

MINUTES FOR PEDALS MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 19 December 2016

Present

- Iain Lane
- David Lally (chair)
- Hugh McClintock
- Andrew Martin
- Susan Young
- Arthur Williams
- Chris Green
- Peter Osborne
- David Easley
- David Miller
- Jack Chisholm
- Anne Sladen
- Spike Davies
- Ben Troth
- Paul Abel

1. Apologies From

Roy Wilson, Mara Ozolins, Arthur Williams (arrived late)

PEDALS Christmas Meal

Booking made at Encounters Restaurant on Mansfield Road for Friday, 6 January 2017. AM to confirm and publicise among members.

2. Minutes of the previous Pedals Meeting (21 Nov 2016) and including checking for accuracy, and matters arising / updates including review of progress with actions agreed
Paul Abel requested clarification as to whether Gary Smerdon-White had been informed as to the results of the Shared Space Survey. HM confirmed this was the case.

Actions

• **Cycling South Notts: possible cycle route from Tollerton to Edwalton** - very encouraging design guidance document from Highways England on Planning for Cyclists on the Strategic Road Network (trunk roads) has at last appeared after much delay. HM advised that we keep up the pressure because HE people change jobs so frequently and we often seem to have to brief fresh faces on the issues of most concern to us!

• **K-gates proposal on the Grantham Canal towpath** (Paul Abel): PA informed the meeting that CRT lack the budget to install K-gates, and this is a requirement of Rushcliffe Borough Council. The meeting decided that, as long as they are set properly, we have no problem with K-gates. Derbyshire use them a lot. They each cost approximately £1,000 (installed). However, we would prefer no barriers or gates whatsoever, and that other policing mechanisms need to be deployed to tackle antisocial behaviour. Only as a last resort, should there be physical barriers: this was County Council policy a few years ago on the towpaths. The City Council prefer bollards to gates, although very few gates have been removed. SY objects to bollards because they are usually painted grey or black. They need to be much more conspicuous.

DL suggested that we need to start from the premise that “no barriers is ideal” and this needs to be Pedals policy. AM suggested that if someone wants a policy, they should volunteer to draft it.

Action: Agreed to discuss this at the February Pedals meeting.

• **Sneinton Greenway signing**: no action required

• **Proposed N-S route** (Castle Boulevard to Canning Circus via Castle Hill-Postern St, The Ropewalk etc.) No signs have been put up yet which show that you can cycle eastwards down Castle Lane. They say that they are going to address that part of the scheme but the Council is well behind schedule on these finishing touches. If they haven't done it by March then we should step up our protests about the various signs which still need to be done. We have to keep our eye on it.

• **Western Cycle Corridor (Castle Boulevard-Dunkirk island)** – responses to request for further feedback: SY said that the crossing of Castle Road is much better but the crossing of Abbey Bridge Road next to the Grove is difficult because there is nothing to warn motorists that cyclists may want to carry straight on rather than turn left. There is also a confusing pedestrian light for crossing the cycle lane which can be interpreted by cyclists as a green light to cross Abbey Bridge Road – would be very dangerous. Light boxes need to be redirected and shielded away from the cyclists so they cannot be misinterpreted. HM said he needs all these comments in writing and he would pass them on to John Bann. DL drew attention to the comments which are already on the Facebook page.

• **East Midlands Air Quality Network:** possible Pedals involvement: reply from Stuart Aldridge, Public Health England

The current administration of the County Council is far more interested in measures to reduce air pollution than some of its predecessors so it's very important that we try to bring pressure to bear over that when we are lobbying the Council in the run up to the next elections in May to ensure that the next administration is no less committed and that their proposed actions to address this increasingly important issue including the promotion of cycling. The EMAQ Network and new NICE report on the need to tackle poor air pollution could be one way of doing this and HM is convinced that we need to build alliances with this new organisation as well as others with a particular interest in this issue.

• **The new Queen's Road Nottingham Station Cycle Hub:** message of 15 Dec from Peter Briggs re exchange of emails with (former) ATOC / Rail Delivery Group

The major change there has been the opening of Russell's Bike Shop. We had a very good meeting last week with a new and much more dynamic Station Manager – Dan Robson. The weeds and rubbish in the north side Secure Bike Compound have now been at last been attended to. Now that the pedestrian access to the station from Queens Road has been realigned, with the diversion of through traffic next year from Collin Street and Canal Street people will become much more aware of how dangerous it is to cross Queen's Road next to the entrance to the multi-storey car park. HM will raise this issue again at the Nottingham Local Access Forum in January, to help strengthen our case.

One piece of good news is that the £600,000 grant received from the Rail Delivery Group (former ATOC) may not have all been spent yet, as this organisation has not yet received the final EMT claim for reimbursement

AM requested that someone asks Dan Robson to find out exactly why two-tier racks cannot be put in the bike park on the north side of the station: just what is meant when they say that the ground conditions ruled this out, as intended 2-3 years ago at the time of the earlier CDG discussions on the new Cycle Hub plans.

PA commented on the problem of supporting improvements on the north side of the station, as opposed to improving access to the south side, given the need to channel as much business possible into Russell's Bike Shop.

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

- 19 Nov: Annual Cyclenation-Cycling UK cycle campaigners' conference, St Albans: Hugh in his report at last month's meeting said that he had forgotten to mention the new campaign by British Cycling with the AA and other organisations to try to change the Highway Code regarding giving way at junctions to pedestrians and cyclists going straight on. This had recently had quite a bit of media coverage.

- 1 Dec: **West Bridgford Local Traffic and Transport Group:** Hugh reported that Rushcliffe Borough Council have not kept the promise of completing the Loughborough Road toucan crossing before the opening of the new Arena, as required by the planning consent for their new complete Arena office and leisure centre plans. We need to keep chasing this yet again!

- **Friends of Bennerley Viaduct Meeting**, Ilkeston, 5 Dec: AM reported on his visit to the Erewash Museum which has got a scale model of the viaduct and has been very well received by thousands of visitors over the last few months. A Good News Story! HM said that Kieran Lee has now had an extension of funding for his vital post as Sustrans Community Engagement and Development Officer, which is very good news in the run up to the submission of the main funding bid in a few months time to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- 13 Dec: **Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee:** Hugh said that we should provide County Councillor Steve Calvert with the accident statistics as soon as possible, in response to his request at the meeting. We need fuller details of each incident. We need some prompts in the main boxes in the online questionnaire to get fuller information on the circumstances behind each accident. DE agree to investigate this, in consultation with LN.

- **Proposed Trent Lane to The Hook foot-cycle bridge:** HM said that he had had a very useful meeting of 14 Dec with Xavier Bruce, Sustrans' new CEO but he said that finance is incredibly tight and it has got worse in the last few months. Sustrans previously benefited a lot from EU funding which is also unlikely to be available in future.

The only hope now is to get it financed from a number of different sources, and not rely on central government funding for the main part. HM concluded that the foot cycle bridge is going to be a "long-term aspiration". BT commented that it is good to have a "shovel ready" project ready for when funding becomes easier, a point that Matt Easter of Sustrans had made to the Steering Group when we started our work in August 2014, HM said. He and other Steering Group members want to keep pushing the case for a claim on the Bridge Fund, as its original purpose was to build and maintain bridges across the River Trent.

Action: Once the Sustrans economic impact report has been completed, we will press the case for the claim on the Bridge Fund, along with other Steering Group members.

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

Action: The Santander account will be closed and any balance will be transferred into the main account.

Susan will help Arthur reissue the membership cards. With have had five new members join recently.

5. Forthcoming events / meetings

Pedals meetings including invitations to visiting speakers, review of the agenda layout, charring 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,

Dave Clasby from Sustrans East Midlands (Partnerships Development Manager) is coming to the January meeting, Susan is charring and Hugh is to take the minutes.

We need to ask Keith Morgan to come to the same meeting so that we can be updated on the latest Broadmarsh and Greyfriar Gate proposals.

In February we have agreed to focus on revisions to the website. Iain agreed to try to bring a laptop, portable screen and connector. In March we have the AGM and in April we will be inviting Russell to speak on the Russell's Bike Shed. This will be on April 24, a week later than normal, because of the third Monday that month being Easter Monday. AM has confirmed this with the VAT and Fiddle.

Ben and DL reminded the meeting to go onto CycleScape to comment on the proposals for a new bridge on the Boots Enterprise Park. HM commented that there are moves afoot to simplify the method by which people can comment on issues raised on CycleScape.

There is a Cycle Forum meeting coming up on 20 January at the Council House focusing on the launch of the Shared Space Cycle Code and the new City Cycle Action Plan.

Cllr. Nick McDonald is apparently the new Cycle Champion. Iain commented that now have one less person to go to in the Council on cycling issues.

HM will ensure that Pedals entry on a local database of voluntary organisations (NottLog) is transferred to the new database (LiON) recently set up by the City Council.

The meeting thanked Susan for arranging a gift and card for the pub.