

MINUTES OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH CYCLE FORUM
Nelson Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth
7.00pm Tuesday 31 July 2007

Present:

Penny Bailey (PB)	Great Yarmouth Resident
Brian Breeze (BB2)	Bradwell Resident
Barbara Brett (BB)	Gorleston Resident/Cyclist
Jo Foden (JF)	Filby Resident /Cycling Commuter
James Harland (JH)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Jennifer Jackman (JJ)	Bradwell Resident/Cyclist
Nigel Seago (NS)	NCC Planning & Transportation
Graham Smith (GS)	Great Yarmouth Resident & Cyclist
David Snape (DS)	Chairman
John Shaw (JS)	Bradwell Resident & Cyclist
Stephen Shepherd (SS)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Sarah Slade	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Mike Taylor (MT)	NCC & GYBC Councillor/Cyclist
Anthony Wright (AW)	SUSTRANS

Welcome and introductions by the Chairman (Mr David Snape)

Apologies for Absence:

Kris Andrews	Mott MacDonald
Tom Andrews	Caister Resident & Cyclist
Dean Foden	Filby Resident/Cycling Commuter
Maxwell Barnes	NCC Planning & Transportation
Emma Luxford	NCC Planning & Transportation
Alison Smith	Hopton Resident
Tony Mallion	Gorleston Cyclist
Jools Tinsley	GYBC Regeneration & Cyclist
John Parker	Great Yarmouth Cycle Club

JH explained that Kris Andrews would not be able to attend future meetings as he had been seconded to Mott's London office for 12 months. DS felt that the Forum was now at a disadvantage as Kris had acted as a conduit between it and Norfolk County Council. He also expressed his disappointment that Maxwell Barnes couldn't attend. NS explained that the roles of Cycling and Walking Officer's post were a work in progress and that he would be pursuing the issue.

Minutes of the Great Yarmouth Cycle Forum held on 17th April 2007 and Matters Arising

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

Great Yarmouth Rail Station/Bus Station/Seafront Cycle Link – Update

JH reminded members of the outstanding issues regarding this scheme – missing advisory cycle lanes, facilities to help cyclists cross the bottom of the Conge and a

lack of signage. A Stage 3 Safety Audit had been undertaken which had raised the same issues. Richard Flowers is to contact NS to rectify the issues in line with the original scheme drawings. GS enquired about Vauxhall Bridge. JH explained this was not part of the scheme as the footway leading to the bridge was not adopted highway and, therefore, could not be converted to a dual use path. AW suggested that GYBC approach NCC to make a modification order to add the footway to the Definitive Map of Public rights of Way, or alternatively approach the landowner suggesting they enter into an agreement with Sustrans. BB2 raised the issue about the road train blocking the inteGREAT scheme's slow lane when it picks up/drops off passengers near the Britannia Pier – why wasn't this problem foreseen and a lay-by constructed? The issue of the traffic light sensors near the Pier not being activated by cycles was also mentioned. NS to speak to scheme designer.

Great Yarmouth Link Road to Southtown Road – Update

JH informed members that this scheme was now completed and awaiting a Safety Audit. JH did, however, question the wisdom of filtering cyclists back onto the link road just before the A12 Harfreys Roundabout. DS had used the scheme and thought it was good. JF thought the crossings were good, but had an issue of slightly proud kerb edges where cyclists join the scheme from the White Horse Roundabout. NS to investigate.

Haven Bridge, Great Yarmouth – Update

JH reminded members of the outstanding issues with this scheme – pedestrians unaware of the dual use status due to lack of signage, the bus shelter located in the centre of the path, the barrier/street lighting/traffic signals narrowing the path, no cycle markings in the advanced stop lane. A Stage 3 Safety Audit has been undertaken which has raised all the issues above. Richard Flowers to contact NS to rectify issues in line with the original scheme drawings. The issue of using some of Matalan's land was discussed. AW said it may be possible for Sustrans to lease a strip of land from Matalan to create a wider path. The bus stop and shelter were also discussed, with suggestions of having them both removed, however NS said this was very unlikely. JJ informed members that the bus stop was well used by pupils of St. Mary's School.

Cycle Audit (excluding Haven Bridge)

JH reported on the findings of a safety audit of the Southtown Road / Station Road / Pasteur Road junctions carried out by JF. The main points were:

- **North approach towards Two Bears Hotel** – Cyclists are directed onto the shared use path, but no signage to indicate this. This also causes confusion with the advanced stop lane.
- **Turning left From Southtown Road onto Station Road** – Width of the dual-use path between the wall and barrier is likely to create conflict between pedestrians and cyclists. Immediately after turning the cycle lane ends with no indication of where to go.
- **Going Straight on from Southtown Road to Pasteur Road** – Cyclists going straight on may take the shared use path. However, there is no clear signage

to guide cyclists. The most obvious place to rejoin the road (drop kerb provided) has an arrow advising cyclists to rejoin the pavement, No cycle markings in the advanced stop lane.

JF commented that it was great that NS attended the meetings and that the audit was a meant as a means of positive criticism. AW thought that thermo plastic cycle markings on the ground could overcome the potential pedestrian/cyclist conflict where the railings narrowed the path by warning pedestrians of the presence of cyclists. Short of moving the boundary wall there were no other options here and something was better than nothing. GS mentioned the bus shelter in the middle of the path on the Thurlow Nunn side of the road. NS advised that there would be a Stage 3 Safety Audit of the scheme which should resolve these issues. DS and AW thanked JF for all her work in producing the cycle audit.

Great Yarmouth Cycle Map

JH reported that 10,000 copies of the Great Yarmouth Cycle Map were currently being printed. They were being distributed to the bus station, rail station, Tourist Information Centres, schools, libraries, council offices, council websites, CLIPS and the Broads Navigation Centre. Maxwell Barnes had contacted JH to ask the Forum for ideas for other distribution points. Suggest locations included bike shops, the James Paget Hospital, colleges, touring camp sites, Norwich rail station and bike hire centres.

Maintenance Issues

DS thanked NS for arranging the repairs to the surface of Suffolk Road. NS reported that works to Blackbird Close will be carried out in September. DS reported on a pot hole that had reappeared at the junction of Malthouse Lane and Beccles Road. SS mentioned the Malthouse Lane scheme which had never been completed as per the original drawings – dropped kerbs were missing from Queen Annes Road and signage was pointing in the wrong direction. Members also mentioned the poor surface of the approach to Bollard Quay, although it was felt unlikely that this was adopted highway. NS would look into these issues.

Cycle Parking – Update

JH explained that after consultations with the Borough Council, and the Town Centre Partnership, 12 sites for new and replacement cycle stands had been agreed by NCC/Mott MacDonald. Many of the existing old 'Sheffield' type stands are to be replaced with lower, newer versions. Several new sites have also been identified, such as outside The Troll Cart and near the Quaker Meeting House. A total of 42 stands will be installed by the end of this financial year. DS mentioned the stands on Market Gates are still well used due to over demand of the covered shelter near Bon Marché. These stands would be replaced but there were concerns how bicycles using these stands reduce the width of footway and create a hazard for the visually impaired, as witnessed by JH and SS. MT asked if any consideration had been given to the area immediately outside the Town Hall, where it was hoped to provide disabled parking spaces. JH explained that the shelter currently outside the Post

Office will be moved to the new cycle path being constructed alongside St Georges Park/Alexander Road.

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

Paul Brice, who works for the NHS, has funds available to promote better rural links.

JF enquired as to whether Kris Andrews had taken forward the issue of creating on-road cycle lanes along the A149 between the Tesserra Park roundabout at Caister and the Ormesby Bypass roundabout.

MT felt that a route from the north of Great Yarmouth to Caister-on-Sea, using the sea wall would be a great link. AW explained that Sustrans and officers from NCC and GYBC had cycled a route from California to Great Yarmouth, staying as close to the coastline as possible. They had identified a route through the Haven holiday centre at North Denes and Sustrans were now waiting for details of land ownership from HM Land Registry, which was being arranged by GYBC. AW also expounded on the issues with Warren Lane and the golf club's reluctance to dedicate it as a cycleway/footway. He told the Forum that Sustrans had acquired land to create a path from Longfulans Lane to Steggles (Stirrups?) Lane. However, there was no DfT funding available at the moment to progress the scheme. He had applied for Connect 2 funding which would have to go to the Sustrans Review Committee; however, the Committee favours schemes that grab the public's imagination or that are likely to be heavily used by commuters.

DS enquired as to how much funding was there was available for cycle schemes in Great Yarmouth - unfortunately there was no-one present in a position to answer the question. MT suggested that the Forum forwards a question to the NCC Cabinet asking why the Cycling and Walking Officer no longer attends the Forum. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Maxwell Barnes in the first instance and a copy sent to NS.

MT informed the Forum that NCC/Mott MacDonald were currently looking at various options for a third river crossing. These included high level crossings and tunnels. He felt that this study should be added to the next agenda. NS said comments made by the Forum on the proposals would raise the Forum's profile.

JH introduced Sarah Slade to the Forum. JH explained that he had taken up a new position within the Planning Policy section and would be handing over the Vice Chairman's reigns to Sarah, subject to approval at the next meeting of the Forum. DS thanked JH for all his work with the Forum.

Date of Next Meeting

7:00pm Tuesday 30th October 2007