC. They are now ready to bid for grants.
- h) Contacting schools, the SC Bike It Officers visit the schools in Shrewsbury and Oswestry on a regular basis. Ray Hughes has access to all other schools.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm with thanks to everyone for their important contributions.

Signed .....

Date.....