

MINUTES OF THE 20th FEB 2017 PEDALS MONTHLY MEETING

Present:

Iain Lane; Andrew Martin (in the Chair); Susan Young; David Easley; Roland Backhouse; Hilary Backhouse; Arthur Williams; Hugh McClintock; Jack Chisholm; David Lally; Peter Briggs

1. Apologies for absence

Mara Ozolins; Joanna Ward; Thomas Madar; Chris Green.

2. Minutes of the previous Pedals Meeting (16 Jan 2017) were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Wilford Lane tramside path crossing hazards: angled siding tracks' problem will be raised at the next meeting with Steve Tough, City Council, re outstanding NET-related issues for cyclists in March. Iain, DL and SY expressed frustration with the lower priority given the County Council to safety issues involving cycling infrastructure in comparison to that provided for motorists.

Tram-related accident reporting: Hugh recommended that we continue to supply Cyclenation with our Tram - related accident statistics with the proviso that we can identify Nottingham's accidents within the final data.

Preparing to lobby candidates in the forthcoming County Council elections: discussion of possible alternative approaches.

PB took issue with HM's view on the County Council's general lack of support for cycling by reminding the meeting that the Shire actually invests its own money, whereas the City relies entirely on funding from central government. Hugh explained that the City does actually directly invest in cycling due to the fact that government-backed projects usually need a degree of match-funding. PB would rather we avoid talking constantly about cuts to the cycling budget, and seek their backing for good schemes which we believe need promoting.

In response Hugh emphasised that we were talking about future County Council funding for cycling, rather than the present allocations. The comments made by Cllr. Richard Jackson, the Opposition Spokesman, at last November's the Transport and Highways Committee meeting, when discussing the present Administration's Cycling Plans for West Bridgford, made clear that they opposed any spending on cycling, and these comments had since been echoed by Cllr. Gordon Wheeler. In view of this, and other information, Hugh said that there was a real danger not only that there would be no such funding after the May local elections if the political view then prevails that cycling is not a serious means of urban transport and therefore does not merit any dedicated expenditure. There is also, Hugh was sure, a real risk of a new administration then dropping some schemes already agreed, e.g. in the West Bridgford area, if a start had not been made on them by then. We therefore had to do our utmost to head off such a danger by vigorous lobbying of candidates to put the positive case for spending on cycling and strengthen the resolve of those who might be more open to such a case.

Leaving this lobbying until we knew who had been elected would be too late, even though it would certainly still be important to lobby on specific issues, making use of the feedback from our pre-election lobbying on which elected candidates were more sympathetic.

SY wants us to highlight pollution levels. However, PB said he thought this to be mainly a Nottingham problem. Hugh commented that it is rather a Greater Nottingham problem since, for example, there are very serious air quality issues on the main approaches in West Bridgford to Trent Bridge and West Bridgford so it is important that the County as

well as the City Council acknowledges the need to address this, especially in view of the recent further evidence of the very damaging public health consequences of poor air quality, most of which comes from motor traffic.

Roland proposed that people write as individuals, rather than sending in standard letters as part of a group.

Hugh read out a draft standard letter and it was agreed to break this down into building blocks which can help individuals write independently.

SY urged us to emphasise the benefits for older people.

Hugh offered to help write to a list of County Council candidates in Rushcliffe, and said that we could do with similar offers from Pedals members in Broxtowe Borough and if possible also Gedling Borough, since we did aim to cover all of Greater Nottingham

Paul and DL made the case for urging councillors to keep up their very welcome investment in cycling. DL offered to draw up the building blocks (bullet points), rather relying on one letter. Jack Chisholm agreed to track down an up to date list of candidates in time for a further discussion on this at our next meeting, so that we could then go ahead with the necessary action.

Iain remind us to keep a record on a spreadsheet of who has been contacted, and who has responded positively.

Sustrans Economic Impact Report for the Proposed Trent Cycling-Pedestrian Bridge

Several people commented on the methodology used in the revised draft and Hugh explained that he had sent a detailed list of issues which still need to be addressed by the authors of the study. He was also chasing detailed comments from the City and County Councils, both of whom were contributing to the costs of the Sustrans work.

PB suggested we seek a judicial review on the way the Bridge Fund's income is disbursed but Hugh doubted whether this would win us any friends, particularly in the City Council. He also pointed out that one of the Steering Group members, Tom Huggon, a very experienced environmental lawyer, had already written a report on the origins of the Bridge Estate and its use over the years.

EMT Queen's Road Cycle Hub (Nottingham Station): update on actions agreed.

PB commented on the station master's unusually high level of interest in the cycle hub but we have yet to see any significant changes in terms of signage and general publicity.

Proposed development of a local 'tube map' for cyclists, and recent guidance from Cycling UK
Deferred because of lack of time, as was the discussion on Susan Young's revised draft Pedals policy statement on the use of barriers.

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

- 20 Jan Cycle Forum, The Council House

Hugh said that he learned little new, other than one or two small schemes being proposed, as mentioned in the revised Draft City Cycling Action Plan, and a commitment to promote cycle tourism.

- Hugh reported briefly on the 26 Jan Greater Nottm Cycling Development Group: John Bann tabled a new Draft City Council Inspection and Maintenance Strategy and Hugh gave a summary of the main points. John wanted to know what our thoughts are on the non-replacement of white lines when roads are resurfaced. This has been known to reduce traffic speeds. Iain offered to scan the Hugh's paper copy of the Strategy and circulate it.

HMcC has reported that Highways England had failed in a bid to get funding for an improved cycle path along to connect the upgraded A453 to Clifton Bridge via Clifton Lane etc, which is also a trunk road. However, they intended to try again to secure funding for this, as well as to secure funding for improvements to the Ring Road (Clifton Boulevard) cycle paths in the Dunkirk flyover roundabout-Derby Road area, connecting to the City Council's new Western Cycle Corridor. Details awaited.

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

- AM reported that Santander had sent us a cheque of 80p on closure of the account.

Arthur is standing down as membership sec, a post which needs a replacement at the AGM. PB and HMcC suggested we split the role because of the extra work in issuing membership cards. Decided to discuss sharing the workload with Arthur. AM suggested we ask him to produce a list of duties for the person responsible, as someone is more likely to want to take it on if they know what is involved. Chris Gardner produced a manual a few years ago & SY offered to look for this.

5. 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,

20 March (AGM arrangements), 24 April (not 17th, because of Easter)

AM offered to chair the AGM on 20th March and HMcC offered to chair the business session part of this.

SY agreed to chair the April 24th meeting, including a discussion with Russell of Russell's Bike Shed.

Arthur arrived and offered to send out cards to members and to remind them of the AGM.

Arthur said he would prepare a summary of the membership sec role to help his successor.

• Other meetings / events

- HMcC is attending the Nottingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Discussion on Cycling on 8 March and said that he had been asked in advance to submit comments on behalf of Pedals.

- AM may be going to the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct Meeting at the Gate Inn, Awsworth, Tues 14 March. HMcC said he had sent a letter of support for their Heritage Lottery bid.
- HMcC can't go to the next Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee meeting, 14 Mar at 2pm: PB wanted to know if anything was actually being done about the list of problems cyclists had raised at the last meeting. PB offered to go & HMcC said he would forward the agenda. *(NB postscript to meeting: this meeting was subsequently cancelled)*
- Nottingham Green Festival. at the Arboretum on Sun 17 September: PA agreed to contact the organisers to find out if anything could be done about booking an actual pitch in advance, rather than having to arrive 3 hours before it starts to reserve a pitch.
- Ellie has invited a Pedals member to address the Green Party, and AM agreed to take up the offer.
- We reviewed our membership of Cyclenation and PB said he would find out at their forthcoming AGM what they plan to do next year.

6. Cycle facility and traffic management matters including

Suggestions for further provision of cycle stands in the City Centre and elsewhere in Nottingham. PB wants more under-cover stands. PA pointed out that most of the CityCard stands are longer being used by hire bikes, and should be made available to cyclists generally.

HMcC reported on Roland's frustration with Nottinghamshire police unwillingness to enforce a 20mph limit on Melton Road, West Bridgford. PA spoke in favour of better 20mph signage. DL & Iain spoke in favour of narrower lanes and more data on how drivers respond to flashing signs. Agree that there was a general problem of poor enforcement of these speed limits.

7. Miscellaneous items

Cycling UK are lobbying on 22nd April and have asked us to organise a Space for Cycling Ride in Nottingham on that day. SY agreed to look into it. 50 cyclists attended last time it was done.

Pedals ebike bid to Sport England: PA went through this Stage 1 bid concerning the purchase of 100 e-bikes over a 3 year period. In association with Citycard and U3A. £313,000 budget. We will hear on 7th April as to whether this has been successful.

HMcC mentioned that the North-South Castle Boulevard-Ropewalk-Canning Circus cycle route is nearly completed, and suggested we continued over the next few weeks to gather feedback.

Iain problems at the Castle Bridge junction and the need for a box junction because it is currently scary and the lights are confusing. PB and DL said that drivers are also confused by the lights and queue through the red light. AM said the lights by The Grove do not tell cyclists when it is safe to cross. AM agreed to be the point of contact and explain the specific problems to Keith Morgan.

PB said the barrier near the Johnson's Arms has been broken again for weeks and KM needs to be made aware of this.

9. Updating of the Pedals website: general discussion

Contacts out of date

Rural Rides

CTC logo to be updated to Cycling UK

HMcC said he would bring the old posters to the AGM

Most of the old material needs to go into archive. It shouldn't be under "What is Pedals?" Some just needs re-wording. County Council needs referring to as VIA.

Highways Agency needs updating to Highways England.

Timing of our meetings needs to reflect Bank Holidays, e.g. avoiding Easter Monday when that falls on the third Monday in April.

AM suggested we review the website at every meeting & asked Iain to bring his laptop to enable this.

People need to be asked to make renewable membership payments via Paypal.

People need to suggest new graphics and photos to keep the website fresh.

PA raised need for new logo which will be discussed at a future meeting.