

Minutes: Pedals Organising Meeting 19th November 2018

The Vat & Fiddle Pub, 12-14 Queensbridge Road, Nottingham, NG2 1NB

Chaired by Hugh McClintock

1. Introductions, attendance and apologies

Attended by

Guests: Councillor Dave Liversidge (DL-NCC) and John Bann (JB-NCC) from Nottingham City Council

Representatives of other organisations: Edmund Hopkins (Rights and Amenities Officer, Notts CTC)

Pedals members and others:

Hugh McClintock (HM), David Lally (DL), Paul Abel (PA), Peter Briggs (PB), Susan Young (SY), Florian Batstone (FB), Emma Metcalfe (EM), Matt Turner (MT), Jack Chisolm (JC), David Rhead (DR),

Apologies

Arthur Williams, Hellen McMullen – Ridewise/The Big Wheel

2. Discussion with Nottingham City Council representatives, Councillor David Liversidge (Portfolio Holder for Local Transport) and John Bann (Cycling and Public Space Transformation Manager)

DL-NCC gave an overview of the cycling situation in Nottingham and current plans.

- The Nottingham vision for transport is continuing, despite government cuts.
- Intend to include cycling commitments in the local election manifesto for May elections (things like improving and keeping cycling routes clean and maintained, as much as they can do as is “cost free”)
- No money has been set aside for cycling infrastructure projects
- There will be a focus on routing along quieter streets, away from main roads.
- No current plans/desire for another Castle Boulevard style protected cycleway. Felt proud of it but no money, it was way over budget, and some drivers failed to understand how to cross it/behave around it.
- City Centre will be equivalent of a Clean Air Zone (but under another name): no private cars inside the Ring Road, taxis will have to be ULEV etc. But they will not be charging polluting vehicles.

- Some discussion about Broadmarsh e.g. where motor traffic will go and how people cycling will cross major motor traffic route – requires careful consideration.
- On-road parking shown to slow down speed of drivers but understand it's poor for cycling.
- Discussion about whether it would be possible to add a cycle route across Trent Bridge. Possible shared use pavement – DL-NCC to think about it.

JB-NCC responded to EM's question about what they felt biggest cause of 'backlash'/opposition to cycle schemes was.

- Idea of removing parking always unpopular. Had to amend Castle Boulevard scheme to appease motorists/residents/businesses.
- Parking department at Council are always loath to get rid of paid on-street parking because it generates income.
- Works around Broadmarsh caused major traffic problems at same time Castle Boulevard protected cycleway was being build. Delays were not solely caused by the building works for the new cycleway. Had to spend unexpectedly spend additional money to improve motor traffic flow.
- However, there wasn't significant other opposition or grumbling, apart from the parking issue.
- Scheme went ahead because the Leader and Portfolio Holder decided to stick with it.
- Current Council focus is "Keep Nottingham moving" and this applies to all modes of transport.

PA asked about recognition of importance/potential of electric bikes.

- DL-NCC – No real awareness of electric bikes amongst councillors. He was more aware, having seen them in use in Munich.

DL voiced concerns about Pedals not always hearing about schemes before they happen and lack of consultation.

- DL-NCC – agreed that often not enough consultation.
- DL-NCC – sometimes individual local councillors can suggest less costly/more practical solutions, if they know about things happening within their wards.
- DL-NCC – also no set cycling budget, not even a set transport budget.

IL talked about how when Pedals submits a consultation response, Pedals' input is often overruled and the scheme goes ahead with no amendments. Finds this disheartening and wanted to know whether comments are even taken into account, or just dismissed. What happens behind the scenes and who's involved?

- DL-NCC – he personally gets a report put together by council officers detailing their recommended decision and any objections or supporting comments. It's also seen by the local councillors whose ward it's in. As Portfolio Holder, DL-NCC has the final say as to whether to give it the go ahead or send it back to the council officers for a rethink. He sees a lot of these reports, but not many are for big schemes.
- DL-NCC – he does send schemes back, but it's not that easy to go against officers' recommendation without local knowledge. He can ask advice of ward councillors, plus feels he has good geographical knowledge of Nottingham from long-term Labour party activity and as councillor in St Ann's.

HM asked why the idea of allowing motorbikes to use bus lanes has cropped up now and what's behind the proposal?

- DL-NCC – desire to trial/investigate whether this would work has come from the Leader of the Council.
- JB-NCC – they decided to allow it in Sheffield on Abbeydale Road as motorcyclists are classed as a vulnerable group.
- HM – wondered whether there had been any monitoring of the Sheffield scheme. Feared that, even if no collisions, people may have been scared away from cycling in the bus lanes.
- **ACTION 19/11-01 HM to submit a Pedals response.**

PA raised a concern about road layout approaching Lady Bay bridge (busy, no pedestrian crossings etc.)

- DL-NCC – understood issue. Will make a note and think about it. Perhaps road could be changed due to turning restrictions. *Lots of detailed discussion.*

Further discussion re: Castle Boulevard protected cycleway

- IL said that he was disheartened to hear Council weren't planning on building more Castle Boulevard-style protected cycleways on main roads as he feels this is best thing we have.
- DL said that he and his wife breathe a sigh of relief when they get on to it. Feels safe and can relax.
- MT said that it was one of main reasons he chose to move to Nottingham!
- JB-NCC – they are proud of it. They haven't given up.
- JB-NCC – still have target of 10% of journeys to work by cycling by 2025.
- Some general concern about how this was achievable without plans to build more protected cycleway schemes!

DL-NCC – how does getting money from D2N2 work?

- DL-NCC (NCC) – Council leader, Jon Collins personally negotiates with D2N2 and fights hard to get fair share of the money for Nottingham.
- DR – Policy 14 (“New developments must have cycling and walking and public transport...”). Could this be a way of getting money for cycle schemes? DL-NCC – Don’t know. JB-NCC – Depends on how strong the development market is and how far they can push the developers to get extra money.

SY – do you look at where people currently cycle to target improvements?

- DL-NCC – agree, don’t think we do this enough. Has seen evidence of people making their own ‘desire line’ paths where no footpaths were provided into housing estates. Ought to be doing more to study how people move in cities.

SY – it has to feel safe to walk and cycle at night.

FB – Need to ‘move more’. Could save billions for NHS over next 20 years. This is where we need to go.

- DL-NCC – Agrees. Local councillors and NHS and other organisations need to work together but we’re not! Children in care and the ageing population are the two big issues for the council. Everyone hangs onto their share of the money as it gets tighter – prevents openness and collaborative working.
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3. Minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

New website

EM gave brief update on the new website design. Approx 90% done. Have been discussing integration with Paypal etc and possible options to improve ease of joining online.

Pedals 40th birthday event

PA and HM gave brief update on plans for Pedals 40th birthday event, a cycle infrastructure tour in London. Approx 2.5 hours cycling + break for 12 people max (but could do more than one group). IL suggests good opportunity to link up with London Cycling Campaign contacts. IL also expresses desire for a more local celebration too, he is willing to organise this.

Proposed installation of anti-motorcycle barriers on the Wilford Lane-Ruddington tramside foot/cycle path

Discussion centring on whether Pedals should oppose all barriers on principle as they are discriminatory and discourage cycling by making it harder and less pleasant, or whether Pedals should accept a “least worst” barrier option. Also trying to understand background to this situation.

Strong feels and robust discussion.

HM - will press police for enforcement action against motorbikes using the Wilford tramside shared use foot-cycle path when he attends the next Cycling Development Group (CDG) meeting. He will report back after the meeting and we can discuss again.

ACTION 19/11-2: HM to attend CDG meeting. HM to ask Sustrans and Nottingham City Council contacts for their experiences of tackling illegal motorcycle use on foot-cycle paths.

4. Reports on recent meetings / events by people who have attended on behalf of Pedals

HM gave updates on the following meetings -

- D2N2 Area LCWIP Stakeholder Follow-Up meeting (24/10/18)
 - Proposed Trent Lane- Lady Bay foot-cycle bridge Steering Group meeting (01/11/18)
 - Canal and River Trust Partnership meeting (02/11/18)
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5. Finance, membership and publicity

ED – remembered that we had decided to cease membership of CycleNation, but couldn't find a written record. Are we all happy with that decision? Yes, we are.

ACTION 19/11-3: DE to cancel membership of CycleNation.

6. Forthcoming events and meetings

Christmas talk and social

MT proposed that instead of a normal business meeting, we have a Christmas social and postpone all business until January. MT will do a Go Dutch talk on cycle infrastructure in the Netherlands. This was agreed.

ACTION 19/11-4: MT to organise Go Dutch Christmas talk and social, asking for help as necessary and liaising with IL re: any costs.

Future meetings

January – left clear, no invited guest/speaker.

February – Helen Hemstock from the Sustainable Transport Collective (Ridewise / Big Wheel) (*now confirmed*)

ACTION 19/11-5: HM to invite HH if not already organised.

March – AGM

ACTION 19/11-6: IL to investigate possibilities, practicalities and costs of an external speaker and report back.

7. Cycle facility and traffic management matters

HM gave updates on –

- Arno Vale Link (Pedals response coordinated by Arthur Williams)
- Attenborough Nature Reserve – Long Eaton public right of way dispute with new landowners and consequent need to get users to complete user evidence statements both for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils (coordinated by Steve Parkhouse of Notts Ramblers) (**HM to assist Steve and others at meeting in Long Eaton on 1/12**)
- Waterside development; draft Pedals response to City Council Waterside Supplementary Planning Document consultation (**HM to finalise Pedals response by 17/12**)
- Unity Square offices etc. (Queen’s Bridge Road) development (**ACTION 19/11-7: HM to prepare Pedals response**)
- Chetwynd Barracks development (**ACTION 19/11-8: HM is awaiting more information on this via CDG meeting**)
- Proposed new LIDL-NCC development near the Wilford Lane tram stop

JC provided updates on –

- Spire Hospital site in Tollerton
 - Keyworth housing sites. (**ACTION 19/11-9: HM to copy response put together by JC and submit it to Rushcliffe Borough Council**)
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8. Miscellaneous

Use of email addresses and data legislation – Pedals needs to get up to date to ensure we are protected and take care of members' personal information.

Frustration over large volume of emails received every week – too much to keep up with.

MT – proposed to set up a Google Group which would mean emails could be sent to a) the entire member list, b) sections of the membership or c) chosen individuals without revealing email addresses. It would also allow people to 'opt in' to the emails they want rather than HM making the decision as to who received them depending on the issue. People could receive all the emails, daily or weekly 'digest' emails or no emails – accessing the Google Group via a website (rather like an online forum).

Vigorous discussion, some concern over who has responsibility for administration of the Google Group, concern over people knowing what's going on and how to use the group etc.

IL – this was exact problem he was trying to solve by setting up the Pedals Slack group. Dismayed that there has been limited uptake and some people have chosen not to engage with it. Concerned that there will be same issues with a Google Group unless there is 'buy in' from everyone. IL pressed for a decision to be made to allow this to progress.

Result – decision was made by a show of hands for MT to go ahead and set up the new Google Group, working to ensure HM and others kept in the loop. **ACTION 19/11-10: MT to set up new Google Group and liaise with others re: change over and communication with members.**