

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 12th May, 2011 at the Mayor’s Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Toby Evans
Ian Houghton, Local Access Forum
Ken Wright

Observers

None

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler, Rights of Way Officer
Alex Deans, Head of Highways
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer
Viv Vallance, Senior Consultant, Transport

30. Apologies

Steve Roberts

31. Declarations of Interest

None.

32. Election of new Chair - necessary postponement until Sept

It was noted that the full Council meeting which will nominate the two Council members to the LAF will be held on 29th May 2011.

Resolved – that the election of a new Chair would be postponed until the September meeting and that Ian Houghton, Vice Chair would be acting Chair in the meantime.

33. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th January 2011

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th January 2011 were approved as a correct record.

34. Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)

Stoke Poges Lane – Elliman Avenue Junction update – JW advised that an update from the Network Management team stated that this job was completed in March 2011.

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Ditton Park Cycle Path update – JW advised that CA Real Estate had not responded to the letter Principal Rights of Way Officer, Anthony Hurst of Windsor and Maidenhead Council sent on 21st January 2011. There had also been recent reports of another unexpected closure of the gates. CA said this was due to vandalism and security being compromised. Members questioned this as a need to close the gates without the required notification. A subsequent letter has been sent by RBWM dated 6th May 2011.

Resolved – JW would chase for a response to the letter in a fortnight.

Gating Order Proposals Updates Mildenhall Road – Lerwick Drive -

There is no further news on this proposal except that Cllr Matloob has asked for a site meeting to discuss.

Resolved - That the situation should continue to be monitored.

Shaggy Calf Lane to Borderside – KW highlighted the problem of litter being harboured within the shrubs that have been planted in the verges.

Resolved – JW will liaise with Environmental Services to have this route added to the regular clearance routine and the situation should continue to be monitored.

Footpath 35a – Members were advised that this development was moving forward with the temporary closure order being made on the 13th May 2011 to enable the demolition to begin. The demolition works are due to begin on 23rd May 2011.

Resolved - That the situation be monitored pending the outcome of the proposed development.

35. Membership Update - welcome to possible new member Greg Wise

After the local election results confirmed the change in the Council members JW confirmed David Munkley had been emailed asking him to consider joining the LAF as an individual member. JW advised that Steve Roberts of Cycle-Wise, Thames Valley had shown interest in applying for LAF membership and would be attending the next LAF meeting in September. He runs the Britwell Bike Project where young people can learn how to fix up donated bikes and is working with Burnham and Slough Schools as a trained Bikeability Cycle Safety Instructor.

36. Update on path dedication in memory of Margery

JW advised members that Margery's family approves of the dedication. The walking route around the nature reserve part of Herschel Park would be entirely suitable to be dedicated to the memory of Margery. The circular route has been carefully constructed to comply with all guidance on accessibility

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including acceptable gradients on slopes to allow access by wheelchairs/ buggies. Draft wording for the plaque was discussed which would be situated next to the bench at the first junction on the route. Members suggested a dedication ceremony be arranged.

Resolved – JW would order the plaque to be situated where agreed.

37. **Feedback from Cycle About Slough with SBC Transport Officers - Ian Houghton**

IH presented the results from the cycle about which took place on 15th April 2011. Issues discussed are as follows:

Montem Lane width restriction; this was agreed as a historical problem for cyclists.

Stoke Poges Lane (Belgrave Rd/Bradley Rd) Safety Scheme – IH highlighted this scheme as dangerous for cyclists where the usable road width has been restricted and the footway widened. AD commented that an independent safety audit had recently been done for this scheme which would hopefully pick up on any safety issues for all road users. AD would update members when the results become available.

Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road – IH stated that what would be brilliant cycling/pedestrian access between the two roads was constantly blocked by parked cars. Members agreed this was a parking issue and that a formal request be made via Gillian Ralphs and Joe Carter to have double yellow lines on this section of highway. It was noted that enforcement of these extends to the back edge of the footway.

Park Street/Herschel Street and Hencroft Street North/South crossovers (rear of High Street Slough) – There are no dropped kerbs for cyclists on an otherwise useful quiet route into town centre from the south. IH commented that if there was a drop kerb in the middle there would be good visibility but would also need double yellow lines to prevent illegal parking on the dropped facility.

Herschel Street (only option to cyclists as no cycling allowed in High Street) – TE and IH viewed this route as hazardous for cyclists due to fast drivers and narrow carriageway width. VV would look at the feasibility of removing the centreline as a way of making drivers take more care.

East end of High Street Slough – A good two way cycle lane has been narrowed by planting of trees on one half of the width. IH asked if anything could be done to remedy the situation. AD provided that Joe Carter, Head of Transport could be asked not to sign off the High Street scheme until this issue was investigated and the trees changed if necessary to a variety without low level branches.

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It was noted that the cycle lane disappeared further west along the High Street and the area becomes cut off for cyclists.

A4 Langley Road junction and Datchet Road crossing near the Myrke – IH noted these two crossings were not toucan crossings despite cycle lanes leading to them in both directions. After discussions it became clear that the Datchet Road crossing is already a toucan crossing. The cost of £100,000 for providing toucan crossings is prohibitive to the council at the A4/Langley Road junction though if a development presented itself in that area then this improvement would be secured through planning contributions.

Primary Way, Chalvey – The no through road area has been built without a gap for cyclists. AD agreed to arrange for remedial works to sort out this problem.

Path between Spackmans Way and White Hart Road, Chalvey – The barriers installed across this path are prohibitive to cyclists. JW agreed to arrange for the staggered barriers to be replaced with bollards.

Farnham Road and Buckingham Ave – there is no pedestrian/cyclist crossing phase at this junction. VV would try to get this requirement incorporated onto the SEGRO improvements attached to the Leigh Road Central Concession.

Sheffield Ave and Oatlands Drive – there was general agreement that the cycle lanes on these roads were too narrow and along with the central refuges provided for crossing, caused difficulty for cyclists. There was no consensus on what could be done to help with this issue.

Footpath between Shaggy Calf Lane and Borderside, and continuing south through to Kendal Drive and Grasmere Avenue – no cycling signage is present due to these paths being public footpaths. IH asked if these routes could be made into cycle paths or bridleways to legalise the usage. JW advised that these paths were adopted highway as well as public rights of way the feasibility of removing them from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way could be investigated.

IH asked how funding can be secured to make sure that cyclists are taken into account in any future highways schemes from the beginning. VV advised that he would try to secure a fund that had been discussed internally to pick up the kind of small cycle infrastructure measures being highlighted.

TE raised issues with the Long Readings Lane walking and cycling scheme, where a shared use walking/cycling facility had been implemented off carriageway. Members felt that the LAF needed to be consulted by SBC on all traffic schemes, however, it was noted that schemes needed to be dealt with on a fast turnaround. Parking on the new shared use part of the scheme was felt to be the main problem and AD explained how parking restrictions were taken out of the scheme design as a result of pressure from residents. The Council cannot enforce without these parking restrictions. AD also explained the safety audit process which includes the police and the problem

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with police not enforcing parking restrictions. TE informed members that he was due to attend a meeting with the police where he would try to raise this issue with Tony Humphreys, the police Road Safety Officer.

Members mentioned problems for cyclists and pedestrians with the temporary traffic management for the Heart of Slough scheme currently under way. The junction is due to be operational by Sept 2011.

It was agreed that another date would be arranged for a cycle about with officers and LAF members.

Resolved –

- a) A formal request for double yellow lines at the Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road is made to appropriate SBC Officers as detailed above.
- b) Actions would be taken as per the above notes and updates provided at the next meeting.
- c) That AD/VV arrange another meeting where key council officers involved in transport scheme design could cycle with LAF members to see first hand the types of problems encountered. VV will get back to members with some possible dates.

38. Regional and National Update

An update report was tabled by JW who advised that she had attended the SE LAF Conference for members and officers Thursday 7th April 2011.

Members discussed the possible routes that could be way marked as part of the Walk4Life project with TE very interested in doing some of the way marking. GP advised that Kim Truelove co-ordinates Healthy Walking now and further work is required to agree what routes could be highlighted and to order some of the way mark disks. It was agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda.

Resolved - That a response be drafted to the Defra Minister, Richard Benyon's letter asking for LAF's views on proposals to improve the flow of information between central government and LAF's; for approval at the Sept meeting.

39. UPDATE - Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey FP 33 and 32 - Action Plan

JW tabled pictures of the mural recently done on the wall of the footpath between Wentworth Ave and Monksfield Way as an example of Spencer Lowe's work. JW stated that the mural on FP33 adjacent to the Chalvey waste transfer site would be started in June.

Resolved – that JW circulate the photos of the Britwell mural and that an update is brought to the next meeting.

40. Walk4Life - LAF Involvement

This item was discussed under item 9: Regional and National Update

41. Any Other Business

SIFE – Highway Improvement Scheme M4 Jct 5 –

VV tabled design drawings of this scheme explaining that the preferred approach is to replace the subway and elevated ramps, which are not DDA compliant, with at grade crossings which would link in with the off carriageway cycle routes along the A4 another gain from the SIFE development. After discussion no consensus was reached amongst members about the proposals with TE's initial reaction being that he would prefer to be away from the fast moving traffic and retain the subway/bridges. IH, however, agreed with the proposals. AD advised that the long term safety of the footbridges is in question after one was hit last year and required 2 x cranes to repair.

Resolved - that members would consider the design drawings and make comments via JW as soon as possible.

Equality Training – VV and AD recently attended training on equality and highlighted the need to incorporate positive discrimination into design and also into the LAF itself. It was agreed that a broadened perspective is required so that the needs of all kinds of vulnerable users can be considered in providing advice and information and also in allowing for accessibility to LAF meetings.

BHS Local Representative – JW advised that there was a new local rep for the British Horse Society called Sara Church who was enthusiastic about the circular bridleway route through Cippenham and the Jubilee River. A leaflet is being planned to promote this amenity to the local community to encourage walking and cycling on the doorstep. TE suggested that the leaflet include the streamside path in Cippenham and other off-road walking and cycling routes in the area.

Resolved - that the leaflet also be forwarded to the BHS to be added to their web site highlighting this circular bridleway facility to local horse riders.

42. Date of the next Meeting

Date of the next meeting is 27th September 2011 at 5.30pm.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.45 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)