

MINUTES FOR PEDALS OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING
7.30pm on Monday 17 October 2016, at The Vat and Fiddle PH
12-14 Queensbridge Road, Nottingham NG2 1NB
(Hugh McClintock chaired; Paul Abel took the minutes)

Attended by: Susan Young, David Lally, Andrew Martin, Arthur Williams, David Easley, Peter Atkinson.

1. Apologies for absence

Mara Ozolins, Iain Lane, Joanna Ward, Chris Green, Thomas Madar, Ben Troth

2. Discussion with Gary Smerdon-White (Ridewise / Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership) on Shared Space User Respect campaign

Gary was welcomed to the meeting and he introduced the Shared Space User Respect Code for which he was being commissioned by Nottingham City Council. He explained that the City Council was investing £2.6million in the Code "project": spending it on cycle centre, free cycle training and other revenue costs.

He explained that the Code was based on research into other protocols from desk-top research, which had been produced in other parts of the country, and from consultative meetings with Road Safety organisations, the police, Ramblers, and universities.

The only new "message" he thinks he's introduced is advising people to allow more time for their journeys because "rushing" lies behind too many accidents.

The code is a "behaviour change" project which adopts the approach of similar campaigns in health and education.

Extra money going into school Bikeability projects, U17s courses, and work with learner drivers.

He is trying not to single out either motorists or cyclists per se, but the emphasis is on general etiquette and awareness of other shared space users.

A first draft of the Code is scheduled to be circulated before the end of October and comments will be invited on key stakeholders and other invited groups. There are 3 main issues where both Gary and John Bann are still in two minds about before they can finalise a position:

Is there a place for red-light jumping? (very rare that someone gets hit as a result of this?)
Cycling on pavements
Undertaking

He stated that the City Council has absolutely no doubt about the need for cyclists to wear helmets, and it is inevitable that this will feature in the Code.

Most of the discussion concerned the wearing of helmets. David Lally and David Easley took issue with GSW's comment that the weight of published research papers shows that the wearing of helmets reduces the incidence of serious and fatal head injuries.

Arthur drew attention to infrastructure deficits causing pavement cycling, added to which many shared paths are badly signed.

GSW highlighted a general lack of knowledge of the Highway Code.

Hugh drew attention to the actions of West Midlands police stopping drivers who are giving insufficient space to cyclists, showing that the police can be involved in this kind of initiative.

Susan Young suggested that offenders apprehended by the police should be sent on Bikeability courses.

Paul suggested a speed limit of 5mph for pavement cycling.

Susan felt that children should not be exempted from speed restrictions, if these were introduced.

Paul mentioned the need to prohibit the wearing of earphones in both ears and there was a general discussion about distractions of all kinds, from which motorists and cyclists alike need to refrain.

Hugh thanked GSW for addressing the meeting and, after a break, we continue with the main agenda.

2. Minutes of the previous Pedals Meeting (19 Sept 2016) and including checking for accuracy, and matters arising / updates including

Hugh mentioned that Chris Green had felt that he had been misquoted in the minutes concerning the issue of blue badge parking and this has now been recorded.

Wilford Tramside Path barriers saga: Hugh welcomed the fact that some barriers had been removed due to the Robin Hood Marathon, and he hoped they would continue to remain in storage.

Hugh finds it difficult to understand why Tramlink feel it necessary to reduce the risk of collisions between cyclists & tram users on Wilford Lane and not at the Ruddington Lane tram stop where the shared path is likely to be more congested. He is concerned they might then want to go on to introducing them more widely near tram stops elsewhere. He therefore recommended that we should make this clear in our response to Paul Hillier of the County Council about the latest proposals he had agreed with Tramlink, agreeing on the need to retain the barrier across the tramside path just north of the Wilford Lane tramstop (though without the overlap, to make it easier to ride round) and enhanced waiting areas for people wanting to cross the tram tracks and the tramside shared path.

We also agreed with the need for the City and County Councils to be informed of the problems at the nearby road junction (Wilford Lane) where eastbound drivers could be confusing tram crossing signals with the road signals of the junction with The Becket Way and Compton Acres.

Hugh also raised the issue of the problematic barrier on the cycle path on the SE corner of the Toton park and ride site. This was not directly part of the NET extension scheme but part of the series of path improvements in the vicinity of the Toton park and ride site introduced about 2 years ago. He and Anne Sladen had raised it with Steve Tough at the meeting in

September and agreed that it was more appropriate to raise it with Paul Hillier, which they have now done, including some further information from Anne on why these barriers are a particular problem.

Other news: Complaint about motorcycles using the Castle Boulevard cycleway; Castle Boulevard cycleway due to be opened officially in November; the City Council are still trying to arrange for a Minister to do this. David Lally pointed out that the White Hart junction seems to be working better. Cyclists are still using the main road, but this could be due to problems in the details of the cycleway itself.

Proposed N-S route (Castle Boulevard to Canning Circus via Castle Hill-Postern St-The Ropewalk etc.) - concerns about the details of the contraflow arrangements on section of The Ropewalk near The Ropewalk House with angled car parking. Also discussed lack of any proposed safe cycling link between the south end of Castle Road and Wilford Street and the canal towpath.

Hugh mentioned West Midlands Police campaign against near misses for cyclists: possible local relevance for cyclists in Notts. He had raised with Heidi Duffy the possibility of Notts Police introducing a similar campaign, and had also mentioned this at the last CDG meeting.

Also mentioned proposed toucan crossing at the junction of Chaworth Road / Northwold Ave / Loughborough Rd, West Bridgford. This is due to be completed before Rushcliffe Borough Council move their offices to the Rushcliffe Arena site at the end of the year but there is still now sign of it appearing, despite much chasing over the last 2-3 years and asking Paul Hillier for a copy of the plans, which have still not been supplied.

3. Report on recent meetings / events by people who have attended on behalf of Pedals

including

- 19 Sept: New Nottingham Station cycle parking facility - meeting with EMT and subsequent message to Conrad Haig of ATOC
Peter Atkinson mentioned the loss of cycle parking on the station platforms, something that Leeds station had managed to retain.
- 29 Sept: meeting with Andrew Inchbald of McCann Homes, Nick Ebbs of Blueprint Regeneration and John Rhodes to discuss options for the north bank landing of the Proposed Trent Lane to The Hook foot-cycle bridge. Hugh mentioned that the Steering Group were now thinking in terms of the north bank bridge landing starting from a pier located a little into the Trent, subject to the agreement of the Environment Agency.
- 29 Sept: Greater Nottingham Cycling Development Group: notes to come from Gary S-W
- Sat 15 Oct. East Midlands Cyclists' Forum meeting, Chesterfield:

Report on East Midlands Cyclists' Forum meeting, Chesterfield, Sat 15 Oct

This was another useful, informative, inspiring and well-organised meeting, with speakers and discussion in the morning followed by a ride in the afternoon looking at local cycle infrastructure, particularly the very new and very impressive (though still badly signed!) Southern Station approach cycle route, about ½ mile, providing a traffic free and flatter route between the station and the south of the town and various older cycle routes. This also plugs

a missing link in Sustrans NCN Route 67 between the section north-east of the town (part of the Chesterfield leg of the Transpennine Canal) and The 5 Pits Trail etc.to the SE.

Programme:

Welcome by Chesterfield Cycle Campaign (Chris Allen, chair), followed by a local update (Alastair Meikle, secretary)

11.00 A new Campaign - Cycling 4 Everyone in Dronfield (Tracey Conroy)

11.10 Leicester conferences & update (Andy Salkeld)

11.20 The Sustrans Bennerley Viaduct project (Kieran Lee)

11.45 Peak District developments (White Peak Loop) (Chris Allen)

12.05 Updates from other Campaigns

12.20 Sustrans (Dave Clasby)

12.40 Future meetings and close (Hugh McClintock)

1.00 Networking lunch provided by Chesterfield Cycle Campaign,

2.00 Depart for exploratory ride looking at latest infrastructure

Between 30-40 people came and a good half stayed for the ride.

In terms of advice for other campaign groups perhaps the most useful presentation was that from Dave Clasby, who, as many of you will know, got employed by Sustrans after sterling work as an activist for the Derby Cycling Group, and then promoting cycling in local schools. Following their latest restructuring he is now Partnerships Manager in Sustrans East Midlands Office.

Among the points he stressed were;-

- The importance of strong local political leadership in promoting, an area in which Leicester, under Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby, is the best local exemplar, though Jon Collins in Nottingham also much better than in most Councils.
- Getting fully involved in the S4C campaign, to which Pedals signed up about 2 years ago. However we need to follow this up consistently.
- Working closely with other vulnerable road user groups and not just being seen as a bunch of “cyclists”!
- Making the most of the growing national interest in the air quality agenda, including the new East Midlands Air Quality Network whose first meeting he had recently attended. This is particularly important in Derby and Nottingham.

There is already agreement on the place and date for the next EMCF meeting, on Sat 20 May 2017 in Leicester, following an invitation from Andy Salkeld, the Cycling Officer of Leicester City Council, and following on directly after the ‘Transforming our Street’s conference they are running on 18-19 May.

5. Finance, Membership, Promotion and Publicity (David Easley and Arthur Williams to report)

- updates on membership renewals and new memberships

6. Forthcoming events / meetings

Pedals meetings including invitations to visiting speakers, review of the agenda layout, chairing and taking minutes at future meetings and the need to contact The Vat and Fiddle for preparing (e.g. heating) the room.

Future Pedals meetings

Hugh will contact Dave Clasby to see if he can come to either the November or the January meeting.

Thomas will be asked to take the minutes.

Pedals Christmas Social Evening / Meal will be delayed till a date in January

• Other meetings / events including Pedals stalls arrangements

- 18 Oct: Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service AGM, Radcliffe on Trent, including discussion on promotion of physical activity
- Wed 26 Oct (8pm): Lady Bay Community Association Special meeting to mark Lawrence Geary’s role as a community activist including his work for Pedals (Hugh to show pictures)
- Thurs 27 Oct: Broad Marsh Area redevelopment and traffic proposals: design workshop
- 27 Oct: Canal and River Trust East Midlands Partnership AGM Paul going.
- 2 Nov (8.30-1pm) Highways England: Regional Stakeholder briefing – East Midlands, Albert Hall Conference Centre, Nottingham. Peter Briggs and Hugh going.
- Sat 19 Nov (1am-6pm): Annual cycle campaigners’ conference, St Albans: Hugh to go.

7. Miscellaneous items

- Ortlieb cycle panniers for sale via Andrew Martin
- Revising the Pedals website: slim down NET material, Rural Rides to be archived, David Easley offered to liaise with Larry.

8. Any other business

Peter Atkinson updated us on the progress he is making with his “Interchange” project which has involved the Leeds Cycling Campaign, focus groups in Bulwell and Nottingham and interviews with parents, schools and Bike Works.