

## CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES: APRIL 2025

### Attendance

Cllr Richard Shaw (chair), Richard Mangham, Nick Blaney, Alan Menezes, Ben Miskell (LAB CLLR), David Holmes, Sharleen Modest, Ruth Mersereau (CLLR), Helen Kellar, Jack Windle, Tom Collister, David Whitley, John Chapman, Alex Hinchcliffe, John Armitage, Angela Walker, Sam Gregory, Paul Sullivan

**Meeting Apologies:** Ella Wright Ian Carey Simon Ogden Kevin Smith

***To note these meeting notes have been generated by AI (co pilot)***

- **Minutes Review:** Paul summarised the previous meeting's notes, highlighting discussions on highway maintenance, East Midlands Railway response, West bar roundabout options, Weedon Street works, and Penistone Road plans.
  - **Highway Maintenance:** Paul mentioned that highway maintenance was discussed in the previous meeting, with representatives present to answer questions.
  - **Rail Station Parking** He noted that they were still waiting for a response from East Midlands Railway
  - regarding the Westbar roundabout options, speed, and vehicle-activated signs were being discussed between Transport and ward councillors.
  - **Weedon Street Works:** Paul highlighted that Colin McCullough had raised concerns about temporary arrangements at Weedon Street, which had since been altered. He requested feedback from anyone who had cycled the area to verify the changes.
  - **Development Plans:** Paul explained that Weedon Street would have a parallel crossing alongside a pedestrian crossing, and Penistone Road would be fully segregated with a traffic regulation order to ban parking and loading. The build for this project was scheduled for summer 2025.
- **Local Access Forum Update:** Nick updated on the Local Access Forum, which was put on hold due to low numbers. He found three interested parties and requested a restart, but was informed there are no plans to restart it within the next 18 months. Ben supported Nick's efforts and agreed to meet with him.
  - **Forum Suspension:** Nick explained that the Local Access Forum was put on hold in July of the previous year due to the number of members falling below the minimum required. He had found three other interested parties, bringing the total above the minimum, and formally requested a restart.
  - **Restart Request:** Nick received a disappointing response stating that there were no plans to restart the forum within the next 18 months due to resource issues and other priorities. He expressed his frustration and the need for the forum to address various issues.
  - **Support from Ben:** Ben acknowledged Nick's efforts and expressed his willingness to meet with Nick and other interested parties. He

assured Nick that he would respond formally and keep the forum informed about any developments.

- **City Centre Access and Movement Plan:** Paul summarized the presentation by Neil Byers and Evan Ingold on the city centre access and movement plan, which included discussions on through routes, road works, and diversions for cyclists. David Whitley provided an update on resurfacing Cambridge Street and Cross Burgess Street.
  - **Road Works Discussion:** Paul mentioned that there was a discussion about how to improve road works while the city centre was being dug up, including diversions and routes for cyclists. He noted that the diversion routes were set and in place.
  - **Resurfacing Update:** David Whitley provided an update on the resurfacing of Cambridge Street and Cross Burgess Street. He explained that the streets would be resurfaced with a colour that matches the one used on Pinstone Street as part of the city centre works. The work was expected to be completed in May.
- **Penistone Road Active Travel Fund 4:** Paul mentioned that he would provide a detailed update on the Penistone Road Active Travel Fund scheme in June after informing councillors. David Whitley confirmed that the Magna Tinsley project phasing information is still pending.
  - **Penistone Road Update:** Paul stated that he would bring a detailed update on the Penistone Road Active Travel Fund scheme to the June meeting after informing councillors via a knowledge briefing.
  - **Magna Tinsley Phasing:** David Whitley confirmed that the phasing information for the Magna Tinsley project was still pending. He mentioned that he would email the project manager to get the latest information and retain it as an action item.
- **Highways Resurfacing and Maintenance:** Alan Menezes and James Winters discussed the current state of highways resurfacing and maintenance, including the asset management program, routine pothole repairs, and the challenges of treating cycleways and footways during winter.
  - **Asset Management:** Alan Menzies explained the asset management program, which involves surveying the network in two-year cycles using machine surveys and inspections to determine which carriageways need resurfacing.
  - **Pothole Repairs:** Alan discussed the routine pothole repairs, which are identified through inspections and reports from the public. He mentioned that the frequency of inspections varies based on the road's importance.
  - **Cycleways and Footways:** Alan addressed the challenges of treating cycleways and footways during winter, noting that they are not treated differently from footways and that the current focus is on maintaining the primary road network.
- **Winter Maintenance and Gritting:** Alan and James addressed concerns about winter maintenance, including the challenges of gritting cycleways and footways, the priority system for treating roads, and the potential for using brine solutions. They also discussed the importance of self-help and community involvement in clearing pavements.
  - **Gritting Challenges:** Alan and James discussed the challenges of gritting cycleways and footways, including the high cost and logistical

difficulties. They mentioned that the current priority is to maintain the primary road network during winter.

- **Priority System:** Alan explained the priority system for treating roads, which focuses on primary routes first, followed by secondary routes and key footways around hospitals and city centres.
  - **Brine Solutions:** James mentioned the potential for using brine solutions for treating cycleways and footways, which could be applied in advance and have a longer-lasting effect. However, the environmental impact and practicality need to be considered.
  - **Self-Help Importance:** Alan emphasized the importance of self-help and community involvement in clearing pavements, noting that the council provides a high number of grit bins for public use.
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- Helen asked about resurfacing footways and cycle tracks along roads scheduled for improvements. Alan will follow up on this.
  - David Holmes asked about the treatment of highways with Supertram tracks. Alan explained the collaboration with Supertram for repairs.
  - Ruth asked about specialised path clearing machines for cycle paths and footways. Paul mentioned the challenges of trialling such equipment and the ongoing efforts to find suitable solutions.
  - Helen emphasized the importance of gritting pavements and cycle tracks, especially for vulnerable people. Alan acknowledged the challenges and mentioned the May review to address these issues.
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- **Better Points Update:** Jack presented an update on the Better Points program, highlighting the achievements in increasing cycling, reducing car trips, and promoting sustainable transport options. He also discussed specific campaigns, such as Bike Week and the Sheaf Valley cycle route promotion.
    - **Program Achievements:** Jack highlighted the Better Points program's achievements, including tripling the target number of registrants, increasing cycling by 31%, and reducing car trips by nearly 2000 drivers using their cars less frequently.
    - **Bike Week Campaign:** Jack discussed the Bike Week campaign, which successfully encouraged non-cyclists to start cycling. The campaign included surveys, targeted messaging, and incentives, resulting in 585 people recording at least one further ride after the campaign.
    - **Sheaf Valley Promotion:** Jack described the Sheaf Valley cycle route promotion, which included a survey of users, targeted messaging, and prize draws. The campaign led to a 13% increase in monthly trips along the route.
    - **City Centre Cycle Hub:** Jack mentioned the promotion of the city centre cycle hub, where users could scan in to earn rewards. He shared positive feedback from users who found the hub convenient and cost-effective.
  - **Cycle Matters:** John raised a question about the Northumberland Road trial and its impact on surrounding roads. Paul agreed to investigate and provide an update on traffic monitoring and data collection for the area.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Local Access Forum:** Meet with William Stewart and Councillor Miskill to discuss the reinstatement of the Local Access Forum. (Nick)
- **Local Access Forum:** Keep the Cycle Forum informed about the progress and updates regarding the Local Access Forum. (Ben)
- **Weedon Street Crossing:** Verify if there are any traffic count data for Weedon Street to justify opting for a parallel crossing as opposed to a toucan crossing. (Paul)
- **Northumberland Road Scheme:** Find out if there is any data being collected from roads that traffic may have diverted onto due to the Northumberland Road scheme. (Paul)
- **Walk to School Week:** Coordinate with Jake Sutherland to promote Walk to School Week through Betterpoints. (Jack)

**Next meeting** 5pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June