

Notes of Meeting and Action Points

Date of Meeting: 12/1/2016

Topic: Cycle City Ambition Programme Board



Present: Coun Ged Bell (Chair), Graham Grant, Bryn Dowson, Craig Blundred, Rob Snowball, John Litherland, Tim Pheby, Peter White, Ali Lamb, Gail Forbes, Ruth Baddoo, Adele Bradley

Apologies: None received.

	Action
1. Acorn Road	
<p>Works on the scheme are almost complete. A lot of positive feedback has been received from traders in the area and there has been requests from traders and local members for a launch type event.</p>	
<p>GB queried when the final completion date would be. PW advised that there has been a delay on parts for a small number of street lights which would mean the scheme is likely to be complete in Mid March.</p>	
<p>There was a discussion as to when the best time to publicise the scheme would be. Immediately, or in March when the scheme would be fully complete and possibly have better weather. RB advised that there was a meeting with local members and residents this evening where the promotion / event would be discussed.</p>	
<p>It was agreed that the date for any event could be confirmed later, but it would be prudent to hold any event ahead of the forthcoming purdah period.</p>	RB / AB
<p>Further discussion took place around the fact that scheme there had been positive feedback from local traders on the scheme. This followed on from initial concerns they had expressed prior to the outset. GG read out an extract from a letter to the project manager Jonathon Higgins which expressed this view.</p>	
<p>JL suggested that the communications strategy for the launch event needed to recognise that despite this being a good scheme, only a small element was about cycling. This point was agreed. PW also suggest that in any publicity reference to the one-way with cycling contraflow should be made to highlight this to all road users.</p>	AB
2. John Dobson Street	
<p>Works on John Dobson Street are now well underway. As the works are being undertaken in phases, the first phases are starting to look complete, but are currently fenced off. GB queried whether there was scope to open the scheme in phases or is it necessary to wait until it is all complete. PW advised that the work at the northern end – the crossing over St Mary's Place is the last part of the scheme that would be complete and this may mean that it is not possible to open that stretch.</p>	

<p>Discussion took place around whether temporary links at Northumberland Road or whether a 'scrambled crossing' at St Mary's Place was feasible. PW will investigate further and feedback.</p> <p>Further discussion took place around opening and a launch event for John Dobson Street. It was generally agreed that opening should occur as soon as practically and safely it was possible to do so and that there should be an aim of holding a launch event in National Bike Week in June (11th to 19th).</p>	<p>PW</p>
<p>3. Streets for People</p>	
<p>AL explained that as part of phase 2 of the Cycle City Ambition Programme, proposals for Community Cycling Areas had been put forward. These proposals have been worked up into the 'Streets for People' project and a brief had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the project.</p> <p>The three areas included as part of this project, as demonstrated in the CCA phase 2 bid as having a high propensity to increase the level of cycling trips, are Ouseburn into Heaton; Jesmond; and Arthurs Hill into Fenham. GB stated that he expected that members would be supportive of this project.</p> <p>CB queried how the project would link with Public Health projects which are designed to encourage walking and cycling. GG stated that he expected that it would be for Public Health to engage with this project. AL explained that the Council's walking and cycling officer is aware of the project.</p> <p>Discussion then took place around how the success of the project would be judged. There was general agreement that there is the need to evaluate different schemes in different areas to see what works, and to compare against control areas. This would help identify and justify future schemes. Further work will be undertaken to developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy will be undertaken</p>	<p>GG</p>
<p>4. City Centre Schemes Update</p>	
<p>GG explained that work to review the recent public engagement for the City Centre North schemes is underway. Detailed traffic modelling is also underway to enable a better understanding of the impact to be gained.</p> <p>The main issues arising from engagement have been around Percy Street and the fact that it is home to freight handling, two bus stations, two shoppers car parks. Engagement with businesses in ongoing and further design work is being undertaken. The principle of providing a segregated cycle route remains.</p> <p>The next steps are to finish the modelling and to report on the proposals to Cabinet in March. It was agreed that greater detail on the proposals would be presented to the Cycling Stakeholders Forum meeting in March.</p>	<p>GG / RS</p>
<p>5. Cycling in the City Evaluation Report</p>	
<p>CB outlined the Cycling in the City Pilot Evaluation Report which had been prepared by the University of Newcastle. The intention of the report was to take a wide view of the health impacts and to consider how the programme can be moved forward.</p> <p>It was agreed that the report contains useful evidence and some of the qualitative findings could be useful for marketing and promotion. Discussion took place around how best use was made of the report and the data. It was</p>	

<p>agreed that the report had been undertaken to serve the purpose of informing future cycling in the city work and that there was no need to publicise or promote the report. It was agreed that the report would be placed online alongside these notes from the meeting.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>6. Pipeline of Schemes</p>	
<p>GG explained that work was underway to identify a pipeline of schemes that would be put forward for funding opportunities such as the next phase of Local Growth Fund schemes. If anyone had any ideas then please forward them on.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>7. AOB</p>	
<p>BD raised the Active Travel Centre. The coffee shop and recycle elements are doing well. There are also desks that can be rented out. GB asked for a review of the business plan and finances to be brought to a future board meeting.</p> <p>BD also explained that Sustrans are undertaking a restructure and the current North East, North West and Yorkshire and Humber Regions will be merged. Consequently, BD is stepping down from his role with Sustrans and this was therefore his last CCA Programme Board.</p> <p>GB thanked BD on behalf of the Board for his work, support and enthusiasm and wished him well for the future. GB and GG will use this as an opportunity to assess and review the governance structures</p> <p>JL raised two items 1) The build quality of routes (as has raised through TAG) needs to be kept in mind and 2) Is there a need for a design guide to ensure that the 'ambition' for cycle schemes is always met. This follows the presentation of the Elswick Road scheme to TAG prior to construction.</p>	<p>Sustrans</p> <p>GB / GG</p>
<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2016 3pm to 5pm.</p>	