

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH CYCLE FORUM**  
**Assembly Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth**  
**6.30pm Wednesday 18 August, 2010**

**Present:**

Tom Andrews (TA)	Caister-on-Sea resident & cyclist
Claire Blamey (CB)	Norfolk Museums
Barbara Brett (BB)	Gorleston resident & cyclist
Dean Foden (DF)	Filby resident & cyclist
Jo Foden (JF)	Chair, Filby resident & cyclist
Emma Kinsey (EK)	NCC Transport Strategy
Fiona Roberts (FR)	NCC Tour of Britain Manager
Stephen Shepherd (SGS)	Vice Chair, GYBC
Graham Smith (GS)	Great Yarmouth resident & cyclist
Stevie Spencer (SS)	NCC Smarter Travel Choices Officer
David Wardale (DW)	Norfolk County Council
Chris Wood (CW)	NCC Transport Strategy

**Apologies for Absence**

Paul Donnachie  
Norman Harlow  
Nigel Seago  
Cllr Michael Taylor  
Margaret Ward  
Russell Ward

**Minutes from the Great Yarmouth Cycle Forum held on 19 May 2010**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**Tour of Britain**

The Forum received a presentation from FR, Tour of Britain Manager at Norfolk County Council (NCC), who covered the route, the various stages, events happening around the Tour, the work being done to alleviate any traffic congestion in Great Yarmouth and the benefits of the Tour coming to Norfolk. FR answered questions from members regarding potential traffic congestion and issues about the route temporarily closing access to the port area. JF thanked FR for a very interesting presentation.

**Great Yarmouth Strategic Cycle Network**

CW, from Transport Strategy at NCC, explained he had been working on an implementation action plan, which had come about from work with stakeholders and members last year looking at what general transport policies, strategies and plans should happen in the area. What was approved was a mix of sustainable transport policies and small scale highway improvements, most of which were in the longer term. He was looking to develop the implementation action plan into a package of proposals, ranging from pedestrian schemes to the 3rd River Crossing. Due to recent

spending cuts this implementation action plan was now a 'wish list' should any money become available. Using local knowledge, CW wanted members to identify the key routes and desire lines in the area so that he could prioritise the proposals. He also wanted comments on whether there should be separate routes for experienced cyclists and novices, and what cyclists would like to see (and not see) on the routes – lighting, signage etc. Is there adequate cycle parking, good enough design, location, etc?

**Action: Members to mark up maps provided to show key cycle routes and desire lines, and comment on issues identified above. Maps, comments etc. to be returned to CW before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010.**

## **Bicycle Bonus Scheme**

SS updated members on the County Hall Travel Plan Team. In light of the spending cuts mentioned earlier, and a comprehensive spending review, the Travel Plan Team was being disbanded. This meant no support for the School Travel Plan initiative and there would no longer be a Smarter Travel Choices Officer, meaning that this was SS's last Forum. However, she still had lots of things she wanted to get done, one of which was launching the Bicycle Bonus Scheme in Great Yarmouth. It is a scheme NCC have been working on in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust to promote cycling, which was trialled in Norwich during Bike Week and has proved very successful. SS wanted to expand the scheme across the county and the next place was Great Yarmouth. She hoped to get something up and running before the Tour of Britain as they could hook onto the back of the Tour for some promotion. Cyclists can sign up to the scheme at events or on-line (through the Energy Saving Trust website <http://www.surveymonkey.com/bicycle-bonus> or Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/bicyclebonus>). They then receive an information pack and some high visibility cycle clips which entitle the cyclist to discounts (typically 10%) in shops signed up to the scheme – there are currently 35 businesses and 600 residents signed up in Norwich. JF thanked SS for explaining about the Bicycle Bonus Scheme. CB said the Travel Plan Officers had done a great job in her school and the number of children cycling had certainly increased over the last couple of years.

## **Scheme Updates**

- **Outer Harbour Improved Walking and Cycling Links**

JF informed members that she had been informed that this scheme had been axed for the present time. However, there was the possibility that anyone building a new development in the area may be asked to contribute towards cycle facilities as part of planning gain in the future.

- **Vauxhall Bridge**

JF explained that she had written to Brandon Lewis, who had written back to say he was happy to receive the Forum's support for the bridge and station improvements. He had asked if the Forum had a contact with anyone at Living Streets to gauge their interest. DW said that was John Peacock and that he was aware and supportive of the scheme. DW also explained that Brandon Lewis sends a representative to the meetings about the bridge and station and that he is kept informed. DW added that they were pushing ahead with the structural survey to see exactly what the condition of the bridge is. TA asked what the plans for the footway/cycleway were as he felt

that this was the most relevant part of the bridge was as it was the part everyone used, but DW pointed out this was cantilevered off the main structure and that the bridge should be looked at as a whole. He said they were still pursuing European funding, but this was a multi-partnership with NCC putting in some money and looking for contributions from Fairshares and Sustrans. They were also looking to form a community group, probably to be called Vauxhall Links, who would be able to apply for funding in their own right. JF suggested that TA attend one of the Fix Our Station meetings as he had valuable expertise of steel and iron structures.

**Action: DW to pass on copies of the last minutes and details of the next Vauxhall Bridge meeting.**

- **Warren Road**

SGS read out an email from Paul Donnachie explaining that NCC were now finalising the legal documents that would allow them to use Section 205/228 of the Highways Act to progress the scheme as soon as practically possible.

- **St Georges**

DW explained he had received a list of issues highlighted by Mike Taylor regarding the cycle facilities around the park and the new links to it - most of which were to do with signing. He explained some signing hadn't been done yet as they were waiting for the noticing for the section near the bus station and the work near St George's Chapel had yet to be completed. However, he felt the majority the requests were reasonable, especially around the Trafalgar Road/Yarmouth Way/St George's Chapel area, but he also had to be careful that the area was not inundated with signs as this went against the philosophy of the minimal scheme.

## **Maintenance Issues and Updates**

CB mentioned that the crossing at Caister Road/Jellicoe Road traffic lights, heading north, floods in wet weather. Although not a complaint, she also queried why the cycle lane adjacent to the Jet petrol filling station on Southtown Road had been resurfaced in red tarmac. CB also mentioned the phasing of the traffic lights at the Beccles Road/Shrublands Way junction, complaining that there is not enough time to turn right from Shrublands Way towards the town without the lights changing in favour of vehicles coming down the slip road from the A12. She also pointed out the sensors in the advance stop box at the Market Place/Fullers Hill/Northgate Street junction, when coming from the Market Place, do not work for cyclists. SGS confirmed he had experienced the same problem.

BB highlighted the problems for cyclists using the traffic lights at Gorleston library. She said it was very difficult for cyclists to get ahead of the traffic when cycling from Baker Street or Church Lane. She felt it was very dangerous and noted that most cyclists get off and cross on the pedestrian phase or wait for a gap. She felt an advanced stop boxes would help here, but there was an issue with cars parking outside the Lloyds TSB bank. CB agreed that the crossroads were a problem for less confident cyclists. DW said the lights were due to be updated, but advanced stop boxes hadn't been requested, but he would look at the scheme. It was suggested a longer phasing may help.

**Action: DW to investigate**

JF mentioned the general poor surface condition of the main road through Filby from the bridge to the Kings Head PH. She said the road is potholed and there are sections where the surface is missing or grooved. She had noticed repairs to potholes and resurfacing along the route between Caister and Acle but none in Filby.

TA mentioned a sunken stop tap cover in the highway on Station Road, Ormesby heading east from the crossroads towards Claymore Gardens.

### **Any Other Business and Items for the next Great Yarmouth Cycle Forum**

Community Connections had asked DW to look at Tar Works Road (an unadopted road owned by Great Yarmouth Borough Council) as there are problems with rat-running. He felt that erecting bollards to block it half way down would stop the rat-running and along with a planting scheme it could make it a nice cycle route and improve the area around the boat moorings. He also wondered if there was any mileage in linking this with Bure Park, although the steps along the existing footpath would be an engineering challenge. DW was interested in feedback to see if this was a worthwhile project and members thought this was a good scheme.

DF mentioned the very narrow cycle lane markings that had been replaced when Caister High Street had been resurfaced around 18 months ago. Paul Donnachie had responded in an email saying that the next time the road was resurfaced the cycle lane would not be replaced, which DF felt was the right decision.

SGS mentioned a scheme proposed some years ago to provide an advisory cycle lane up The Conge and then provide facilities along George Street/St Francis Way to Stonecutters Way as an alternative to the North Quay cycle link, which had been rejected by Area Committee. The advisory cycle lane had never been created but there were signs directing cyclists to Gorleston from North Quay up the Conge, however, they fizzle out. DW didn't know why the scheme had not been built as per the plans – if the orders were in place the rest of the signs could be erected, but if not the scheme may have to be revisited.

### **Action: DW to investigate**

CW mentioned the bus stop outside Matalan and the one adjacent to the Vauxhall dealer on Southtown Road. He was aware that these had been raised before and he informed the Forum that he was looking at ways to improve bus stops as part of the work for the Strategic Cycle Network. His suggestion was to 'fill in' the bus stop so buses waited on the carriageway, however, this may not be accepted politically. Members felt this was a good idea.

The Forum thanked SS for all her hard work with the Green Travel Map and Bicycle Bonus Scheme.

SGS forwarded maps and photographs supplied by NCC showing the location of the automatic bicycle counters discussed at the last meeting.

### **Date for Next Meeting**

24 November 2010