

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH CYCLE FORUM**  
**Nelson Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth**  
**6.30pm Wednesday 3 March, 2011**

**Present:**

Tom Andrews (TA)	Caister-on-Sea Parish Council
Penny Bailey (PB)	Local cyclist
Claire Blamey (CB)	Norfolk Museums
Dean Foden (DF)	Filby resident & cyclist
Jo Foden (JF)	Chair, Filby resident & cycling commuter
Emma Kinsey (EK)	Norfolk County Council
John Shaw (JS)	Bradwell Parish Council and cyclist
Stephen Shepherd (SGS)	Vice Chair, GYBC
Graham Smith (GS)	Great Yarmouth resident & cyclist
Robert Stead (RS)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Mike Taylor (MT) (for 1 <sup>st</sup> item)	Great Yarmouth BC Councillor and cyclist
Anthony Wright (AW)	Sustrans

**Apologies for Absence**

Nigel Seago

**Minutes from the Great Yarmouth Cycle Forum held on 24 November 2010**

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

**The Great Yarmouth Strategic Cycle Network**

EK explained that Norfolk County Council had been previously criticised for the ad-hoc approach taken to implementing and delivering cycling schemes around the county. It was therefore decided to draw up the Strategic Cycle Network (SCN) so that they can focus their investment, get value for money and ensure everything is linked. EK reminded members that Chris Woods had attended the meeting last summer and carried out the work on the strategy and she was here to present his ideas and see what the Forum's thoughts were and then hopefully evolve the SCN. EK pointed out the financial situation for improvements (cycling, footways, public transport etc.) in Norfolk was now very different with a previous budget of £10m being reduced to £2m. JS asked if the money was split proportionally or whether some areas got priority. EK said that depended on the schemes put forwarded but they did focus their attentions on the urban areas.

EK presented 2 maps, one showing the rural areas and one the urban area in more detail. They showed many routes and EK's plan was to narrow this down and pick the main routes and then prioritise them to short, medium and long term. She felt it was good that there were some long term aspiration routes to link to the rural areas, but suggested that the value for money urban routes are developed first and then spread out to the rural areas. AW said he would like to see the desired route from North Yarmouth to Caister-on-Sea extended to California. DF argued that the route shown as a 'Desire Line' from Caister-on-Sea to Acle along the A1064 should be a 'Key Route' as there was no alternative route for cyclists as the 'Key Route' shown on the map was broken at West Caister. Many members felt that if the missing section at West Caister was overcome then it would be an excellent route and therefore it was decided to prioritise the route. DF also mentioned the section from the Stokesby turning on the A1064 towards Acle. AW added that Sustrans had talked to the Broads Authority on

this matter but it hadn't been taken forward yet – he would provide plans to JF. CB felt that Stonecutters Way should be added to the Key Routes in the urban area and AW noted that Haven Bridge was a serious impediment to cyclists. JS asked why nothing has ever been done to improve the Acle Straight – no-one could answer why but RS added it was a Highways Agency trunk road. GS highlighted cycling through the Market Place, which was not easily resolved. It was also agreed that the new St Georges Park link should be included as a key route, with AW adding that it needed to be extended along the eastern part of Trafalgar Road. JF pointed out that the section from the park to the library was also missing from the map. AW felt that this section was confusing but BS added that signing would be carried out in the autumn after works on St Georges Chapel has been completed. AW also added the Puffin crossing at Alexandra Road/Trafalgar Road needs to be upgraded to a Toucan crossing. DF was pleased to see Warren Road shown as a Key Route – this item would be discussed later in the meeting. Members identified 3 Key Routes for the Central Area map; Trafalgar Road, Haven Bridge and the Market Place. JS suggested that the edges of the A12 Western Bypass from Acle New Road to Gapton Hall Road were wide enough to be cycle tracks. EK would approach the Highways Agency for advice, however RS didn't think it would meet with requirements as a cycle lane has to be a minimum of 1.5 metres wide and these would most likely be 1.0 metre wide. AW felt the 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing should also be identified on the map. The 3 Key Routes identified on the larger map were Caister to California, Warren Road and the missing link at West Caister.

### **Bike-It Officer Funding Update**

AW reminded members that Bike-It Officer Kevin House had been funded by Norfolk County Council and the Primary Care Trust, which was being wound up. Sustrans had been able to secure funding up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July, but beyond this date there was no money, which meant there would be no Bike-It facilities in Great Yarmouth schools and also that Kevin would be out of a job. This was the same situation for all the Bike-It schemes in England. However, he added they were trying to arrange a joint Norfolk/Suffolk County Council scheme with Bike-It in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, but there were no guarantees.

**Action: AW to update members on the situation at the next meeting.**

### **Scheme Updates**

- **Warren Road**

RS explained that they had completed the Orders and that their legal people believed that the right legal approach had been taken and that they would probably succeed getting the Orders through the Magistrates Court. The scheme, however, has been deferred due to financial constraints and would now be competing with all the other schemes within the county. Councillor Mike Butcher had joined the meeting to discuss Warren Road. Cllr Butcher said that Hopton Parish Council wanted to proceed with it subject to funding. AW said Sustrans were prepared to consider it as a Safe Route to School, which would provide up to 45% funding. Cllr Butcher pointed out that Hopton PC only had limited resources and would have to continue with the route a little bit at a time, but AW hoped that funding would be found. AW added that it was an essential link for Route 1 from Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft and that Sustrans had already purchased land at Hopton and Corton to provide the facility, but progress had been stymied by Warren Road. Cllr Butcher added that if NCC didn't fund the scheme that they could construct the route in conjunction with the Unpaid Work Unit if Sustrans helped with the cost of materials. AW added that this was not as straightforward as it sounds.

- **Vauxhall Bridge**

RS informed members that Paul Donnachie had recently attended a meeting where Fairshares confirmed the £295k funding. They would now be approaching ASDA and the Railway Heritage Trust, amongst others, for the additional funding. AW added that Railway Heritage Trust would be meeting with Paul Donnachie, David Wardale and Peter Warner on 30 March. He added that it was important to get them onboard as the £295k was being put towards Phase 1 to improve the northern span of the bridge, which included the girders being sandblasted and painted and a new deck being built. He explained that negotiations would have to be carried out with Network Rail and National Car Parks to secure access from the existing shared use path to the northern span; however Sustrans were unhappy that this would mean that cyclists and pedestrians would have to cross a proposed public transport lane when the southern span is restored. Sustrans wanted a new access route for the northern span.

- **Light controlled crossroads at High St / Baker St / Church Lane**

RS explained that the lights were currently being upgraded and the advanced stop lines would be included in the scheme.

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

RS confirmed that this scheme had been shelved for the present time, although there were long term aspirations to provide an on-road cycle facility to the Outer Harbour.

- **St Georges**

RS explained that contractors were currently working on St Georges Chapel, but after the works were completed the cycle way signing would be carried out – probably in the autumn. Concern was expressed at the condition of the crossing points on Yarmouth Way, one which had started to break up soon after it was constructed.

**Action: SGS to forward photos and location map of the crossing points to RS.**

- **Gorleston Bridge Road to Victoria Road Cycleway**

RS informed members that John Cotton, Highways Engineer at Caister, had been chasing Cliff Park Schools regarding the proposal to modify this scheme, but had had no response to date. AW reminded members that Sustrans had objected to the segregation of this path but now felt they were on a hiding to nothing as there were segregated lines, albeit substandard, at either end of the route. JF said that one suggestion was to substitute the white line with more cycle symbols – RS confirmed that this was the revised proposal they had approached the school with but had yet to receive a response. CB said she would see if she could chase this up.

## **Maintenance Issues**

PB reported a deep pot hole outside 2-3 Walpole Road, Great Yarmouth. CB suggested members use NCC's website to report potholes as in her experience they were repaired the same day - [https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwayProblemReport/\(S/wrkdmn55s4wyfd45qurd2055\)/Default.aspx](https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwayProblemReport/(S/wrkdmn55s4wyfd45qurd2055)/Default.aspx).

SGS mentioned shallow channels cut into the surface of North Quay at the junction with The Conge by contractors working for a water authority which acted like tramlines. He also highlighted some large potholes either side of the crossing with Lawn Avenue / Caister Road / Tar Works Road.

TA mentioned the red surface treatment at various locations around the town, such as the Lawn Avenue / Caister Road / Tar Works Road junction, where it has been worn away or has broken up.

CB reported overhanging vegetation on the footway/cycleway at Harfreys Roundabout / William Adams Way. She also reported overhanging vegetation on the segregated section near the Gorleston Relief Road – these were both the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

CB also had concerns about the crossing point where Suffolk Road is crossed by Williams Adams Way. There is a footbridge here but cyclists use the road, and she had seen someone's bike get squashed. SGS informed members that Sustrans had offered to pay for a Toucan crossing here years ago and NCC had carried out the feasibility study and safety audits, but a local councillor had objected to the scheme and it had been dropped. AW suggested that a wheeling ramp could be fixed to the bridge.

**Action: SGS to pass on NCC maintenance information to Nigel Seago**

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

There was a discussion about cyclists using cycle lanes in the wrong direction. Several members had witnessed riders using the wrong lanes on Southtown Road. Cycling in both directions on 'off-road' cycle lanes was permitted, such as Pasteur Road and The Broadway on the seafront, but generally not on 'on-road' cycle lanes (contra-flows being an exception).

TA expressed concern about the speed some cyclists ride on the shared use path that runs past The Lawns and Wherry Way sheltered homes and bungalows on Caister Road. RS felt that red triangular signs wouldn't slow cyclists down and there was now a directive about the proliferation of signs.

JS mentioned the problem of cyclists continuing along the footway adjacent to Burgh Road when the cycle lane ends at the roundabout – he felt that a sign should be erected. SGS recalled that David Wardale was going to look into this matter.

**Action: SGS to follow this up with David Wardale**

### **Date for Next Meeting**

9 June 2011