

CYCLE FORUM NOTES

Meeting Held on Thursday 18th July

Present:

Cllr Richard Shaw

Dick Proctor - SCC -Chair

John Chapman Cycle Sheffield

Paul Sullivan – SCC

Rob Wormald – Sheffrec Cycle club

Dexter Johnstone – Cycle Sheffield

Adam Rose – Ofo

Tom Williamson Cycle Sheffield

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dick Skelton, Pam Walton

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (7th June)

Question with regard to LCWIP being more about leisure journeys as opposed to journeys to work.

It was explained that LCWIP was being driven by journeys to work especially short journeys that could be converted to cycling or walking.

3. OFO –The last days

Adam Rose South Yorkshire operations manager explained what he understood about Ofos' decision to leave Sheffield. Detailing it was part of a worldwide rationalisation that was seeing Ofo withdrawing from many countries in its entirety, and in Europe only operating in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, and Milan. He did not understand the full reasoning as this had not been communicated.

Staffing numbers in the UK would be reduced significantly and Ofo would employ the model of using contractors (which is similar to other dockless bike share operators) As of Friday 20th July there would be no more active working Ofo bikes. The only bikes left would be those without locks. Ofo have developed a programme to collect any bikes once they have withdrawn. All active bikes and bikes that can be fixed will be sent to London. Ofo will cease to exist in Sheffield on 31st July 2018.

Q Irrespective of the withdrawal how did the numbers stack up in Sheffield? Sheffield was the best launch, and most well received in the UK. It achieved numbers of trips in the first 2 months not seen anywhere in Europe, unfortunately the downside of vandalism and theft was greater than anywhere else in Europe, and Ofo could not

keep up with keeping the numbers of bikes they required on the street to maintain those numbers. However, only last month they had worked up a plan to tackle those issues – nightshifts, more engagement with the police, reducing the area of operation.

However, it is hard to say whether this if successful would have saved the Sheffield operation.

Q How many people were employed in Sheffield?
Eleven - all have been made redundant.

Adam was thanked by the chair.

4. TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Strategy went to cabinet on the 18th and was duly approved. It's now subject to a short call in period (2 weeks).

Stakeholder engagement and consultation will follow. The Strategy has to take into account health, population and employment growth as well as transport. It includes an action/ delivery plan. It is hoped based on the support the vision received that the strategy will be well received also.

There was one request that where areas existed where cycling was banned – for example pedestrianised shopping area that good access and storage was included to allow cycling to those areas.

It was pointed out there was a typo on page 38 (this has been subsequently raised with one of the authors).

5. AOB

Q. Were there any numbers available form Sundays Lets Ride?

Yes, British Cycling are reporting 10,000 participants, a count was undertaken that came in at 9820. An increase of 1500 from last year despite the event being an hour shorter.

Post meeting note – to date Sheffield has seen more participants per hour of operation than other Lets Ride city events this includes Manchester which ran over 5 hours with 13500 participants.

Feedback thus far has been:

Disappointed not to go round Bramall Lane football stadium (this was a change to avoid a significant pinch point at the ring road). There were other pinch points on Sunday's route, predominantly into the Winter Garden. A balance need to be made about allowing cycling in places where it's not designed for and actually waiting in a queue at the pinch points.

All the hire bikes at Endcliffe Park went out and there were quite a few people waiting, the majority of bikes were hired at Tudor square.

There is potential to suggest alterations to the route for next year. It was explained that this year the Manchester route involved crossing tram tracks where trams were at a frequency of every two minutes. Overcoming that barrier may open up other route options for the city as previously we've avoided routes in proximity to tram tracks.

Q. Will the docked bike hire scheme be reintroduced?

While not confirmed it is anticipated that due to the cost and resources required to run a scheme, let alone reintroduce and expand, are significant and cannot necessarily be justified.

Point raised that the Sheffield grand prix held the previous night (18th) went well, one race accident, well attended, and would be here to stay.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 20th September 2018, at 5pm in the Town Hall

Notes by: Paul Sullivan