

CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE : CYCLING STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 March 2019

In attendance: Bill Dodds (Chair), Rob Snowball, David Stobbs (both Newcastle City Council), Heather Evans, Andrew Thorp, Michelle Whitworth (all Cycling UK), Tony Waterston (SPACE Jesmond), Liz Scarff (Living Streets), Rupert Wear, Alistair Ford (late) (both SPACE Gosforth), John Dixon, Chris Warburton Brown, Guy Harvey.

Apologies: John Litherland, Cllr Marion Talbot, Mark Nelson, Thomas Gilbert, Anna Spaa.

1. Notes/Actions from the previous meeting (17 January 2019)	Action
<p>The notes of the meeting were taken as read, with one correction - page 2, Streets for People Update, last para, 4th line - ambitions should be ambitious.</p> <p><u>Ellison Place/College Street cycle signals</u>: CWB mentioned that these aren't working. [NB. Checked by RS on 22 March and working OK].</p> <p><u>Blue House Working Group website</u>: RW mentioned that this isn't working.</p> <p><u>Meeting with Cllr Arlene Ainsley and Graham Grant</u>: JL and BD had met with them and BD summarised the items raised:</p> <p><u>Brighton Grove, re-marking of cycle lane (northbound)</u>: AA/GG agreed to look at this.</p> <p><u>City Centre</u>: There seemed to be a change of attitude at the University and at the Hospitals Trust, with more scope for joint working on cycle route links with the Council. AA/GG were keen to progress this.</p> <p><u>Blackett Street</u>: The need for this essential cycling route was raised but currently AA/GG haven't agreed to this. The removal of the buses has still to be agreed. LS mentioned a meeting/site visit on 6 March with John Dales and Brian Deegan (Consultants) and Officers, which she had attended along with BD. Following this the Consultants had been asked to come back with tentative designs. BD will check if minutes were taken at the meeting and if these can be circulated.</p> <p><u>Streets for People</u>: The views of the Forum were reflected including the need for more schemes to be agreed in Jesmond, and the unacceptable delays in momentum. In Heaton most of the £1m will be spent on Heaton Road and using the bus lane fines for other schemes was suggested. AA/GG will look at this.</p> <p><u>Highway resurfacing</u>: The provision of a list of future schemes was essential and AA/GG were very supportive of this - the point has been acknowledged and they are trying to improve things.</p> <p><u>Blended footways</u>: These had been suggested, rather than raised speed tables, in relation to works proposed in Jesmond and Gosforth. AA/GG asked that TAG discuss these and come up with design standards (and also for road closures). They will be slightly more expensive but coloured tar could be used, rather than block paving, which Officers felt increased maintenance costs.</p> <p><u>Council gritting policy (of cycle tracks)</u>: Disappointingly there was no support from AA for changing the policy. The Forum have now taken this as far as they can, although RW had since asked for an "Assessment of practicability" to be provided, and RS had passed this on to the Head of Service.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>BD</p>
<p>2. Cycling Infrastructure Update</p>	
<p>The March report had been circulated and RS went through this.</p> <p><u>Elswick Road</u>: Parking tickets have started to be issued for parking in the cycle track following feedback from members of the Forum. Vehicles considered to be parked illegally should be reported to RS.</p>	

<p><u>Great North Road, Broadway to Brunton:</u> The changes planned between the Three Mile Inn and Broadway were mentioned i.e. southbound, some changes then resurfacing to improve the quality of ride and northbound, a shared area behind the bus shelter. The TRO to reduce the speed limit on the GNR has just been advertised and nothing will change at Newlands Avenue until this comes in to operation. Providing green surfaces across Newlands Avenue and McCracken Court was also raised.</p> <p><u>St Nicholas' Street:</u> Phase 2, from Westgate Road to the Bigg Market will be consulted on shortly, following the award of Transforming Cities funding.</p> <p><u>Blue House Roundabout:</u> RW queried the next steps for the Working Group, and if another meeting is to be convened. RS will enquire.</p> <p><u>Streets for People:</u> <u>Heaton.</u> Heaton Road is at the detailed design stage. Informal consultation on the legal orders for the prohibition of motor vehicles at Tintern Crescent and Sefton Avenue is due to be undertaken. <u>Jesmond.</u> Concerns were raised in relation to the limited number of schemes progressing in the Jesmond area. RS responded that work is being undertaken to consider other options for West Jesmond School/Tankerville Terrace, and some further works are proposed in the Brandling Village schemes that will be implemented and monitored before further schemes in the area will be taken forward. Drop in events for Moorfield and Norham Place schemes have been undertaken. TAG have now expressed their views on the shortlisted schemes .</p>	RS
<p>3. Update on LCWIP Consultation</p>	
<p>The Consultation Survey closed on 8 March and RS reported that there had been 5240 total contributions. There were over 900 specific comments on routes / issues / suggestions and work has started to collate, catagorise and understand these. The comments include suggested locations for new crossing points, better pavements, roads needing less traffic and maintenance issues as examples.</p> <p>Detailed Information received from the Cycling Campaign and Space for Gosforth have been received as separate responses and this will also be considered and incorporated as appropriate.. BD suggested that a Forum Working Group be established to help progress the LCWIP and this was supported.</p> <p>BD raised the timeline for the LCWIP and for seeking funding. RS responded that the DfT were expecting the local authorities to be getting to the point of publishing LCWIPs now, but there are no allocated specific funding streams - although the emerging Transforming Cities Funding bids are expected to make reference to LCWIPs.</p>	RS / BD
<p>4. Haddricks Mill Roundabout Scheme</p>	
<p>BD and RS reported on the TAG meeting held earlier when Jonathan Higgins had outlined the details of the redesigned scheme. Following the previous public consultation the responses had been looked at and the scheme redesigned. However, the bridge width can't be increased and no extra land could be purchased. Due to this the scheme has been downgraded to a maintenance scheme which will include renovating the bridge, but at the same time as much as possible is being squeezed out of the junction to provide for pedestrians and cyclists. He regretted not being able to proceed with the original scheme but the money available is only £4 and the original scheme would cost around £15 as land acquisition would be necessary.</p> <p>Preparatory work has already started with works to be completed in early 2020. RW reported that a week ago today Cllr Ainsley agreed to a review meeting of the works</p>	

<p>with SPACE Gosforth, which is giving a mixed message if the scheme has already been approved.</p> <p>Whilst toucans and shared paths will be provided, there isn't the space to provide segregated provision, but it was considered that the junction now provided a safer passage for less confident cyclists, which AF disputed. RW mentioned there was no improvement for on road cyclists and that the aim was to get traffic through the junction quicker, meaning they will go faster. He asked for details of the lane widths, and he will also email RS with details of the other concerns that he has.</p> <p>The toucans will also be used to help balance traffic flows at peak hours, reducing high levels of congestion, but out of peak hours a green wave could be set up in a clockwise direction to change the signals as cyclists/pedestrians approached these, as the toucans aren't single stage crossings, although this wouldn't help commuter cyclists. AF queried how long it would take to get from Station Road to Freeman Road, and suggested that timings of the signals needed to be addressed. The toucan islands also needed to be able to accommodate cargo bikes, which can be 3m long.</p> <p>The ramp up to the Coxlodge Waggonway is being widened and won't be quite as steep but the location of mature trees has prevented this from being improved further.</p> <p>The Forum was completely concerned that the works weren't better for pedestrians and cyclists, children travelling to local schools and those travelling to the Freeman Hospital and asked that discussions continue to provide improvements, along with a commitment from Cllr Ainsley for the scheme to be reviewed.</p>	RW/RS
<p>5. Air Quality Consultation</p>	
<p>Consultation has started, is open until 17 May and the questionnaire can be found at https://www.breathe-cleanair.com/</p> <p>The questionnaire is designed for individual responses but responses from groups, included the Forum, are welcome and drop in sessions can also be set up for them. RW is arranging one for SPACE Gosforth. As Cllr Ainsley is unable to attend Forum meetings on a Thursday, BD suggested that a special meeting should be arranged on another day to discuss Air Quality, with Graham Grant also invited. This would need to be held before 17 May. He also asked if there are any actions needed before this special meeting and it was agreed that modelling and charging data needs to be made available now.</p> <p>AF mentioned that the Public Transport Users Group will be holding a (positive) public meeting in the City Centre.</p>	RS
<p>6. Any other business</p>	
<p><u>Disabled cyclists:</u> GH asked how the Forum related to disabled cyclists. LS mentioned that the Disability Forum are meeting on 25 March and suggested that he attend this meeting, and she will provide details. RS added that consideration for catering for adapted, larger, wider bikes is given consideration during design processes, but it is still a learning process.</p> <p>BD asked for disabled cyclists to be an Agenda item at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p><u>Active Newcastle Event:</u> CWB mentioned a Cycling Network event that is being held on 27 March at the Eagles Community Centre, Scotswood Road at 5.30pm. This is aimed at those who deliver cycling activities in Newcastle.</p> <p><u>Transforming Cities Fund:</u> This will be an Agenda item at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p><u>Barras Bridge works:</u> Financed by the Transforming Cities Fund (£2m), work has just</p>	RS RS

<p>started to make the temporary arrangements permanent, along with improving the cycle crossing from Claremont Road to the Civic Centre. Drawings have still to go to TAG.</p> <p><u>Streets lights outside the Civic Centre</u>: RW mentioned these are out again. RS will report and ask that these are repaired.</p>	<p>\</p> <p>RS</p>
<p>7. Next meeting</p>	
<p>Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 6.00pm.</p>	

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