

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title:	Basingstoke Bicycle User Group	
Held On:	Tuesday 22 June 2010 - Calleva Room, Civic Offices	
Present:	Cllr Martin Biermann (MBie) - Chair Peter Smith (PS) BDBC PC Lisa Cronin (LC) Catriona Hamilton (CH) Malcolm MacInnes (MMI) BAAG	Ian Robertson (IR) - BDBC Tom Robison (TR) - HCC Ray Guyver (RG) Simon Green (SG) QMC
Apologies:	Heather Rainbow (HR)	Alan Vallis (AV)

1 **MBie** opened meeting at 19:05hrs: apologies for absence as above were received and recorded, introductions and a welcome to new members/guests was given. Notice of resignation from the group of Bernie Firth (Sustrans) was noted. MBie requested that a new Sustrans member be invited.

Action

PS

Minutes of the last meeting

2 There were no challenges to the minutes of the last meeting (as circulated) and they were duly adopted as being a true record.

2.1 **Matters arising**

It had not been able to access the electronic link to HCC interactive map by all. PS agreed to send link out again.

PS

MMI advised that he had sent comments re cycle parking provision in Malls development to MBie only. MBie advised that even though the consultation period had now closed he would still approach Peter Gunner about the subject. He re-iterated to the group his understanding that there is no intention to have an internal cycle parking facility due to the potential conflict with pedestrians. However he was pleased to announce that BDBC is now the sole owner and has complete control over the development.

MBie

TR advised that the Town Access Plan (TAP) would be going out for consultation with members before the end of this year. MBie requested that he give the group a situation report and presentation at the next meeting.

TR

PS reported that he had discussed with AV the possibility of introducing a BBUG website but details regarding content and host were still to be agreed. He hoped to have a further update at the next meeting.

PS

RG has completed the cycle route audit and given the results to PS. It was agreed that anyone who was unsure of the format of how to return the results should contact PS. Other group members advised that they still had not received details of the areas they were to cover. PS confirmed that these were electronically re-sent on 10 March with no notification that messages were undeliverable. Paper copies will now be sent by post.

PS

PS confirmed that he had been in contact with HCC who advised that the cost of relocating the Cufaude Lane cycle counter would be iro £745 (£595 for re cutting of the loop & £150 for a new pillar /housing). However if we required a permanent link to be established for data download the cost would be iro £1,600 plus £10 per month for monitoring. The group felt that the more expensive option would be preferable. MBie suggested that discussions regarding the potential site of the relocation should be deferred to the next meeting, so that members had time to give the matter more thought.

All

3 Cycling and pedestrian areas

PS introduced PC Lisa Cronin and a lengthy discussion on the issues surrounding cycling through pedestrian areas took place. PS stated that he had been advised that any relaxation enabling cyclists to lawfully use the pedestrianised areas in town would require a variation to the appropriate traffic order as well as an appropriate consultation exercise. It was pointed out that signage was an issue for people unfamiliar with the area at the Top of Town, however when Police stop offenders they are advised of the reasons as to why this restriction is in place. It was identified that reckless anti-social cyclists are the real issue, which the existence of the order can only legislate against but not prevent. Although the traffic order prevented cycling directly to the location of certain cycle parking locations in the town, MBie advised that it had been confirmed by Festival Place security that cyclists would not be challenged if seen cycling to the parking area in Festival Square adjacent to Wagamama. Other issues regarding the severance caused by the pedestrian area and the lack of a complete route travelling across the town were discussed. This matter had once again been brought to the attention of PS by a member of the public and it was felt that due to the level of concern both from in and outside the group further work on a potential solution should take place. It was thought that the most appropriate forum to address this issue would be to include it in the TAP (item 2.1). TR agreed to take this point forward for inclusion. The conclusion was

TR

it would be unlikely that cycling across *any* area of the town would be allowed, but an equitable compromise should be sought. IR enquired of LC as to the level of bicycle thefts in the town centre for which she was not able to provide a specific figure but was able to say it was not high in comparison to other areas.

4 Audit of signage on routes

Covered under item 2.1

5 Proposal for regular agenda item

It was recognised that the only record of work undertaken by the group was contained within the minutes which made it difficult to find details of past issues and their outcome. It was proposed that an index or spreadsheet containing updates on completed and future work be developed. RG produced a possible template for consideration. The group felt this would be a good idea and PS offered to bring a draft based on this for further discussion at the next meeting.

PS

6 Cycle count data

PS presented the latest cycle count data information and an analysis of the Cliddesden Road Subway usage for the school holiday period. The most used routes continue to be Hatch Warren Lane and Cliddesden Road with Austin Court showing high usage from the North Popley/Priestley Road area. RG felt that the cycle counter in Eastrop Park may possibly not be in the right position, PS to check location and report back at next meeting.

PS

7 AOB

C H asked about progress on the North Popley improvements. TR advised that Phase I (crossings and footway connections) had been approved last week for delivery over the school (summer) holiday period. Phase II would be sent out to tender following final agreement by the leader for implementation in Winter 2010. MBie expressed concern regarding the design of the traffic light junction at Popley Way/Sherborne Road.

PS/IR

RG felt that a map of the borough would be a helpful aid for orientation at future meetings. PS/IR to organise. He also questioned why the Faraday Road link could not be made a formal cycleway. TR offered to investigate but thought that land issues had prevented this in the past.

TR

PS said that he had been contacted by a member of the public who had expressed dissatisfaction with both the quality, description on the web site, and extent of the Basingstoke Cycle Network. The group felt that the wording on the website was adequate for both the current situation and future developments

Action

even though it had not been altered for some years. However MBie suggested that the network could be better described and suggested a more appropriate and generic description to which the group agreed. The website will be changed ASAP to reflect this decision. PS to organise.

PS

MBie asked if there was any specific guidance relating to the trimming of bushes close to the highway as if they are not pruned back far enough they pose a danger to cyclists in instances where vegetation overlaps into the carriageway. MBie will take this forward with Peter Eade at HCC and report back to the group for their information.

MBie

The meeting was closed at 21:30hrs

Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th October 2010

19:00hrs Calleva Room