

CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE : CYCLING STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 17 January 2019

In attendance: John Litherland (Chair), Bill Dodds, Julie Whittaker (Vice-Chairs), Rob Snowball, David Stobbs (both Newcastle City Council), Heather Evans, Andrew Thorp (both Cycling UK), Tony Waterston (SPACE Jesmond), Liz Scarff (Living Streets), Mark Nelson (SPACE Heaton), Alistair Ford (SPACE Gosforth), Katherine Knox (British Cycling), Sally Watson (NewCycling), John Dixon, Thomas Gilbert, Anna Spaa.

Apologies: Cllr Marion Talbot, Graham Grant, Mike Cookson, Jeanie Molyneux, Michelle Whitworth.

1. Notes/Actions from the previous meeting (15 November 2018)	Action
<p>The notes of the meeting were taken as read.</p> <p><u>Ellison Place/College Street cycle signal (westbound)</u>: RS reported that the new detection equipment has been installed and the signals are now working.</p> <p><u>Highway resurfacing</u>: Opportunities for the inclusion of provision for cycling will be raised at the meeting that has been arranged with the Cabinet Member.</p> <p><u>Blue House & Haddricks Mill Roundabouts</u>: Graham Grant had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting as previously requested. RS reported that internal meetings are still ongoing but a report to Cabinet (25 February) on Air Quality may include details of these roundabouts. It was agreed that they would be a major item at the next Forum meeting, raised at the meeting with the Cabinet Member and she will also be invited to attend the next Forum meeting.</p> <p><u>Brighton Grove - re-marking of cycle lanes (northbound)</u>: RS reported that hopefully the outcome will be positive. He will chase this.</p> <p><u>Heaton Road pavement parking</u>: RS had raised this with Traffic Enforcement and hopes that bollards can be installed to prevent this. He will chase this.</p> <p><u>Council gritting policy (of cycle tracks)</u>: JL had written to the Cabinet Member but she had responded that due to the current financial situation she didn't see this as a priority. This will be raised again at the meeting with her.</p>	<p></p> <p>JL/BD</p> <p>JL/BD</p> <p>RS</p> <p>RS</p> <p>JL/BD</p>
2. Air Quality Update	
<p>RS reported that an Outline Business Case had been published by Newcastle, Gateshead and North Tyneside Councils and this can be found at https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wwwfileroot/parking-roads-and-transport/re-newcastle-transport-improvements/tyneside_aq_feasibility_study_strategic_case_draft.pdf</p> <p>However, the contents of this don't alleviate the air quality problem to the extent needed and further modelling is taking place. The report to the Cabinet on 25 February will be followed by public consultation (ending at the start of the election period).</p> <p>BD emphasised that cycling must be at the heart of the report, which should also have an emphasis on re-allocation of road space for cyclists and pedestrians (which can often be done quickly) and he hoped this is the case. RS responded that model shift is factored in and quick ways of achieving this are needed.</p> <p>JW queried if the Council are engaging with the major employers in the City, eg.</p>	

<p>Hospitals Trust, and RS responded that they had been provided with information. He will let her know quickly if they have responded. It was also suggested that their Chief Executive, Dame Jackie Daniel, should speak directly to the Cabinet member.</p> <p>AF mentioned that Newcastle University are also keen on addressing this, especially as there is now a new Director of Estates and a new Sustainable Team and he was happy to approach them again.</p> <p>JL stated that there is still enough time to lobby to try and influence the content of the Cabinet Report, and this should be done through the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>AF</p>
<p>3. Streets for People Update</p>	
<p>RS circulated a report which included a list of the schemes which local Ward Councillors have decided should progress to formal consultation and delivery.</p> <p>TW was seriously shocked at the schemes that the Ward Councillors have agreed for Jesmond as these ignore the most serious concerns (Tankerville Terrace, Osborne Road, Haldane Terrace), leaving schemes that are inferior. Strong objections will be made. None of the proposals affected traffic flow or made it easier to cycle. JW stated that links through Jesmond were key to getting to other areas (Freeman to RVI).</p> <p>RS commented that as the current proposals only add up to approx half of the £1m budget there is still scope to do more. Talks are still to take place between Ward Members, the Cabinet Member and West Jesmond Primary school. SW will also speak to the school.</p> <p>AF asked if there was a record of the reasons for choosing these schemes and he queried if air quality and child safety were included. RS responded that a matrix approach was used. There are notes of the meeting with the Ward Councillors and he will ask if these can be made public.</p> <p>SW had previously been told that that decision would be made by officers and commented that local residents have given up a lot of time for nothing; you just can't ask for community involvement then treat them like this. BD was also really disappointed; if the proposals had been ambitious they would have been perfect to include in the Air Quality Cabinet paper. JW felt this was worrying in terms of air quality, which needs to be improved outside schools. JL commented that there had been a massive process for very little positive outcome and this undermines the Council's credibility. This will be raised at the meeting with the Cabinet member. RS will also feed these comments back.</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>RS</p> <p>JL RS</p>
<p>4. LCWIP Update</p>	
<p>RS reported that there are now 504 comments on https://newcastlewalkingcyclingroutes.commonplace.is/ and this will remain open for comments until 8 March. Comments are widespread although there are gaps in the Outer West and East of the City. Engagement events will be focussed in those areas with events taking place from 4 February.</p> <p>BD explained TAG's involvement which included dividing the City into five parts and discussing each part separately with additional routes being added to the map, which included the Consultant's proposals and other routes. RS will circulate an updated map in advance of the next Forum meeting, where the map will be discussed further. Following that the map will go to the Consultants and they will run the methodology which will prioritise the routes, although currently there are no funds available for these.</p> <p><u>Cars parking in the new cycle track on Elswick Road:</u> This was raised and RS will follow this up</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>RS</p> <p>RS</p>

<p>5. Report on Cycling Performance and Investment</p>	
<p>This report was presented to the Council's Finance and Budget Monitoring Committee on 7 December and the link had been circulated in advance of the Forum meeting. https://democracy.newcastle.gov.uk/documents/g9767/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Dec-2018%2016.30%20Finance%20Budget%20Monitoring%20Scrutiny%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=10</p> <p>The report had been asked for by Members who wanted to know the effectiveness of monies invested in cycling facilities. RS had been invited to the next Monitoring meeting to report back on some of the points raised, and he will also look to update the report in 12 months time.</p> <p><u>Heaton Road</u>: It was confirmed that there is no data available from the Heaton Road counter yet.</p> <p><u>Making cycling numbers more visible</u>: RS had received an email from Phil James, Urban Observatory, Newcastle University and they were interested in doing something along these lines. Visual counters (totems), that show how many cyclists passed along a route, had previously been considered for John Dobson Street but at £30/40,000 each were considered to be too expensive. RS will mention this again.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>6. Cycling Infrastructure Update</p>	
<p><u>Overall Programme Monitoring Report</u>: This was available</p> <p><u>Great North Road, Broadway to Brunton</u>: AF mentioned the entrance to Newlands Avenue. It had previously been confirmed that as the speed limit on the GNR would be reduced to 30mph, the cycle route would have priority across this junction. However, markings had gone in and cyclists/pedestrians still have to give way. RS understood this change had been agreed by Ward Councillors in consultation with residents, but there had been no consultation with cyclists, which wasn't acceptable. RS will clarify the priority at other junctions.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>7. Any other business</p>	
<p><u>Gosforth High Street resurfacing</u>: BD reported that the proposal to extend the cycle lanes to the County Hotel had been dropped, which meant that no new provision would be included following the resurfacing, which wasn't acceptable. Work is due to start on Monday. RS will feed back the Forum's disappointment to the Cabinet Member and to the Department Heads, along with a request for them to change their minds.</p> <p><u>Killingworth Road (A189 north from Haddricks Mill)</u>: LS queried if cycling provision would be provided and it was confirmed that there will be a two-way cycle track on the east side (this will continue in to North Tyneside as far as the A189/A188 roundabout).</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>8. Next meeting</p>	
<p>Thursday, 21 March 2019 at 6.00pm</p>	