

MINUTES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON CYCLE FORUM TUESDAY 2 JULY 2013

Present: Councillor Chris Wright
Austen Cooper, Croydon Cycling Campaign
Jim Bush, Right to Ride Network
Rob McLean, British Cycling
Paul Lowe, Cycling Instructor Ltd
Ian Plowright, Croydon Council
Sue Ritchie, Croydon Council
Carole Crankshaw, Croydon Council
Jessica Ellery, TfL / London borough of Croydon
Ilona Kytomaa, Croydon Council

19 /13 Appointment of Chairman (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr Chatterjee was confirmed as Chair and Andy Bebington was elected Vice-Chair.

20/13 Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were presented for Cllr Richard Chatterjee, and for Alex Goodship and Peter Wright (TfL).

21/13 Minutes of the 12 March 2013 meeting (Agenda Item 3)

Minutes were agreed as a true record, with the following amendment:
' Officers confirmed that these plans had been forwarded to a *design consortium*'.

22/13 East Croydon Station Cycle Hub (Agenda Item 4)

A feasibility study on how such a hub could operate has been completed and a designer has been appointed.

£200,000 Biking Borough funding is allocated to the project.

Stakeholders enquired about the progress of the Menta project in the immediate vicinity of the station, which includes the building of one of the largest towerblocks in the country. They were advised that there were firm plans in place and that a presentation on these had recently been made to the Strategic Planning Committee.

23/13 TfL's "Mini-Hollands" (Agenda Item 5)

Stakeholders concurred that the meeting of 25 June had been useful. Officers had used the contributions made at the meeting to finalise Croydon's expression of interest in this proposed project. Officers confirmed that TfL would provide seed funding for chosen councils to produce their bids. An announcement regarding the successful bidder is expected to be made at Christmas time. If Croydon is successful, works are likely to start in April 2014.

It was observed that some of bids submitted for “London Cycle Network +” may still be relevant to the Mini-Hollands initiative. Some of the unimplemented recommendations and elements of the consultation could be incorporated into the bid.

Asked whether funding for “soft” measures might be sought, officers stated that funding would be expected for some ‘soft’ measures to support cycling, although the focus would be on infrastructure improvements. It was stressed, however, that a “cycling culture” needed to be created in order to get the maximum benefit out of any improvements. That could take a number of years to bring about. One hurdle to this was potentially the number of hills in the borough..

Stakeholders were advised that the deadline for expressions of interest had been moved to Friday 5 July.

24/13 Cycle Strategy Development (Agenda Item 6)

Stakeholders were informed that work on this had come to a halt as a result of the work on Mini-Hollands, which in turn would have shape the strategy if the Eol/a bid were succesful.

25/13 Update on the implementation of LIP Funded Cycling Projects (Agenda Item 7)

Officers’ update included works on Woodcote Road, Foxley Lane, Purley town centre and Gibson’s Hill. Work on a cycling contraflow on Oakfield Road had also been completed.

Officers also announced that:

- a link between Brickfields Meadow and Ashburton playing fields would be completed by the end of August
- Proposals for the shared use of the remaining stretch of Roman Way footpath, and for the shared use of the path from Featherbed Lane to Kent Gate Way were out to consultation
- Funding was still awaited for various Toucan crossings

26/13 Bidding for New Cycle Funding (Agenda Item 8)

Stakeholders were invited to contribute suggestions for cycling projects under the terms of recently issued TfL guidance, by the end of July. The aim was to draft proposals by early August and to include these in the report to the September Cabinet meeting.

It was suggested that bids for cycling clubs and for cycling training for both children and adults might constitute quick wins.

Stakeholders also felt that cycling promotion was also a priority, particularly in the 20% of schools which cycling organisation found hard to reach.

It was also suggested that funding be sought for cycle parking in residential areas and along major thoroughfares. Stakeholders stated that good value cycle hangars (“bread bins”) might be acquired to provide cover against inclement weather.

27/13 Tennison Road Bridge Replacement (Agenda Item 9)

Stakeholders were informed that works on bridge replacement were due to commence in January 2014 and were scheduled to end in April 2015. A temporary pedestrian bridge would be made available during the works.

28/13 Connect 2 Launch and Bike Week Review (Agenda Item 10)

The event in Exchange Square had had a wide range of activities, but sadly, little through footfall. Cllr Jason Perry cut the ribbon across the new Connect 2 route.

Stakeholders agreed that it had been a good idea for Sustrans to unveil the bench. This had been very successful.

29/13 TfL's Potential Re-Design of Fiveways Junction (Agenda Item 11)

Stakeholders heard that the possibility of providing a segregated cycle lane from Duppas Hill to Fiveways was being considered as part of a Minin Holland Eol.

30/13 Town Centre Routes (Agenda Item 12)

Officers explained that work on town centre routes was linked to Croydon's expression of interest for "Mini-Hollands" funding. They highlighted the proposal put forward by Sustrans for a cycling route from Croydon to Orpington, which was currently being developed.

It was agreed that Austen Cooper should be sent a map showing these proposals for his consideration.

31/13 LCC's Safer Lorries Campaign (Agenda Item 13)

Stakeholders were reminded that the Council had signed up to this campaign before the previous meeting, on 13 March. So far, ten London boroughs have done so. The next step is for the Council to write a policy (probably as part of the Cycle Startegy) to guide future tendering exercises.

32/13 Road Safety on Mitcham Road (Agenda Item 14)

Concerns about cycling safety on Mitcham Road remain. The Forum heard that three options had been identified for improvements, including one involving the removal of parking space on one side of the road and the installation of a two-way segregated cycle lane. It was acknowledged, however, that this option presented a number of challenges.

33/13 Barclays Cycle Hire (Agenda Item 15)

The feasibility study was still awaited and appeared to be on hold. Officers undertook to follow up its progress and obtain information on the estimated costs of such a scheme.

34/13 Commemorative Bike on Mitcham Road (Agenda Item 16)

Stakeholders were advised that internal enquiries had been made regarding how the bike had been removed. If there should be another instance of a commemorative bike being placed in the borough, it is hoped that the management of its eventual removal would be better managed, following the issues brought about by the removal of the bike on Mitcham Road.

34/13 A22 Crossing at Kenley (Agenda Item 17)

Stakeholders were advised that Council officers had encouraged different proposals for a crossing but these were not going to be implemented.

35/13 Updates from Cycle Groups (Agenda Item 18)

The Forum discussed the work of Wheels for Wellbeing. They were advised that the organisation would not be holding any sessions during the school sports day season, and would resume their activities from 30 July onwards. They highlighted the fact that Saturday sessions were quite popular, with as many as 70 taking part in these.

Austen Cooper reported that he had met with Cllr George-Hilley, Ward Member for Waddon, to discuss a recent petition. She had charged him with sketching out some proposals for the Leader, Cllr Mike Fisher.

36/13 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 19)

A vote of thanks was proposed for Cllr Wright for his chairing of Cycle Forum meetings for a number of years.

37/13 Dates of future Cycle forum meetings

5 November 2013
11 March 2013

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.