

**Notes of Meeting and Action Points**

**Date of Meeting: 1/7/15**

**Topic: Cycle City Ambition Programme Board**



Present: Coun Ged Bell (Chair), Craig Blundred, Peter White, Bryn Dowson, Tim Pheby, Rob Snowball.

Apologies: Graham Grant, John Litherland

	<b>Action</b>
<p>GB explained to the Board that following the recent election and the Council's AGM, Coun Talbot will no longer be the Council's Cycling Champion and therefore will no longer attend the Board.</p> <p>The Board took the opportunity to express its thanks and appreciation of Coun Talbot's role and contribution.</p> <p>GB will be taking over as Cycling Champion.</p> <p>BD informed the Board that Tom Bailey is leaving Sustrans and that Tim Pheby will be attending the Board in his place. The Board also took the opportunity to thank Tom for his contribution to the group wish him all the best for the future.</p>	
<p><b>1. Actions from Previous Meeting</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle City Active City. GB felt that overall the event was very positive and succeeded in obtaining significant amounts of publicity for cycling in Newcastle as well as the City more generally. There was some discussion around the quality of some of the speakers at the event and the overlap of some of the sessions. This would be fed back to Landor (the conference organiser). Feedback from some of the organisations involved will also be sought. Some positive comments have been received from other regional local authorities.</li> <li>• Cycle Library Scheme – CB outlined that discussions in relation to the proposal have progressed. It is likely that the Cycle Hub will purchase a fleet of bikes that would then be commissioned as needed. The aim of the project is to give people that have taken part in training / events a route in to getting access to a bike to encourage greater use / commuting etc. Ultimately they would be signposted to ways of obtaining their own bikes. GB raised that he had been asked to consider a Birmingham style bike giveaway. RS highlighted that a Tyne and Wear study into the feasibility of bike hire schemes had been undertaken a report produced. It will be circulated with notes of the meeting. Also, an e bike pilot scheme is being developed by Co-wheels and the Cycle hub for a bid for funding. RS will bring further information to a future board meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GG</b></p> <p><b>RS</b></p>
<p><b>2. CCA Programme</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benwell Lane – One objection received to scheme. GB queried whether the scheme would therefore end up at Regulatory Appeals Sub Committee (RASC). PW indicated that it would. There was subsequent discussion around this process and GB stated he would make further investigation as on occasion, minor complaints have caused significant delays to schemes.</li> <li>• Elswick Road Scheme – is in technical consultation</li> <li>• Brandling Park – Public engagement and consultation has taken place. Wide range of responses that are currently being reviewed.</li> <li>• John Dobson Street – scheme has been approved and construction is expected to start over the summer. GB would like to see a large publicity campaign to</li> </ul>	

<p>launch this scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIY Streets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ouseburn – consultation has been undertaken over the Ouseburn festival weekend.</li> <li>◦ Acorn Road – final design has been put on hold until RASC. GB informed that the work must be undertaken whilst students are away to minimise disruption and must be finished by christmas (as agreed with businesses). This timescale must be met otherwise the scheme needs to be delayed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There was also a general discussion around the process used to obtain approval of cycling schemes and that sometimes minor objections can severely delay schemes and result in RASC meetings. Also, specific new types of infrastructure such as the Orca's have proved significant talking points and resulted in large numbers of emails and enquires what take large amounts of officer time to deal with. GB asked PW to provide him with some examples of this.</p>	<p><b>PW</b></p>
<p><b>3. Quality of Cycling Infrastructure</b></p>	
<p>As GG was unable to attend meeting, this item was deferred until next meeting. GB did ask that the revenue implications of cycling infrastructure were also considered.</p> <p>There was also a brief discussion around the City Stadium cycle path following previous concerns that had been highlighted. PW informed the board that the path has been swept by a mechanical brush and is significantly better. The contractor will undertake necessary repairs over the summer at their own expense.</p>	<p><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>4 . Route Signage</b></p>	
<p>Work to develop signage strategy is being undertaken following the discussion at the previous meeting in relation to strategic routes. This work will be completed and circulated in for consideration in advance of next programme board.</p>	<p><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>5. Consultation and Stakeholder Process</b></p>	
<p>Discussed under Item 2</p>	
<p><b>6. Active Travel Centre</b></p>	
<p>BD provided an update on The Journey. The official launch at the start of the Cycle City Active City Conference received good coverage including on Tyne Tees news. BD asked that the Council and other partners use The Journey as a venue where possible.</p> <p>Overall, footfall has been good and once John Dobson Street route is complete as well as nearby student developments then this should be better still.</p>	
<p><b>7. Cycling in the City Update</b></p>	
<p>CB informed the Board that the Cycling in the City project is progressing well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 188 people have undertaken cycle training</li> <li>• 127 have undertaken led rides</li> <li>• consideration of using e bikes to follow up 'why weight' scheme</li> <li>• as mentioned above, the cycle library proposal is being developed</li> <li>• The health improvement team is being brought into the Council from the NHS. This will provide additional capacity to continue work</li> <li>• The evaluation project is developing and 'mapping' of cycling activity is being undertaken.</li> <li>• Marketing will continue over the summer with attendance at a number of events</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Playing Out Streets</b></p>	
<p>RS informed the board that work to develop a proposal for 'Playing Out Streets' is being developed and there has been interest from a number of groups and Councillors. A process for undertaking the necessary legal orders needs to be developed. GB asked that a consideration of playing out streets alongside DIY streets is undertaken and reported to the next board.</p>	<p><b>RS</b></p>
<p>GB informed the board that Grey Street will be closed as part of a Motor Show</p>	

<p>organised by NE1. There was some discussion around the fact this was being done for a car show, whilst it had been decided not to progress for the Cycle Conference, but GB explain this was mainly down to the timescales involved and the overlap with the election period which meant it couldnt go ahead for the conference.</p> <p>It was suggested that this event is used as a trial closure of a main city street for an event and that a proposal is developed for next year to highlight the cycle improvements across the city. The aim would be to attract a high profile event.</p>	
<p><b>9. Bike Life Bike Account</b></p>	
<p>The board were informed that the work in relation to the Newcastle Bike Life Bike Account is underway. NCC have provided Sustrans with a range of data and a telephone survey of over 1000 residents on travel patterns and attitudes to cycling has been undertaken. A draft report will be provided by Sustrans by 7<sup>th</sup> August and the final report is due to be published in October. Further updates will be brought to the board in due course.</p>	<p><b>GG</b></p>
<p><b>10. Feedback from the Cycling Stakeholders Forum</b></p>	
<p>The notes from the previous Cycling Stakeholders Forum we circulated. The disappointment expressed by the forum relating to the formal cancellation of the Space 4 Cycling ride was noted. The board expressed its hope that organisers and the safety advisory group can work together in future to avoid this happening again.</p>	
<p><b>11. AOB</b></p>	
<p>No items were raised.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting – 4 August 2015 at 2pm</p>	