

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

CYCLE FORUM

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th August 2024

at 5.00 p.m. online

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/ATTENDANCE

Apologies: Tom Collister Ella Wright, Krysia Williams, Anna Butler

In attendance: Cllr Ben Miskell (Chair), Cllr Richard Shaw, Cllr Ruth Mersereau, Paul Sullivan, Simon Ogden, Helen Kellar, John Chapman, David Whitley, John Armitage, Sam Gregory, Simon Geller, Jo Maher, Tom Garrud, Sam Farrington, Sarah Weir, Angela Walker, David Holmes, Colin McCulloch

2. CHAIR INTRODUCTION

Councillor Ben Miskell introduced himself as the new chair of the Cycle Forum replacing Peter Price.

Post meeting note

Peter was very committed to active travel and had been chair since the early 2000s bar a short period of time in the mid 2010s when the forum was chaired by various councillor cycle champions.

Ben explained the council is committed to active travel, committed to vision zero to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries, making the city a safer place to live work and visit.

He also explained the role he has of chair of the transport regeneration and climate policy committee, and it is they that make the decisions around walking wheeling and cycling.

Ben is also chairing the Walking Forum to strengthen the link between the two groups.

3. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To note It has been some time since the last meeting in March due to two election periods

Accuracy

Agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising

a) Penistone Road Planning Application 23/03815/OUT (Site known as the Tesco Triangle)

Application now determined and given the green light. Developer being conditioned to provide a segregated cycle lane along the frontage and crossing of the access road.

Unfortunately, still no crossing of Herries Road South, but a good result driven by a lot of comments from the public and local members. Active Tavel England (ATE) involvement in planning applications welcomed but forum members would like them to be bolder in their comments. Local knowledge can be key in understanding the wider context. ATE are developing tools that will help them assess applications

ACTION Forum to send a letter to the South Yorkshire's ATE representative (Simon Ogden to draft)

b) Highway Maintenance

Someone from Highways Maintenance Division to be invited to the June Forum. No progress will try again for October.

ACTION PS to invite for October

c) Living Streets Summit

Doncaster presented on their approach to delivering active travel for all. Can they come along and talk to the forum about this approach. Kerry pencilled in for October as unavailable for August.

ACTION PS to invite Kerry Peruzza for October Forum

Ben explained that he's spoken with colleagues in Doncaster as they are doing great work on active travel delivery and engagement. Also discussed with them the Clean Air Zone and how Sheffield is using some of that revenue to focus on work around improving air quality and active travel for schools. Two new school streets scheduled for the new term, and some part time 20mph zones around schools.

d) Bikes on trams.

Simon Geller has had assurances from the mayor that bikes on trams as well as dogs on trams is being investigated. Will continue to pursue. Helen Kellar confirmed SYMCA were still investigating.

e) E bike increase in power consultation

Increasing the power of e bikes consultation closed 25th April. No update but suspect taken over by changes in administration. The differences of opinion among forum members centred around would increase power bring more danger especially in shared use spaces as they accelerate quicker versus enabling more people to tackle the hills. The discussion also touched on the use of illegally modified bikes. The council is getting a lot of correspondence on this subject, and continue to work with South Yorkshire Police, but no simple solution.

f) Rail Station parking

Cllr Mersereau asked if better signs could be installed to signpost people to the on-platform cycle parking at Midland Station. Could the forum contact East Midlands Railway (EMR)

ACTION PS to contact EMR.

4. SHEFFIELD ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE/INVESTMENT PLAN (SATIP)

An important document that will allow us to draw down City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 2 Funding from 2027. Presented at the last meeting about the engagement aspect, which needs clarifying, as there was a thought this was a way of delaying delivery. There has been significant engagement and consultation in the past and 'everyone' knows what needs to happen to improve the environment, active travel opportunities and public realm.

SCC would like to assure forum members that this is not a delaying tactic, any scheme with current funding whether that be Active Travel Fund, Transforming Cities Fund or City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 1 in other words Works that should be complete by March 2027, is progressing. The engagement work will not delay any of this work.

The SATIP and associated engagement plan (a requirement of the Department for Transport) will help inform developments beyond 2027 to 2032 and onto 2045. We

know from experience in Darnall as part of the Mini Holland work that certain communities have different views on how they want to travel and what they want to see in their community. They are the views we are keen to understand

We have brought in experts in this field to help us,

- will be liaising with Local Area Committees to involve voluntary, community and faith sectors.
- working with the equality partnership and People Keeping Well network

There will be a more general survey published on the have Your Say Sheffield website.

It will be a significant step forward once we do have that infrastructure plan, making it easier for both officers to determine schemes and councillors to prioritise.

We need to be mindful of the current governments spending review which has seen some larger schemes dropped from the agenda.

Helen from the active travel team at SYMCA confirmed they are working with all the region's local authorities on these new infrastructure plans, which will feed into the wider SYMCA strategy, which will run to 2045. Local Authorities need to create a pipeline of schemes. This will put us in a better position for future funding bids.

Local Authorities will be required to identify other interventions that complement the infrastructure, and how they will tackle areas of deprivation, health inequalities etc

To be clear CRSTS is separate from Levelling Up funding though it can be used to compliment levelling up fund work.

The chair pointed out that there are numerous funding pots, and we are hoping that we may be moving to a single pot for this type of investment as part of the devolution deal.

5. BETTER POINTS

The forum received a presentation on the Better Points interim report, plus a latest update.

Capability Fund used to start the project, starting in September 23 running through to Sept 24 Currently out to quote for replacement or continuation.

Core objective is to encourage active and sustainable travel habits for Sheffield

residents and workers.

App based with a tracker, users rewarded with points for travelling sustainably.

Points can be spent in local shops or cafes - on average 40 mins walking a day for a week gets a free coffee.

We've been promoting regularly through the year and over the summer ran a traffic signs promotion which boosted numbers.

We've also been working closely with the Teaching Hospital and Sheffield College to promote to their staff, hoping to work with Hallam University this coming year.

will be working with SYMCA to promote the tram and its new ticketing app.

The numbers

- Just over 11,000 registered users
- 1.8million sustainable journeys recorded
- 830,000 of those have replaced a single car occupancy trip
- 42% of users are active making one recorded trip a week
- more female users than male
- dominant age range is 35-44
- most journeys on foot, 9% cycled and 9% public transport
- 39% of users report an increase in physical activity

The new tender will have some additional targets and objectives, plus work to target car drivers. with targeted message and increased rewards to travel sustainably and looking at promoting some of the ConnectingSheffield schemes.

Currently running a campaign about the Sheaf Valley cycle route offering increased rewards for travelling along there and offering a bit more information around kind of how to access the route etc. Will be working on the Neepsend route next.

The success of the scheme has meant we need to switch off rewards over the school holidays

The promotion of other events such as the Sheffield mass cycle ride is welcome.

Desire to target health inequalities especially as a third of people do not meet recommended daily amounts of exercise - could this be factored into the tender and do not forget about working with the primary care networks

We need to look at how we link in with Move more and other wider networks

Question about the seasons having an impact on how people travel , does bad weather impact (not including ice and snow)

Not been analysed through Better Points. However data from the Sheaf Valley route suggests the following:

Pre the interventions going in on Little London Road, winter cycling (Dec Jan Feb when compared to Autumn Cycling (Sep, Oct Nov) was down 38%. Post scheme the same comparison shows a 23% reduction.

Could better infrastructure mean less reduction in seasonal variances (weather may have impacted as well)

A quick note the app does still drain the battery, so if you are going on a long walk or ride maybe best to take a spare battery pack

Could you promote the current offer from Cycleboost -the £75 per month lease scheme including maintenance

Request to have a forum briefing on data

Better Points can help to provide heat maps, filtered by different mode, different times of the day, gender age, wheelchair/mobility scooter user.

To note the automatic count data is shared annually with forum members.

A question was raised on winter gritting, can we have a change of policy to get more footpaths and cycle lanes treated

SCC is working on that, but it's been slow progress, we have offers of six-month trials but if we don't get any bad weather the trial which comes at a cost will prove to be fruitless. We are committed to investing especially as we are spending millions improving and creating routes.

Chair thanks Sam for his presentation and the work going on to run the scheme.

6. SCHEMES UPDATE

Cycle Forum Schemes update August 24

Funding Source	Scheme	Status	comment
ATF4	Penistone Road A61 Active travel	Feasibility and concept design	Traffic surveys and Topographical surveys complete. Concept design by Jan 25. Detailed design and construction funding to be confirmed
ATF4e	Burngreave	Preliminary design	Pedestrian improvements in Burngreave incl Spital Hill. Appraising options. Work needs to be complete March 26

ATF3/4	East Bank Road	Preliminary design	Granville Square to Daresbury Road, additional funding may allow us to extend the route. Work needs to be complete March 26
ATF2/LTP	Cycle hub	Electricity meter installed. Fitting out ongoing	Open Autumn 2024
ATF2/LTP	Crookes /Walkey	Making temp interventions permanent	Prelim design complete, awaiting resident feedback on planting and finer detail
ATF2/LTP/CRSTS	Sheaf Valley	Making temp interventions permanent. Preliminary design through to construction of sections not yet tackled (Shoreham St/Matilda St)	Resident and business input required on temp interventions. Shoreham St section funded from CRSTS so at Initial Business Case stage. All work needs to be complete by March 27
CRSTS1	Northern Communities	Feasibility	Four routes linking into the Northern General Hospital. Priority is City Centre to hospital
CRSTS1	City centre connections	Feasibility	A series of interventions to connect sections of route (Castlegate, Townhead Leopold, Inner ring road crossing at Bridgehouses,) and make permanent the temporary arrangement on Division Street more detail at the next forum
TCF	Kelham Neepsend	construction	Aim to complete by March 25
	Magna Tinsley	Phase 1 complete, Phases 2 and 3 to start October 24	Ped crossing complete, TROs about to be advertised
	City centre	Estimated to be on site January 25	Final business case with SYMCA
	Nether Edge	Estimated to be on site March 25	Significant issue around the subway and resolving possible flooding impact. Final Business case to SYMCA Sept 24
	Darnall Attercliffe	Estimated to be on site Mar 25	
	SW Bus corridors	On site	Series of minor interventions along both corridors

Developer led	Oughtibridge paper mill	Bridge options being assessed	Requires Environment Agency input/approval
other	Five weirs walk	Solution identified	Sustrans have provided a solution which is provisionally agreed by SCC. Environment Agency need to agree on solution and construction method. There is still no funding to construct

Forum comments

City–Kelham/Neepsend - still no board information on the route describing what it is how funded etc, can any permanent signs include reference to the Upper Don Trail.

Magna Tinsley - Meadowhall crossings will be most welcome

Oughtibridge paper mill - Why the delay. Environment Agency input required, also assessment on how the bridge is constructed. Lead client to be invited to October forum to give more detail.

Signing/wayfinding - will routes be signed? There is a project underway to standardise and provide more consistency with wayfinding. We will aim to bring something back to the forum in December. We are looking at best practice from other large urban areas, particularly impressed with Liverpool’s design approach.

Once delivered it will be key to helping cyclists stay on the safest routes, and not have to use inappropriate routes or contraflow against traffic to avoid busier routes.

Will the signing help to navigate from Shalesmoor to Gibraltar Street*

The signed route will be along Green Lane and Russell Street using the dedicated crossing. It will be a choice as to which route to take given the safety implications of having to cross two lanes of moving traffic. There is an argument for removing lanes where they sit within busy carriageways.

***Post meeting Note.** The signed route is 20m longer than the Shalesmoor route

Old Penistone Road to Shakespeare pub

Via Shalesmoor 761m

Via Green Lane 781m

Distances taken from Google measurement tool. Other tools may give different results.

The cycle map will be updated to reflect the wayfinding.

SYMCA intending to produce a digital network map

Capability Fund/Cycling Made Easier fund

Cycleboost is between contracts, loans to start later in the year, training still available, will incorporate elements of the Cycling UK e bike scheme (This ended in June). ATE has asked us to look at a subsidised purchase scheme, but we've argued a subsidised lease scheme gives greater flexibility and requires less capital outlay for the individual. A Different Gear have started a full lease scheme at £75 per month, this is in addition to the loan scheme not a replacement.

7. CYCLE MATTERS/AOB

Planning application ref 24/01514 Voltage management system Club Mill Road Sheffield

This is a planning application on the old Neepsend Power Station site on Club Mill Rd. Proposing, a renewable energy development - creating a massive battery whereby renewable energy can be stored until it's needed to be fed into the National Grid.

This is an opportunity to tackle long standing problem of Club Mill Road which is an off road walking and cycling route alternative to Penistone Rd without having to draw on any transport planning program funding, providing access to the cemetery and riverside. Please comment

Five Weirs Walk

There's an application in which impacts on the access to the Five Weirs Walk at Carbrook St - 24/02184/FUL.

it makes changes to the access which does appear to make it considerably worse for users. It will involve a U turn and a ramp up, which doesn't exist at the moment.

That's coupled with the fact that the applicant wants to close that section up to 12 times a day for two to three minutes. Similar to a level crossing to move larger heavy vehicles across the route hence building it up and why there's a ramp.

TPT office are aware and have commented.

Transport Planning have raised concerns with the Highways Development team.

SYMCA will be responding.

8. CHAT QUESTIONS/POINTS

Items raised on chat not covered in the meeting

Modeshift

Currently funded from CRSTS it will be expanded in 25/26. We see it as an important activity to support infrastructure development and will use Clean Air Zone income to support in the future

Are we no longer referring to /using the South Yorkshire ATIP that was set up by the previous SYMCA Active travel team

That was quite broad and didn't allow us to develop a pipeline of schemes.

What ever happened to the River Don riverside route Clubmill Road to Herries Road

It doesn't meet the current funding criteria. Some feasibility has been undertaken but significant investment required to connect through to Herries Road, hence a desire to get the battery development mentioned above to help fund.

Date of next meeting: Online 5pm 17th October
