

MINUTES OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH CYCLE FORUM
Nelson Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth
7.00pm Tuesday 5 February 2008

Present:

Tom Andrew (TA)	Caister-on-Sea Parish Cllr/cyclist
Brian Breeze (BB)	Bradwell resident
Jo Foden (JF)	Chairman
David Law (DL)	Norfolk Constabulary
Nigel Seago (NS)	NCC Planning & Transportation
Graham Smith (GS)	Great Yarmouth resident and cyclist
Stephen Shepherd (SGS)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Sarah Slade (SMS)	Vice Chairman
Mike Taylor (MT)	NCC/GYBC Councillor/cyclist
Anthony Wright (AW)	Sustrans

Welcome and Introductions

JF welcomed the members to the Forum. She explained that after speaking to David Snape she was happy to take on the role as the new Chairman.

Apologies for Absence

Emma Luxford
Tony Mallion
Gary Burkitt
Clare Blamey
Barbara Brett
Jennifer Jackman
John Shaw
Dean Foden

Minutes of the Great Yarmouth Cycle Forum held on 30 October 2007

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

Scheme update including

- **St Georges Park**
- **Extension to Integreat Seafront**

The Forum were shown the latest plans, supplied by NCC, of Phase 3 of the InteGreat seafront scheme and the St Georges Parkway improvements.

The Integreat scheme showed details how The Broadway (cycle/landau/road train lane) terminated south of Kings Road. SGS explained that they had received a very short period of consultation on this proposal. In the response to NCC he had expressed disappointment that the scheme was not extending all the way to the Pleasure Beach. He had also highlighted some issues which

may cause problems, such as the close proximity of a parking bay to the end of The Broadway, which could possibly force cyclists to swerve out into the road. SGS also mentioned that they had never received a response from NCC. TA pointed out that horses don't like slopes and he had concerns about the ramps from the raised platforms to the carriageway. MT asked if the developers of the proposed new casino could be made to finance the extension of the scheme to the original termination point at Main Cross Road.

The Forum studied the proposed plans for the St Georges Parkway improvements, which include an un-segregated, 3 metre wide combined footway/cycleway running from Yarmouth Way to the old Art College. Other works include the removal of on-street parking on Trafalgar Road (West) and the closure of St Georges Road to through traffic. A question was raised if the scheme would link to the seafront. SMS read out an email from the scheme designer David Wardale, which stated the scheme would extend eastwards towards Marine Parade and westwards to South Quay and the river, should future funding permit.

Outstanding Issues with Completed Schemes

NS explained that a designer was re-evaluating all the completed schemes from Haven Bridge to the White Horse roundabout. NS was also seeking funding to rectify the problems that had already been identified and that this project was still a work in progress.

Maintenance Issues and Update

NS reported that the faulty street lights raised at the last meeting had been reported. The markings on the Caister Road cycle lane adjacent to the Jubilee petrol filling station had been repainted, but the path surface was felt to be fit for purpose. The issue of the very thick double yellow lines on Nelson Road was a fair point – unfortunately it would very expensive to rectify, so it had been noted and would be addressed when the road was next resurfaced. There wasn't a traffic regulation order to extend the double yellow lines at Drudge Road so these would be moved, which would free up some more parking spaces. NS also reported that the vegetation overhanging the road near the cemetery at Caister-on-Sea had been cut back - however BB reported that this was not the case. It transpired that there had been a misunderstanding as to which section of road the blackthorn hedge was encroaching onto, so NS would check it again.

JF reported that signage informing that the cycleway was blocked due to Intergreat Phase 3 construction works was causing problems with cyclists and vehicles. NS to investigate. SMS reported on various issues highlighted by Clare Blamey. These included cars parking on the cycle path linking Pasteur Road with High Mill Road outside Topps Tiles, and also bus drivers not taking notice of advanced stop lines. NS to investigate the obstructed cycle path. DL reported on the problem of cyclists riding on the northern footway of Bridge Road near Pizza Hut. There is a blind bend at the junction with Mill Road and a few irresponsible cyclists had resulted in complaints from pedestrians.

There was a debate on how this could be resolved, but it was felt that the problem was not as bad as portrayed - most cyclists keep on the footway only because the road is too dangerous and the majority get off and push their bikes over the bridge and around the blind bend in question.

Installation of Cycle Stands in Great Yarmouth

SMS reported that Jim Harland had recently spoken to Mott MacDonald and the installation of the new and replacement cycle stands would be carried out imminently.

Third River Crossing

JF reported that Dean had been in touch with Ian Parks at NCC. He had raised the issue of cycling on the proposed third river crossing. He was assured cyclists had not been forgotten and the initial 9 alternative crossings had been reduced to 5. TA enquired if there was a date for the project. It was agreed that JF would invite Ian Parks to the next Forum.

Gorleston Promenade Bylaw

SMS reported that the issue of cycling along Gorleston Promenade had been raised again. Gorleston Area Liaison Committee wanted the bylaw lifted. GS believed the current bylaw only prevented cycling during the summer months. SMS to research the matter and take a report to the Council recommending the bylaw is rescinded.

Sustrans Connect2

AW thanked everyone who had voted for the Sustrans Connect2 project in the recent Big Lottery 'People's Millions' competition. He felt the Sustrans project had been successful because it covered the entire UK, not just a particular area. Every local authority had been invited to submit a scheme to Sustrans. There were initially 400 responses which were reduced to 300 before they went before a steering committee chaired by Charles Clarke. This left the project with 79 schemes and 21 in reserve. There are two schemes in Norfolk – a £3,000,000 cycle route from Norwich Rail Station to Whittlingham Park (which requires the construction of two bridges) and a route linking Griston with Watton. All these schemes were reliant on matched funding, which means some of the schemes in reserve could still be in with a chance. SGS mentioned that he had never seen an invitation for the Borough Council to submit any suitable schemes, but AW said Sustrans sent these to all local authority Chief Executives.

Potential 'Plan of Action'

JF reminded members that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Forum should draw up a 'Plan of Action'. She then asked if anyone had any ideas. TA produced a copy of the Sustainable Community Strategy questionnaire, and suggested that the Forum completes a copy as cycling was the answer to many of the sustainability questions within it. MT felt it was important to speak to the County Council who produced a Walking and Cycling Strategy a few years ago which detailed proposed strategic routes and facilities. NS said the Forum should engage with stakeholders. TA asked if there was a plan of all large projects. It was felt that the Forum should be more proactive.

- SMS to email all members a copy of the Sustainable Community Strategy questionnaire
- Dean Foden to contact NCC regarding the Local Transport Plan
- SMS to find out what cycling strategy documents are available

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

SMS reported that the suggested Winterton – Hemsby cycle route had been forwarded to Norfolk County Council and she was waiting for a response.

Vauxhall Bridge was discussed. MT explained that ASDA had offered £50,000 towards gateway improvements to the area subject to their planning application for a store extension being approved. It was explained that estimated cost for restoring the bridge was £800,000, although Sustrans felt that it could be done for less. It was hoped that the urban regeneration company 1st East would be the main vehicle for improvements in this area.

Date of Next Meeting

7:00pm Tuesday 13th May 2008.