

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL CYCLE FORUM

Meeting held online Thursday 21st January 2021 at 5.00 p.m. online

CYCLE FORUM NOTES

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In attendance:

Councillor Peter Price, Councillor Ruth Mersereau, Councillor Richard Shaw, Paul Sullivan, Greg Challis, Simon Geller, Dexter Johnstone, David Holmes, Jo Maher, Peter Marsh, Pete Zanzottera, Insp Kevin Smith, Angela Walker, Mike Lupton, Rob Mace .

Apologies

Jeff Carol

2. NOTES

The notes of Cycle Forum meeting held on 21 Nov 2020 were noted.

- i) Accurate
- ii) Matters arising picked up in the meeting

3. SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE – ROAD SAFETY OPERATIONS

Insp Kevin Smith introduced himself

Kevin is an Inspector for NW Sheffield, currently putting things in place around road safety in the neighbourhood to replace previous sporadic interventions. Typically, interventions were not evidenced based so...

First step to talk to cycle groups to identify problem areas.

Now running close pass initiatives using plain clothes officers carrying cameras on bikes on stretches of road - took advice from the Metropolitan Police and adapted for Sheffield.

Discovered that a significant number of motorists haven't got a clue on space to leave and didn't think they had done anything wrong - so a good educational tool.

They have also taking enforcement action.

For example - Undertook some work on Winter Street and seized 2 cars, and have focussed on A57 and out at on main routes to Oughtibridge and Stocksbridge.

Kevin is currently now single point of contact and is relaying issues to others in South Yorkshire. Barnsley and SW Sheffield planning to roll out close pass. He has noticed a change in driving habitats on the back of this.

SYP working on the dashcam footage and simplifying submission for the general public. More officers scheduled to be trained to get more on bikes. Looking for some volunteers to observe.

Also tackling highway code guidance – 2 abreast for example, looking at motorist responses.

Questions/Comments

Much appreciated from the forum.

Q1 Are you working on off road issues?

Yes we have an off road bike team, using the council funded e bikes in difficult to access areas. Going to invest in e mountain bikes to help tackle this issue. Ground to cover is large, want members of the public to submit footage. They have good success in post activity intervention.

Working with University of Sheffield on noise activated cameras.

Q2 Can other issues be reported?

This is with senior command team traffic team - bidding for resource to do this. Going to use the same platform as other forces.

Q3 Could we have a draft guidance of what needs reporting?

Public need to be aware submission could go to court but only 1% go to court.

Still work in progress but will draft what the public should expect from the police once reported.

Q4 Do you have a cyclist assessing submissions?

Some consistency and procedural issues need resolving in the call centre.

Kevin is pretty much assessing all submissions.

Aim is to get team clued up on cycling.

C1 Some areas mentioned for action

Wardsend cemetery/Clubmill road -good area for the noise activated cameras.

Off roaders can be territorial and intimidating.

Looking for funding for a drone which may help narrow down search area off road bikers when out and about.

All ideas gratefully received

Barnsley is worse than Sheffield so a lot of resource tied up there.

4. INTRODUCTION –CYCLING UK

Rob Mace introduced himself as the new Cycling Development Officer working for Cycling UK.

Rob presented to Forum on his key current areas of work.

- Promotion of Big Bike Revival (£3k for organisations to run events, Dr Bike etc. to encourage people to cycle)
- Community cycle clubs (six active projects in Sheffield)

Rob keen to collaborate and seeking support from fellow cycling groups.

Simon Geller said there were around 30 active in the Sustrans volunteer group who would be keen to be involved.

Responding to Cllr Ruth Mersereau about the scope for events in the south east of the city, where there is currently little cycling, RM said his remit was Sheffield wide and he was looking to make links across the city.

Responding to Cllr Richard Shaw about work with schools, RM said that Cycling UK had a schools specific offer via the Big Bike Revival as part of the Bikeability package; he would follow up with Modeshift Stars to see that they are aware of CUK offer.

5. SCHEMES UPDATE

Connecting Sheffield / TCF – Paul Sullivan

Paul explained that Connecting Sheffield was the brand name for all Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) proposals. Consultation on city centre proposals was complete and had attracted many comments, split being approximately 60/40 favourable. A management report was being compiled by Counter Context who were handling promotion and feedback and would be made publicly available.

Next was the proposal formerly known as Housing Zone North, connecting Kelham and Neepsend to the city centre. User friendly plans were being drawn up for consultation.

Responding to DJ, PS reported that work was under way at Mappin Street and due for completion by end of February. Broomspring Lane crossing was due to start imminently and would complete this financial year. The existing crossing would close for works to take place with the diversion at Headford Street. Comments were invited.

Upper Don Trail – David Holmes

David suggested that the Upper Don Trail Trust attended a future Forum to explain the wider project. He highlighted the current approach of trying to co-ordinate the various organisations with a will to open up the River Don as a space which was safe and attractive to all non-motorised users. There was potential for a route to be created all the way to Langsett.

The current focus was the Lady's Bridge to Herries Road/Wadsley Bridge section, starting with Grey to Green (G2G), Kelham Island and Neepsend traffic calming and the new proposal for the existing footpath from Neepsend bridge to Five Arches. A planning application had been made by SCC; design was by Jack Foxall with a 3m wide upgrade to bridleway, removal of steps on the steep slope and past Wardsend Cemetery, providing much better public access all round. Funding had been secured via Sustrans. The planning application reference would be circulated.

Stocksbridge Towns Fund – Greg Challis

Greg reported that a bid had been submitted to the Government's Towns Fund and amongst the proposed projects was an upgrade to the Little Don Link to the north of the town and the Upper Don Trail at Deepcar/Wharncliffe and the creation of a leisure trail around Underbank Reservoir. A decision was expected from DHCLG on whether the bid was successful by the summer.

Active Travel Fund (including the city centre hub) – Paul Sullivan

Paul said Emergency ATF schemes would be brought forward under Connecting Sheffield but no date was confirmed yet. The Active Travel (formerly Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods at Nether Edge and Crookes were currently awaiting allocation of DfT funding by SCR. Although Government had not provided the full amount for the scheme, it was hoped SCR would cover shortfall.

The City Centre was slightly delayed, but ready to go and schemes were due for implementation by the end of next financial year (March 22).

E cargo bikes - Paul Sullivan

PS reported that via the Energy Savings Trust, 30 E-bikes had been secured and these had covered 1000 miles already; more were being supplied to businesses, with four for the SCC fleet and five for Cycle Boost for business try out. Also small grants scheme for businesses that missed out on EST last time would mean an additional 12-20 allocation, then 50 and hopefully more.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals would get the opportunity to try out three different models in the interim.

There was an exchange of information around insurance for multi-user work purposes. PZ said that he could check out this issue via an E-cargo forum.

Laka Bicycle Insurance were recommended; AW circulated a link for multi-user e-bike insurance (as hire, but no obligation to charge for hires):
<https://www.eta.co.uk/cycle/cycle-hire-insurance/>

6.CYCLING MATTERS

Future High Street Fund (FHSF)

PS reported that FHSF funding had been secured for Sheffield City Centre. This was a scheme led by Regeneration colleagues and included a proposed cycle route via Fargate.

The G2G scheme on Angel Street had been circulated for comment. Question for the Forum was to consider the best diversion whilst the existing route is closed to build the extension. PS invited people to email him or to respond via the consultation.

7.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SG highlighted inadequate diversion arrangements for Halfpenny Bridge during Network Rail work. He suggested use of the access road parallel on Blackbrun Meadows, owned by EON, who wouldn't open the gate to the road; or to use the path to Magna Way. Both were better than A6178.

ACTION: PS will speak with Highways Co-ordination to ask Network Rail to request EON open the access road.

Dates of Future Meetings:

18 March 2021 – online

20 May 2021 - online