



STOCKPORT

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport Public Cycle User Group

Wednesday 21st January 2015 6pm

Stockport Town Hall

PRESENT

Cllr Ian Roberts	(Deputy Leader, SMBC)		IR
Ian Barker	(local cyclist)	IB	
Janet Bellingall	(local cyclist)	JB	
Phil Halewood	(Project Manager, TfGM)		PH
Jim Court	Stockport Community Cycling		JC
Kathy England	(TPT/Sustrans Ranger)		KE
Charlie Hulme	(local cyclist)	CH	
Joanna Hulme	(local cyclist)	JH	
Don Naylor	(SMBC Cycling)(Chair)		DN
Georgina Summers	(Highways Network Manager, SMBC)		GS
Keith Rogers	(local cyclist)		KR
Andy Shaw	Stockport Community Cycling		AS
Merlin Evans	Cycle Stockport	ME	
Sue Stevenson	(Investing in Growth Manager, SMBC)		SS
Ian Tate	(Love Your Bike/FoE)	IT	
Jim Pritchett	(Uni of M'cr BUG)		JP
Mike Padfield	(Green Party)	MP	

APOLOGIES

Max Wild
Edgar Ernstbrunner
Dave Butler
Cllr Geoff Abell
Clare Forrest

1. Apologies, previous minutes and matters arising

- 1.1 Apologies were as given above
- 1.2 The minutes from the November meeting were agreed to be accurate
- 1.3 All Actions, other than Actions 6 and 9, had been completed, or incorporated in the new agenda.
- 1.4 CH noted that the keys given on opposite sides of the current cycle map could be more consistent, and made a particular reference to the 'please walk your bike' category
- 1.5 DN responded by advising that current schemes are substantially reducing the number of 'walk your bike' links that will have to be mapped
- 1.6 IB commented on the value of 'cycle friendly' roads being shown
- 1.7 There was a view that the maps could show more, or some different types, of information. DN will be further liaising with Transport for Greater Manchester in relation to the development of new maps, with a new on-line zoomable version also available. **Action 1 (DN)**
- 1.8 There was some discussion around a future CUG twitter account. IR and DN referenced the Council's current twitter feed, and how this is managed, including cycling issues that are already raised in this way. DN will raise with TfGM how any existing school cycle forums may be engaged with. **Action 2 (DN)**

2. Preliminary Stockport Interchange proposals

- 2.1 PH was introduced, and placed the proposals in context: major upgrades are proposed for Stockport, Wigan and Ashton bus stations, with design teams being appointed this month
- 2.2 A future layout will design out conflict points, long walking distances, and spread-out waiting areas
- 2.3 The future Interchange will be multi-modal, including: Ring & Ride, taxis and cycles, with improved pedestrian links to the rail station, although the latter involves private land
- 2.4 It is anticipated that the location will further benefit from a traffic-free Mersey Square, a new bridge over the Mersey at Astley St, and A6 improvements
- 2.5 IT noted that the current route of the Trans Pennine Trail goes around the outside of the bus station; KE commented that the walking route alongside the river does not feel safe at night because of poor lighting
- 2.6 KE further suggested that cycle lanes would be needed on Heaton Lane and on the new bridge
- 2.7 Reference was also made to the future Tiviot Dale cycle hub, located in an area of high employment (see Item 4)

3. **Stockport Town Centre Access Package (TCAP) progress**

3.1 SS explained that plans will be available on-line, and that a business delivery case is being prepared for TfGM

3.2 The first phase will include: Redrock, Gorseley Bank, Belmont Way and St Mary's Way, and will take two years to construct from April; elements of the second phase will comprise A6 links, and routes to Vernon and Woodbank Parks

3.3 Links to these parks need further careful consideration, in order to address concerns of current park users, including a historical fatality that occurred in Vernon Park

3.4 IT raised the issue of the need to use multiple crossings; SS advised that more direct and continuous off-highway solutions are being investigated

3.5 There is a need to balance capacity and the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. For St Mary's Way, there are particular issues to resolve at the Hall St and New Bridge Lane junctions

3.6 KE expressed concern at apparent lack of connectivity shown on some of the earlier plans, and enquired whether this aspect would be improved

3.7 DN added that some connections are made with existing quiet roads, so partially addressing the issue of apparent severance

4. **Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and Stockport Cycle Hub – latest developments**

4.1 IR re-emphasised that Cycle City Ambition Grant schemes, such as Manchester Rd (Cheadle to Parris Wood) are about raising levels of cycling from around 2% to 10% of all journeys made.

4.2 There is still much work to be done to gain wider public understanding of such schemes; DN mentioned banners that may be installed to assist with promotion

4.3 JP voiced concerns around uncompleted schemes giving cyclists 'nowhere to go', and an expectation from many motorists that cyclists use the off-road facilities

4.4 DN summarised new and pending measures that Manchester City Council have provided, or will be providing, at the north end of Cheadle Bridge. The lowering of the speed limit in both Manchester and Stockport was noted, although there were views on how effective this is to date.

4.5 Cars are sometimes being parked on the new path. DN mentioned enforcement action being taken, and of working with Parris Wood High School to help resolve this issue.

4.6 IT and JP requested minor additions to the scheme be considered in the vicinity of Abney Hall: warning signs for vehicles leaving a new care home there, and a dropped kerb for southbound cyclists before reaching Abney Hall. DN will raise these issues with the highway engineers. **Action 3 (DN)**

4.7 GS updated the group on proposals to improve visibility at the south end of Burnage Lane; this has been discussed on a number of earlier occasions in relation to cyclists and pedestrians exiting the top of the Metrolink ramp

4.8 It is understood that contractors will be on site very shortly between East Didsbury tram stop and Green Pastures; the TPT will remain open here during this work.

4.9 The pending Chestergate / Brinksway scheme will include permanent 2-way cycling and signing; there will be a need to provide interim signing at adjoining junctions until they, also, are upgraded. KE reiterated the long-standing problems relating to much of the TPT in Stockport. DN will be developing, and conferring on, new TPT signs. **Action 4 (DN / KE / all)**

4.10 GS advised the group on pending construction work for the Tiviot Dale cycle hub, which will accommodate 46 bikes, and feature swipe card entry and CCTV

4.11 IR advised that Gorseley Bank has received outline planning permission; a Metrolink route from Didsbury is still an option, and a cycle route close to the south bank of the river proposed

4.12 KE commented on the difficulties in arranging events for the TPT when it's not clear how long the various works programmes will continue; the default closure period given

on notices is six months. DN will discuss with the Public Rights of Way team, and other project managers, how these situations may be more satisfactorily managed. **Action 5 (DN)**

5. **Gatley Village Partnership (GVP) cycle event**

5.1 DN has been in contact with GVP members who are planning an event over the weekend of April 25th and 26th

5.2 More information on the proposals will be brought to the March CUG

6. **AOB**

6.1 CH asked for an update on the status of the cycle store at Hazel Grove station – DN will liaise with TfGM. **Action 6 (DN)**

6.2 IT referred to the potential of connecting Cheadle Sports to the surrounding cycle network

6.3 Sustrans are to hold a networking event at the Tandem Coffee House on January 31st – all welcome!

7. **Dates of future meetings**

19th March full meeting

16th April sub group

13th May full meeting

All remaining 2015 dates now on the Stockport Council website