

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide updated information on the Cycling Hire Scheme, and cycle training initiatives in Slough. (Information provided by; Lynsey Brookfield, Team Leader Integrated Transport and Road Safety and Victoria Willis, Bike It Officer

2. CYCLE HIRE SCHEME

Cycle hire scheme- expansion, numbers using it, which locations are being used most frequently, any other useful information.

The scheme is expanding with three new docking stations in the following locations:

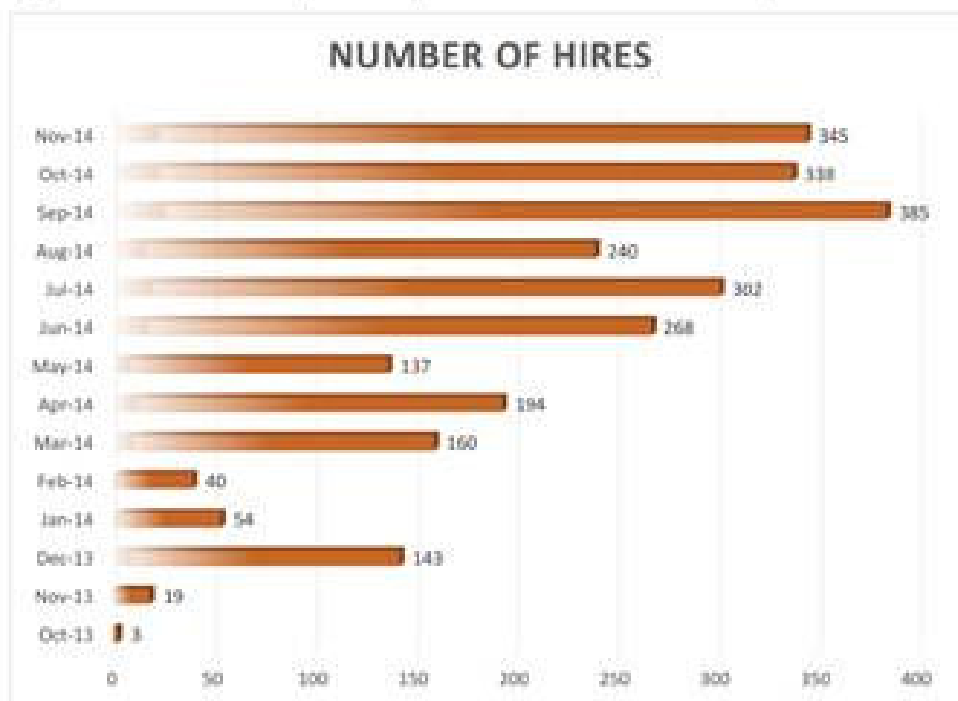
- Trelawney Avenue shops,
- Harrow Market
- The junction of the A4 with Sutton Lane (North West corner).

There may also be an addition of three more docking stations in Slough which will be funded by developers and a potential scheme sponsor, though these are not confirmed yet. Transport has promised to provide details as soon as they are certain these extra stations are going ahead.

The total number of registered users is up to 617, an average of 11 hires per day (this doesn't sound like much but is a fantastic increase on the original figures from when the scheme launched).

The graph below shows the monthly increases in usage. Numbers have only dropped very slightly in the winter months which is better than expected.

Figure 4: Number of hires per month (October 2013 – November 2014)



3. THE CYCLE HUB

SBC Transport team are in the process of developing a 'Cycle Hub' which will incorporate secure cycle parking, shower and changing facilities and vending machines providing refreshments and possibly selling cycle equipment. It is intended that the Slough Cycle Hire maintenance team will relocate to the Hub but will be working only on the Slough Cycle Hire bikes. We are however, looking at some basic cycle repair stands which would offer a tyre pump and some basic fixing equipment.

As of January 2015 planning permission has been submitted and the aim is still to complete the work on the new Hub by March / April 2015. Plans and photos can be supplied to the LAF once planning consent is granted, plus the LAF will be on the invite list for the launch event.

4. CYCLE TRAINING

Victoria Willis is the current Bike It Officer for Slough. She reports that the Sustrans Bike It project (as contracted by SBC) is currently engaged with 24 schools in Slough, in which several of these have been and will continue to do ad hoc cycle training.

The Bike it project also actively encourages schools to sign up to do Bikeability (the old cycle proficiency test) training but this is not interchangeable with any cycle skills that are taught as part of Bike It as Bike It cycle skills will only be playground skills.

Bikeability is offered to school children in Slough and the Council currently has an allocation of 650 spaces per year. Finally, we have been branching out with offering adult cycle training although we have not done much of this so far but plan to expand this in the next financial year (budgets permitting) as it proved to be quite popular and well received.

5. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DfT's CYCLING DELIVERY PLAN

The Council intends to submit an Expression of Interest regarding the DfT's Cycling Delivery Plan but we are waiting for the final version to be released before proceeding with this.

There appears to be no rush to submit an EOI and it was felt best to wait until the requirements for making one had been finalised in the approved Plan before beginning work on it. We will keep the LAF informed when we are ready to start this and welcome their ideas and feedback.

The final Cycling Delivery Plan was due to be published on 27th November 2014.

For members' information – there is a Cycling Delivery Plan Web Chat on the next pages which took place on 12th November 2014 with the Department for Transport and various Local Government Officers.

It highlights various details such as the existence of the Cycle Proofing Working Group and what the term actually means. The definition is given as "ensuring cyclists are considered at the design stage of new and improved road infrastructure".