

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## CYCLE FORUM

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

at 5.00 p.m. online

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/ATTENDANCE**

Apologies:

In attendance: Cllr Peter Price (Chair) David Holmes, Cllr Richard Shaw, Paul Sullivan, Simon Ogden, Colin McCulloch, Rosemary Hill, Peter Marsh, Simon Geller, Angela Walker, Helen Kellar, John Chapman, David Whitley Cllr Ruth Mersereau, Jon Cowley, Tammy (no surname)

### **2. NOTES**

The notes of Cycle Forum meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> June 23 were deemed as accurate.

#### **Matter Arising**

##### **1) Walking Forum Status**

Aiming for the first forum in November. Walking Festival has been organised regardless of the forum.

##### **2) Ringinglow Road - check on historical petitions and collision record**

In feasibility design to tighten the junction and slow turning traffic.

##### **Post meeting update.**

We have the suggestions for improvement back from the Road Safety investigation, this only looks at the junction, not the whole route treatment. Investigation suggests narrowing the junction, with a central island or if funding allows footway improvements and instead of an island a central refuge. Either one will slow the right turning traffic. This will be assessed for funding for 2024/25 financial year.

##### **3) Five Weirs walk Thessco section (closed)**

Sustrans are discussing options with the Department for Transport for the underspend on the resurfacing project. This would give enough funding to undertake further investigation, and some basic concept designs, including outline costs. Sustrans riding the route with head of parks w/c 21st August.

Simon Ogden to ask the River Stewardship Company (who have a management contract to undertake this sort of work) if they can remove the overgrown vegetation which could cause further damage and raise costs further down the line.

##### **4)Durham Ox Public House (Cricket Inn Road)**

Highways Development Control are speaking to the developer about the exact suggestion Simon Geller made at the June Forum. Move the building back to the

rear of the plot, **and** rather than dog leg the cycle route around the back, allow the cycle route to run in a straight line across the frontage.

There is only one issue, to achieve the required width - the route needs to be built across a short section of a green plot owned by Network Rail. The Highways DC officer has asked the developer to speak to NR about options.

**5) Attercliffe Waterside**, planning application submitted, transport planning will comment if needs be/once we've seen plans.

**6) Asylum Seeker Bikes** Issue raised about cycle parking at the holiday inn express (Comac are providing bikes to asylum seekers but there is nowhere for them to park) Sustrans have applied to secure funding for some parking. Sustrans have developed a programme of activity to help them explore the area, get better use of their bikes.

**7) East Bank Road** -telecoms mast refused planning.

**8) National Cycle Network 6 Broomhall** -needs a review and changes made, route goes through a private car park, and green space, and then along a private unadopted road, not ideal. It is planned for SCC and Sustrans to start reviewing the NCN in Sheffield.

**9) ATF 4 bid**, can we discuss the failings of the last SYMCA bid  
The combined authority has commissioned a piece of work to look at this. We don't yet have the detail.

### **3. TERMS of REFERENCE**

It was suggested that the chair should be from the largest group, and deputy chairs from the other groups. The council decides the chair but has never identified deputies, so volunteers are welcome from the other groups - Councillors Shaw and Mersereau.

Can we offer the invite to relevant neighbourhood planning forums?

Clarity was sort on draft publication, issuing for comment soon after the forum, and then publishing an update once agreed at the subsequent forum.

Publication of the notes doesn't happen other than the website, this has been the case since we lost democratic services support.

Can we have a contact us link on that page?

**Post meeting note there is a contact us link on the webpage**

Just to double check all references to the word accident are changed to collision.

**Post meeting note now complete**

### **4. ACTIVE TRAVEL/LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS (ATNs)**

In response to the Prime Ministers statement that he wants a review of Active Travel/Low Traffic Neighbourhoods here is the latest with the current programme on ATNS, and a general response to that statement.

The council have two experimental Active Travel Neighbourhoods running for 18 months. They have been installed using the powers granted through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. The order expires in November. The future of each ATN will be decided by Transport Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The first six months of the period was open for consultation including general feedback and objections. As there were delays in implementation, and some significant changes made, that six-month period was extended for a few weeks.

Perception surveys have been undertaken in two ways, self-selecting, and face to face. Unsurprisingly we have received slightly differing views when comparing the two types of survey.

Assessing these and the data will help us understand if we have met the key success criteria which was about making the areas a better place to live and visit.

The experiment has been very resource intensive, dealing with questions, monitoring, reacting to vandalism and complaints, agreeing readjustments, consultation events, site visits, perception surveys, councillor briefings.

The committee in September will determine next steps, whether they remain as is and be made permanent, whether it's all removed, or whether some changes are required.

We are undertaking some design at risk of the crossings as they have been well received throughout the trial and we are in the process of identifying funding.

In terms of the bigger picture, and future ATNs at the time of the forum we have not had anything official from central government on the future of / review of Active Travel Neighbourhoods.

However any changes that may come about because of this will require a change in primary legislation. As it stands, we as the highway authority already have those powers to enable active travel neighbourhoods, so even if we had guidance, we wouldn't need to follow it.

Can we use the relevant terminology such as rat run as one of the objectives is to cut out through traffic, does the data look at through traffic?

Yes, we have data to show levels of through traffic before the schemes were installed and while they are operational, that will be shared once the reports go live a week before committee. The data is presented to us is not user friendly in the shape of heat maps, so we are looking at making it user friendly.

All data we receive has limitations, counters do not show us origin and destination, manual counts give us a snapshot, the through data derives from black boxes so that will tend to be a younger demographic that have those fitted. But it's better than nothing and when combined with the surveys will help us shape our recommendations to committee.

Rat run is better understood than active travel neighbourhood and may get more buy in from the public, residents don't like rat running traffic.

In terms of the counts that have been undertaken is that all modes of transport?

Yes, we've also counted pedestrian and cyclists. Within the perception surveys we have also asked whether residents visitors have changed the way they travel.

Question on the **Kelham Island** active neighbourhood, and whether the current measures that take out through traffic will be made permanent?

Originally installed as an experimental traffic order it is now permanent, but measures need to be made permanent and this needs to be undertaken in conjunction with the planned parking scheme. This should result in a lowering of traffic in the area, and widths maintained to cycle with space for cars to pass -which would be minimum 4.5m clear.

The Transforming Cities Funded scheme is on site currently at West Bar/Gibraltar Street, is that not to extend into Kelham Island, and we will see a reduction on through traffic on Neepsend lane as part of that.

Please see the **Housing Zone North scheme** on Connecting Sheffield [Have Your Say Today - Neepsend-Kelham-City Centre - Connecting Sheffield \(commonplace.is\)](#) for more detail.

Can we have information boards on site explaining the works?

Yes, we will investigate, that it is part of the funding conditions and apply to all TCF schemes.

## 5. SCHEMES UPDATE

Transforming Cities Fund scheme (other than Housing Zone north/Kelham Island/Neepsend) still in design, approximate start dates were shared last time. They have not changed.

Still waiting on Active Travel England to allow us to extend funding deadlines for Active Travel Fund (ATF) 3 (East Bank Road)

ATF4 concept design will start in the autumn (Penistone Road and East Bank Road phase 2).

The NGH/City Centre City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) is still in feasibility, business cases to be submitted in September.

Still some minor issues with the hub but it is getting there slowly, some stands should be going in in the next 2 months.

Meadowhall Interchange hub is ready to open.

We need to work on removing the access barriers that lie between it and improving the signs in the area.

Station hub is earmarked for refurbishment over the winter.

Will it include showers this time?

**PS to check on shower situation** (Russell invited to October Forum to talk all things hubs)

The station hub is now at capacity in terms of access, so no more fobs will be issued unless some are returned, or the system changed.

Russells Bike Shed are in discussion in with East Midlands Railway about changing the access so its in line with the central hub, and Meadowhall hub.

Northern Railway interested in upgrading the Dore and Totley Station cycle parking once the cycle rail fund is reissued.

Better Points launches in September, it already runs at the university  
ACTION Jack Windle from Better Points to be invited to the October Forum

Stocksbridge Towns Fund - all the detail now in the public domain. Below is an update from **Upper Don Trail UDT representatives, on discussions around the trails.**

Meetings have taken place between stakeholders and project champions to discuss the change of plans and withdrawal of funding toward the trail which is contrary to the bid placed with central government.

Evidence for withdrawal wasn't presented, there is no documentation on the matter or detail on the relationship between active travel schemes funded by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the Highways Agency. No detail on conversations with Yorkshire Water about routing options, it appears to have been a subjective decision, with no business case.

It would help if we (UDT) could understand the reason for not taking this aspect of the bid forward, and then if future opportunities present themselves, it can be explored again.

**ACTION The forum offered to write to the Transport Committee chair to explain frustrations. UDT to provide words, to be sent from Cllr Peter Price on behalf of the Cycle Forum**

Are there plans for a link between Stocksbridge, and the city centre detailed in the LCWIP, especially given there is only one arterial route and the active travel route is not great. There is significant development planned in that valley as well.

The original LCWIP focussed on two or three routes only, which have come through for build in the TCF programme.

We do now have consultants working on an active travel plan, and more detail will be shared as that come forward, it still early days. But we can say it will concentrate in areas where short journeys are being made by car, journeys that can easily be transferred to active modes, and that may include Oughtibridge and Stocksbridge, but we need to achieve reasonable cost benefit. Worth bearing in mind that information in the LCWIP is driven by the propensity to cycle tool.

**ACTION PS to get a timeline for the plan for the next forum but it will be 12 months away.**

## **6. SUSTRANS RANGER UPDATE**

Can the double yellow lines on Weedon Street planned as part of the crossing works be shortened to allow parking outside the small business there, restricting parking might drive it out of business. There is a petition asking for this.

Disappointed that the Weedon Street crossing isn't signalised, was this based on levels of current usage, and motorists would ignore lights if installed. We believe the survey was done during lockdown so not a true representation.

**ACTION PS to check on reasoning for the style of crossing, and the DYL situation.**

Can the council look at:

The transition on Carbrook Street from Attercliffe and the crossing along the Porter Valley at Hangingwater and Whitely Wood - is there scope to do something there, could pavement build out be considered?

Those crossings have been on the transport planning agenda for a long time with no obvious solution, there may be bold interventions (like closing or restricting flow that may not be too palatable). But we will review as part of the ongoing work with Sustrans.

If there was a straightforward solution it would have been done by now.

Can we look at the contraflow cycle lane on the recent improvement on Portobello, was it missed off from the original plan?

Cobweb bridge, set alight over the weekend (12/13 August), damage to the decking, closed for health and safety reasons Amey have inspected, and are sourcing the parts but they didn't refurbish back in 2014 that was North Midland Construction, so they've had to find a supplier. There is also the issue to overcome of making the repair given it hangs over water. Diversions and information will be installed, including QR code showing diversion routes.

**ACTION PS to email forum distribution list once I have an update, and will be going through our new Head of Highways Maintenance to apply pressure if things appear to stall.**

**Planning application** - to make people aware that there's been a planning application for a street pole telephone equipment and cabinets which will obstruct Grey to Green on Exchange St.

And if you're interested, the application number is 23/02488/Tel

## **7. AOB**

**None raised.**

**Date of next meeting: Online 5pm 19<sup>th</sup> October**

-----