

Cycling England Demonstration Town Project - Steering Group Meeting

Friday 5th May 2006, 9:30pm
Council Chamber, Morecambe Town Hall

Present

Cllr Gina Dowding	(GD)	City Councillor - Cabinet Member (Partnerships/Sustainability)
Kathy Bashford	(KB)	Bike It Officer, Sustans
Jonathan Sear	(JS)	Estates Management, Lancaster University
Dave Horton	(DM)	Dynamo
Rachel Scott	(RS)	Economic Development, Lancaster City Council
Alison Page	(AP)	Furniture Matters
Mike Hutchinson	(MH)	Lancaster CTC
Alasdair Simpson	(AS)	Lancashire County Council
David Owen	(DO)	Leisure Services, Lancaster City Council
Ron Eckersley	(RE)	Engineering Services, Lancaster City Council

1. Apologies

Cllr Janice Hanson	(JH)	City Councillor - Cabinet Member (Transport/Regeneration)
Peter Loker	(PL)	Corporate Director (CS), Lancaster City Council
John Leach	(JL)	Dynamo
John Whitelegg	(JW)	Sustainable Transport Advisor
Jim Robson	(JTR)	Area Manager (North), Lancashire County Council
Alistair Kirkbride	(AK)	Dynamo
Gary Bowker	(GB)	Engineering Services

2. Notes of previous meeting

It was reported that the notes of the previous meeting had been misplaced for the time being as Tracy Hopkins, the previous secretary had recently taken up a new appointment outside the Council and every effort was being made to retrieve them.

3. Matters arising [not on the agenda]

There were no matters arising

4. Capital Programme update

A three-page report was circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting in which GB outlined the progress on the various schemes and this was accepted. [further copy attached] GD expressed the wish to have a 45 minute bike ride to inspect some of the works after the next meeting (5th) and that this ought to be a feature on a quarterly basis until the CDT was completed. Furthermore it was felt that a list of the details of the Lancaster gyratory junction should be provided for the next meeting to aid further discussions and that Andy Mayo should be contacted to seek his advice.

- 4.i There then followed a discussion of cycle parking in which a number of initiatives linked to health centres and shopping and opportunities to provide both free and secure parking were discussed but was finalised. It was noted that Lytham had already started to develop this initiative and that the matter should be kept under review and widened to include Parish Councils. CDT annual monitoring includes counts of parked cycles that will help identify need.
- 4.ii Legend on Boundary Signs – there was a brief discussion on the appropriateness of the wording on the signs and how the wording ought to incorporate the themes of City, Coast and Countryside and CDT but no firm decisions were reached other than to report back with alternatives

- 4.iii DO reflected on his experiences at Overview and Scrutiny with the Morecambe Promenade initiative and expressed the opinion that as a result of the debate that the possibility of having cycling on the promenade this summer was extremely uncertain. There had been 160 responses by letter/e-mail and telephone hot line to the initial consultation exercise where three main issues had been raised: - horse-riding, skateboarding and cycling. There were no pro-cyclists at the meeting and of the 61 responses on cycling 21 were against. He reported that O&S felt that there was insufficient evidence to implement the proposed changes and that this would inevitably slow down the proposal through ODPM. He felt that this was certainly a set-back and that the next opportunity to continue the momentum was through full Council but to stand any chance at all it was suggested that beforehand local Councillors should be briefed and as much evidence in support of the initiative should be collected from as many sources as possible.

5. Revenue Programme update

An eight page update report was circulated by RS [copy attached] and was accepted.

- 5.i Dealing with items from this report as they arose the view was expressed that the proposal for Bobbys on Bikes was a step in the right direction and that this proposal should now be offered to the 'Board for approval.
- 5.ii Travel Smart Project – A discussion took place on how to get shops and the public involved in the initiative, how the Bike Library might work and what might be available from the library for general use as it was suggested that trailers and bike seats were possibilities. It was agreed by all that the main purpose of these initiatives was to get people on bikes and so it was thought that the proposed surveys and the leafleting would measure effectiveness and heighten awareness
- 5.iii Cycle Buddy scheme – in the discussion on this item AS mentioned that he had just come back from a conference in Bristol dealing with this initiative and presently his view was that it didn't work very well. RS explained that this element could be promoted mainly through the Work Place Officer who was due to start work in July
- 5.iv Cycle Rides Project – RS explained that a brochure was presently being finalised that includes six short rides and that these could form the basis of a project. No progress to date in identifying a leader for the project.

6. Bike It Officer

KB was welcomed to the forum and then continued by outlining her strategy for schools by saying that she intends to target 10 per year [2 secondary and 8 primary] and provided a statistical summary sheet of the potential schools for 2006 [further copy enclosed]. She continued by saying that this list was not finalised as yet but expected that at least 8 would be agreed by the end of June and developments would be reported to the next meeting. Finally she mentioned that she was also working on a proposal to remove all car parking at Dallas Road School in order to incorporate cycle parking and to provide a safe school environment. This would involve getting teachers to car share and/or travel by alternative means. The issue of subsidised car parking in the nearby public car park was also discussed.

7. Any other business

RS circulated a letter from Rob Fuller from CTC [further copy enclosed] offering a further £15,000 to Lancaster to prime-start the transition towards the National Standard cycle training scheme on a matched fun basis against the CDT money already approved. RS to report developments on this initiative to the next meeting

8. Date and time of next meeting

5th June, 13:00 hours, Environmental Health Conference Room. Morecambe Town Hall