

STEERING GROUP MEETING FOR CYCLING DEMONSTRATION TOWN PROJECT

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2008

RECEPTION ROOM, LANCASTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Matt Hodges	(MHod)	CTC
Philip Longton	(PL)	Lancaster University
Alasdair Simpson	(AS)	Lancashire County Council
Dick Follows	(DF)	Dynamo
Councillor Eileen Blamire	(EB)	Cabinet Member, Lancaster City Council
Councillor Maia Whitelegg	(MW)	Cabinet Member, Lancaster City Council
John Whitelegg	(JW)	Sustainable Transport Advisor
Anna Redfearn	(AR)	Pedal Power Furniture Matters
Claire Drury	(CD)	North Lancs Teaching PCT
Paul Darlington	(PD)	Cycle-Aid
Mike Hutchinson	(MHut)	CTC Lancaster
Rachel Scott	(RS)	Economic Development
Bee Harding	(BH)	Economic Development
Gary Bowker	(GB)	Engineering Section, Lancaster CC
Ged McAllister	(GMc)	Engineering Section, Lancaster CC
Kathy Bashford	(KB)	Sustrans
Peter Loker	(PSL)	Corporate Director, Lancaster CC
Steph Lucas	(SL)	Notetaker, Lancaster CC

		ACTION
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>After introductions, the following apologies were received:</p> <p>Jim Robson, Lancashire County Council John Leach, Dynamo Stephen Buchanan, Furniture Matters Pedal Power</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 SEPTEMBER 2007</p> <p>Agreed</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Centros Miller (under Matters Arising) - PSL reported that Planning Service are awaiting a submission of an amended Planning Application from Centros Miller and expect to receive this towards the end of March. Negotiations on cycling access/facilities are still underway, so can't expect to see anything in writing until the application is submitted.</p> <p>Evaluation - December meeting with Sustrans - will be picked up later on agenda (item 6).</p> <p>20mph Zones (under Item 6, Any Other Business) - AS reported that County policy is to only introduce 20mph zones where other ways have failed. At present there are proposals for seven 20mph schemes in Lancaster/Morecambe area. Although safety is the main aim, they do benefit cyclists. DF asked about voluntary and mandatory schemes. AS said that at present time County Council are not considering a mandatory scheme. MHod referred to the area around Preston University being a 20mph scheme and the possibility of a similar scheme here. AS said that funding such a scheme would be an issue. PSL said that the CDT Board and Steering Group had supported 20mph zones and AS had reported back, and this now needed to be debated elsewhere. JW agreed that this could not be taken forward in this forum, but it should be noted that we have supported a general 20mph zone for the town centre and residential areas.</p> <p>Locked Gate, Lancaster Train Station (under Item 6, Any Other Business) - CCTV now in place and gates have now been opened.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>CYCLING ENGLAND – ITS FUTURE DIRECTION</p> <p>PSL reported that on 21 January the Department for Transport announced that Ruth Kelly had launched £140million cycling fund over the next three years. Cycling England (CE) are looking to create a further 10 CDTs, together with a Demonstration City. At present not sure how CE will be tailoring the programme, but initial indication is that the bulk of funding available is likely to flow in years 2 and 3 and inviting bids in year 1. CE have indicated that they want to support the current CDTs, but not sure how this will manifest. Bidding guidance is expected soon.</p> <p>GB reported a meeting is scheduled with CE and the implication is that we should continue with the Work Programme up until March 2009. AS stressed the importance of demonstrating that the future programme builds on what we have done and is aimed at increasing cycling.</p> <p>JW's understanding is that Sustrans will not be happy to give extra money to do what was already planned, but would be looking for things aimed at groups where there is under-performance in cycling, e.g. over 50s, teenagers, encouraging unemployed to cycle to find work.</p> <p>MHod asked if monitoring would continue after the programme had ceased. He felt monitoring should continue to cover any lag.</p>	

	<p>PSL said that once we know what the bidding criteria was - and it was agreed by all that we would want to bid in the future – a half day meeting would be arranged to look at ideas and how to take forward.</p> <p>GB said it was important in next two months to promote the positives. AS suggested articles in “Local Transport Today” and “The Surveyor”. PSL agreed we would look for opportunity to report.</p> <p>CD felt that to take things forward we need evidence such as a “needs assessment” of who is/isn’t cycling.</p> <p>PL referred to results from University Surveys.</p> <p>Agreed that once we knew the criteria for the bid, a meeting would be arranged to take it forward.</p>	<p>PSL</p> <p>PSL/RS</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>FINAL YEAR WORK PROGRAMME UPDATES:</p> <p>(i) Infra Structure GB circulated an update and ran through the programme. JW thanked Gary for all his work. He reported that with regard to the Promenade-Hest Bank canal link, Lancaster District Lancashire Locals had agreed to a 3 month trial period for opening the Rushley Drive gate, and they would fund the provision of a toucan crossing. JW referred to the hospital route and asked if anyone can help to get this agreed. CD referred to a NICE guidance on staff obesity which does include encouraging cycling. PSL reported that the Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust had given written support to the CDT and there is mention in their Annual Report. A decision on the preferred route is expected soon from the Trust Board.</p> <p>MHut reported an excess of chippings at several locations on the new section of canal to Deep Cutting. GB will inspect.</p> <p>DF asked about the TRO on Church Street. GB explained that it was a complicated TRO and will take time. It was currently with County at Preston.</p> <p>PL asked about the Haverbreaks/Storey Hall route. GB confirmed that Haverbreaks agreement was close to signing, but rest of scheme unlikely to happen. Added that he would look at adding signs and improving street lighting etc to Ashton Road to make safer for cycling.</p> <p>(ii) Workplaces/Publicity RS ran through the CDT activities list and said that events will be put on the website. The CDT revenue programme 2008 was noted.</p> <p>AS asked if there was to be a reprint of the Cycle Map – RS replied that we have got further copies of the old map and currently updating the map for Spring.</p>	<p>GB</p>

	<p>HR asked about the Councillor Cycle Training on 19 January. RS said there had been good feedback from the 3 City Councillors who had attended.</p> <p>JW thanked RS for her work. With regard to Workplace, JW requested that all of the Steering Group be circulated with Action Plans of all key employers and where available baseline data and targets for future years.</p> <p>(iii) CDT SCHOOLS PROJECT AND BIKE IT In addition to the note circulated with the agenda, KB gave a brief update. Skerton High are applying for funding and hope to pilot "Bike Loan Scheme". Heysham High and Morecambe High both decided to be Bike It schools and launch days planned for March. KB running session on "Beauty and the Bike" at Skerton High, if successful will roll out to other schools.</p> <p>JW thanked KB and asked if the Steering Group could have a table of schools and baseline data and targets so that we can track.</p> <p>EB congratulated everyone on their work.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>KB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>EVALUATION</p> <p>GMc had concerns that the raw data had not shown us in a good light. At the recent meeting with Sustrans they had agreed they had not done any analysis of the raw data. They are still looking for further information that could have physical effect on counts, e.g. new routes being introduced, etc. GMc highlighted the work done by Mayer Brown and their findings on weather. Sustrans had indicated that we would not get any results until after end of the Project. GMc asked if it was worthwhile employing Mayer Brown on further analysis or wait until Sustrans information available.</p> <p>JW advised that Government need data for performance and do not accept things like weather fluctuations, etc. An evidence based, scientific document was required with interpretation and reasons for declines.</p> <p>PSL acknowledged that there is an information gap and the evaluation side of the CE project has lagged behind the programme, e.g. counters installed late in project. PSL asked GMc to draft a Terms of Reference for Mayer Brown which could be circulated around the group.</p> <p>MHod raised concern that the information for on-road use is missing cyclists. GMc said this concern had been raised with Sustrans, but they don't have the resources to do more regular counts. Presently the counts are done manually, but they are looking at automatic counters that can distinguish between cars and cycles. Although Sustrans didn't provide a solution, they had recognised the issue.</p> <p>CD asked if Sustrans judged purely on cycle counts, can they take into account travel plans etc. RS confirmed the emphasis is still on counters.</p>	<p>GMc</p>

	<p>JW reiterated that Government not interested in subjective comments for evaluation, but we need to get evidence base and quantitative information.</p> <p>EB asked who pays for the detailed surveys – PSL replied we need to ask CE about future evaluation as part of funding bid.</p>	
7.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Referral from Council (31 October 2007) to CDT Board re Cycling on Pavements - PSL ran through the Board's decision and although the Board agreed this was an issue, they considered the current work programme did create an environment for safer cycling.</p> <p>DF felt that if the CDT objectives were met, then cycling on pavements would disappear. EB said it was a balanced debate at Council with agreement that responsibility required by both car drivers and cyclists.</p> <p>University Travel Plan - PL reported that the monitoring of the Travel Plan showed encouraging statistics of increased cycling both for students and staff. A press release will be produced, a copy of which would be sent to RS/BH to use for publicity for CDT.</p>	PL
8.	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Once further criteria was available from Cycling England, a Steering Group Workshop would be organised to discuss future work programmes.</p>	PSL/RS