

Minutes for Pedals Monthly Meeting on 19th Sept 2016

Held at the Vat and Fiddle Public House at 7:30pm

1. Welcome, Presence and Apologies

Present:

Peter Briggs

Chris Green

Iain Lane

Andrew Martin

Hugh McClintock

Terry Scott

Ben Troth

Susan Young

Apologies:

Paul Abel

David Easley

Mara Ozolins

David Lally

Anne Sladen

Arthur Williams

Meeting started at 7:32pm

Chair: Andrew Martin

Minutes: Thomas Madar

2. Cycle Signing on Nottingham Cycle Routes

A discussion with John Bann and Keith Morgan, who work for the City Council

Before and after the main talk on cycle signage, there were some more general discussions and questions tabled on proposed North to South, East to West cycle routes through the city centre.

Proposed North-South Route (Castle Boulevard-Canning Circus via Castle Hill, The Ropewalk etc): Iain Lane raised discussions on the blocking of some through roads to motorised traffic so as to reduce traffic volumes and having to negotiate a two stage toucan crossing in order to avoid riding on the busy Derby Road. He also raised the issue of designing the cycle route so that when parking bays are used, any interaction between cars and cyclists is minimised.

John Bann said that the plans for The Ropewalk section of the proposed route tabled at the last CG (and discussed at the August Pedals meeting) had now been amended, and that Pedals would soon be consulted on the revised scheme (*postscript to meeting: this was circulated on 23 September*)

Chris Green raised the issue of cars parked under the Blue Badge scheme obstructing the cycle way, and also discussed the improvement of the Maid Marian Way – Derby Road environment.

Ben Troth and Peter Briggs raised the issue of long waiting times at toucan crossings

Naming conventions for the proposed network of Nottingham cycle routes were discussed. John Bann said that there were fourteen radial and three orbital routes awaiting naming. For the radial routes, it was decided to name them 'N1' to 'N14' starting with northbound eastern route to Bulwell being named as 'N1' and numbering incrementing in a clockwise direction. For the orbital routes, it was decided to name the innermost route 'OR1' and the outermost route 'OR3'.

Colour was also used to distinguish between orbital and radial cycle routes, signage of the radial routes being in blue, and orbital routes being in purple.

The use of totem boards to present information about each cycle route to cyclists was discussed. In London, totem boards are used to present information on each of the cycle superhighways, CS1 to CS7. In Glasgow, electronic information boards are used.

Signing proposals are discussed in detail in the following PDF document which was circulated after the meeting by e-mail:-

Author: Phil Jones Associates (transport planning consultants) for Nottingham City Council

Title: Nottingham Cycle Ambition, Cycle Route Signing and Branding

Date: August 2016

Project Code: 1608

There was a short break at 8:40pm.

3a. Minutes of the Previous Pedals Meeting, 15 August 2016

The minutes of this meeting were passed as correct, but they did generate some discussions. The main discussions are listed below:-

Tram line accidents

Hugh McClintock discussed tram line accidents and focused on Monday's BBC1 Inside Out programme feature on Cyclists and Tram Crashes which can still be viewed on BBC I-player (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b07tc17r/inside-out-east-midlands-12092016>)

East Midlands Trains cycle storage at Nottingham Station

Peter Briggs and Hugh McClintock discussed issues with the East Midlands Trains cycle storage facility under the multi storey car park on the south side of the station, as raised at the meeting with EMT that afternoon, chaired by Sarah Turner, EMT Area Manager. The most significant issues were:-

- Lack of signposting to the facility, so that cyclists know where to find it; this is important both within the station and on the main approach routes to the station.
- Access to and from the facility recently installed on the south (Queen's Road) side of the station, particularly bearing in mind that Queen's Road, already busy, will be carrying much increased traffic with the implementation in 2017-18 of the Broad Marsh Area Redevelopment Proposals and the diversion of most traffic from Collin Street and Canal Street, etc.
- The key fobs designed to open the doors to the facility not working on the main door, leading to cyclists being locked out (unless they know where the other doors are). A related problem, as pointed out by Paul Abel, is the lack of information on where to obtain such key fobs.
- The racks are designed to store bicycles on two levels, but the upper level racks are difficult or impossible to use, particularly for short users or those with heavy bicycles
- The facility's toilet being in a filthy condition.

Iain Lane raised the idea of writing a list of demands of what we wanted to see to rectify the situation but Peter Briggs said that we were in a weak negotiating position to make demands on EMT. He and Hugh McClintock suggested that we wait until the promised EMT minutes of the meeting were circulated, including notes of agreed action points, and we could then discuss what we wanted to see added to this.

Tram Side Cycle Path

Hugh McClintock, Susan Young and Iain Lane discussed continuing issues with the tram side cycle path past Wilford on the route connecting Clifton to the City Centre. Placed at intervals along the cycle path are slalom barriers which are intended to slow cyclists down. Tramlink and their contractors are still insisting that these barriers remain “for safety reasons”, but users in wheelchairs, pushing prams, on tandems, on recumbents, or towing trailers find them difficult or impossible to negotiate. They also discourage cyclists from using the path as a safe alternative to the main road. Are they really necessary? Rather than agree to some modification of the barriers to make them easier to negotiate (as with the ones in use on the riverside path between Beeston Rylands and Attenborough, for example), the majority view was that we still wanted them removed altogether, in the absence of more substantive evidence from Tramlink to justify their retention, modified or not.

Newsletter Printing Costs

Hugh McClintock and Iain Lane discussed the economising on the cost of the newsletter, following our decision in June to make drastic cutbacks in the costs of financing the printing and dispatch of the newsletter. The following points were raised:-

- Using black and white instead of colour printing
- Using cheaper (thinner) paper
- Cutting the newsletter size to eight pages
- Pruning the list of people who receive complimentary copies of the newsletter to 100, and then asking each of them if they would like to still receive copies of the newsletter.
- Sending only one newsletter per address, even if no postage was involved. If several people share this address, then they will share one copy of the newsletter rather than receive a copy each.

3b. Report on Recent Meetings and Events by People Who Have Attended These on Behalf of Pedals

Meeting with Steve Tough on Tram Issues at Loxley House on Thurs 9th September

Hugh McClintock reported on this. There were eight issues discussed in this meeting which were recorded in detail on the background notes to this monthly meeting (see page 20).

Pedals Stall at Nottingham Green Festival on Sun 11 September

We offer many thanks to the four volunteers who manned the Pedals Stall at the Green Festival at Nottingham Arboretum. These were Andrew Martin, David Lally, Hugh McClintock and Paul Abel.

The stall was a success. Several people expressed an interest, and a number of city cycle route maps were handed out.

The limited number of volunteers meant that the stall had to be taken down a couple of hours before the end of the festival.

The idea of holding the Nottingham Green Festival in the summer, as opposed to the early autumn was mooted.

4. Finance, Membership, Promotion and Publicity

There was no report presented from either the Membership Secretary or the Treasurer, both of whom were absent.

5. Forthcoming Pedals Meetings

17th October.

The main part of the meeting will be a discussion with Gary Smerdon-White on Shared Space User Respect. To this end, there was much discussion of shared space issues between Ben Troth and Iain Lane.

It was decided at this meeting to plan the Christmas Social evening (19th December) or a possible New Year's meal.

21st November. This was reserved for a discussion on the Pedals Website, and also a possible discussion with Ian Keetley, who was now in a job promoting cycling at the Nottingham University Hospitals.

19th December. This was set for the Pedals Christmas Social and / or a meal in the New Year

Possible meeting special themes for 2017:

- Discussion with the owner of the new cycle shop at the East Midlands Trains cycle facility on Queen's Road (about to open, following their experience in running a similar facility for EMT at Sheffield Station)
- Will Murray, Lady Bay resident and a very keen supporter of the proposed foot-cycle bridge, on the work of Brake, the national road safety charity, of which he is a trustee.

6. Other Meetings and Events

There were brief discussions on other bicycle related meetings and events in the East Midlands.

- 29 September (10.30pm): 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 was in contact with the two people from the Sustrans Research and Monitoring Unit working on the economic impact study commissioned by the Bridge Steering Group and their need for the further data needed to complete this to do full justice to the economic justification for the project.
- 29 September (2pm): meeting with the Greater Nottingham Cycling Development Group. Hugh McClintock and Peter Briggs to go. Among the issues which it was agreed they should raise is the possible local relevance of the new near misses to cyclists campaign just introduced by the West Midlands Police.

- 15 October (10:30am): meeting and ride with the East Midlands Cyclists' Forum in Chesterfield. Hugh McClintock is going to this meeting as well and said it would be useful if a few others from Pedals could also attend.
- 22 October: The S4C Roadshow will be kicking off in Cambridge: Ben Troth to attend.
- 26 October (8pm): special meeting of the Lady Bay Community Association Special to mark Lawrence Geary's role as a community activist, including his very important role in Pedals. This meeting will take place at All Hallows' Church Hall. Details still awaited but it would be good for several people from Pedals to attend.
- 27 October (6:00pm): annual public meeting of the Canal and River Trust (CRT) East Midlands Waterways Partnership. This will be held at the Normanton Suite of the Clumber Park Hotel, Blyth Road, Nottinghamshire, S80 3PA. There will be presentations of CRT work past, present and future. There will be an opportunity to discuss the use of canal towpaths as cycle paths. (*postscript to meeting: Paul Abel has agreed to represent Pedals*).
- Sat 19 Nov (1pm): annual cycle campaigners' conference at St Albans. Hugh said he might be going but suggested we defer to next month a final decision on just who would represent Pedals.

Full details of these meetings are in the Background Notes to this Pedals meeting.

7. Cycle Facility and Traffic Management Matters

These items were quickly passed over, with only very brief discussions. Not much was said. These matters are dealt with in depth in the Background Notes to this meeting.

- Western Cycle Corridor: Castle Boulevard (Wilford Street) to Dunkirk: Hugh reminded the meeting that he had on the afternoon of 31 August circulated a summary of the issues raised by several people in the run-up to the 'feedback ride' that morning with John Bann and Keith Morgan, and including some responses from John. This summary, along with some subsequent comments, had also been included in the September agenda background notes. He also mentioned that several changes to signs and markings etc had been made since this site meeting, including the switching on of the low level traffic lights at the Castle Bridge Road junction and the completion of the cycle zebra crossing on Abbey Bridge. Other changes were due to follow before the official opening which would probably now take place sometime in October.
- Beeston Lane drill around Middle St (issue raised by Robin Phillips). The provision of dashed white lines to divide this area into lanes so as to discourage motorists from undertaking cyclists.
- The need to resurface the South side cycle path on University Boulevard and Birdcage Walk between Lenton Lane and Queen's Drive.

- The long awaited toucan crossing on Loughborough Road (West Bridgford) at its junction with Northwold Avenue and Chaworth Rd.
- The need to install a bollard to prevent the frequent obstruction by parked motor vehicles of the access from Trentside (West Bridgford) to the shared path under Trent Bridge towards County Hall and the Suspension Bridge etc.

8. Miscellaneous Items

These items were quickly passed over, with just two points discussed in depth.

- The urgent requirement to update the Pedals website. A Doodle Poll was mooted to discuss dates on which the updating of the website could be discussed page by page. Andrew Martin suggested that Hugh contact Larry to arrange a special meeting to discuss updating of the site and how different people could be involved, after training since it now did not look as though there would be much time to discuss this at a monthly meeting in the foreseeable future.
- A texting driver who caused the death of a cyclist by not paying attention to where he was going being allowed to keep his licence (<http://www.cyclinguk.org/news/magistrates-allowed-texting-driver-keep-licence-lee-lost-life>)

9. Any Other Business

Auction of Altura Orkney Panniers

Andrew Martin discussed auctioning a pair of yellow-black Altura Orkney Panniers at the Christmas Party.

Facebook Page

Iain Lane sought advice on the updating of the Pedals Facebook Page

Absence of City Card Cycles

Iain Lane commented on the lack of City Card Hire Bicycles in the city. In a tour of all the City Card Cycle stands in the city centre, he could only find one cycle.

He commented that the City Card Cycle Scheme was falling apart due to a lack of funding. Hugh said that he knew that funding to support the scheme (let alone expand it further) had now become a very serious issue and suggested that Iain draft a letter to Andy Gibbons and Russ Morton at the City Council to clarify the position.

Rushcliffe CVS Annual General Meeting 2016

Hugh McClintock gave notice of this meeting, taking place at 11:45am on 18th October 2016 at Grange Hall, Vicarage Lane, Radcliffe on Trent. Further details on <http://www.rushcliffecvs.org.uk/home/latest-news-and-events/984-rushcliffe-cvs-annual-general-meeting-2016.html>

A special theme of this meeting is to be health and the promotion of physical activity so it seems a good chance to promote both cycling in general and the proposed foot-cycle bridge in particular. Hugh hoped to go.

10. Meeting End

The meeting ended at 9:45pm