

Walking Forum Meeting

DATE AND TIME: 17/09/2024 17:00 – 18:30

LOCATION: Teams

CHAIR: Cllr Ben Miskell

ATTENDEES:

TFS. JW. BM. RS, AC. HK. DB. LF. SO. TH. AS. JM. RC. SO. RH. MM. LS. SL. IH. RM. JR. AH.

APOLOGIES:

SP. DH. MD. AB . TB. JG. RS. SG. CJ

Minutes

1. Item: Welcome to our 4th Walking Forum Meeting.

- Cllr Ben Miskell as Chair of the Forum, welcomed everyone to this 4th meeting

2. Item: Comments from minutes of last meeting/Matters arising

Actions from last meeting	
Add links to useful sites on the Transport Forum Page	AC requested this from IT. SCC webpage is undergoing a huge overhaul trying to streamline the SCC webpages and feel that links are unnecessary and will complicate. Therefore, we are not able to add links to the Forum Page.
Meeting to bring all the data gathered by various agencies together to give us more of a focused picture of what is happening across the city in relation to walking.	Item 6 on the agenda today
Design team at SCC for new projects, to liaise with the other Sheffield Transport Forums - Transport for All/Access Liaison Group and Cycle Forum	Ongoing. Consultation with as many agencies as possible. SO commented: confirmed that DS came to Access Liaison Group to talk about Burngreave Project. It was well received by members of the group.
Add to the Terms of Reference that the Forum meetings will be chaired by elected Members. Once amended - circulate round	Amendments done. Circulated to all members 16/9 No comments
Supply list of key contacts and signpost people to the most appropriate place to report issues for immediate attention.	Compiling list. This may need to be requested from AC if required, due to the restrictions with the Walking Forum webpage re: links

Suggestions for future items that people would like to suggest, to develop a forward plan of key issues for discussion. Email AC	Nothing received to date

Matters arising from last meeting

SO commented: Following on from DS presentation and update on the Oughtibridge Mill Scheme at the last meeting – work on the access route into town and the footbridge seems to be frustratingly slow. It would benefit interested parties to have a bit more communication from SCC.

Answer from TFS: Work is being undertaken on this project, it is moving forwards, but there are some significant issues in terms of further work that is required. We are having conversations with planning colleagues about some of the pre planning application issues to seek a steer on some of those issues. One of these is the registered ancient woodland, where there will be implications arising from that, to be considered.

Action: update SO before the next meeting

3. Item: New Dutch-style roundabout opening at West Bar

MM (SCC Comms):

We have Sheffield's first "Dutch-style" roundabout opening in October. It is located at West Bar, just in front of the Emergency Services Museum. The idea of the new style roundabout is that pedestrians and cyclists have priority over vehicles (as per the guidelines of the Highway Code). There are several crossings at each arm. It also has segregated cycle lanes making it safer for cyclists to navigate. There will also be planting and landscaping with sustainable drainage, adding to the aesthetics of the area.

[Sheffield's first Dutch-style roundabout - YouTube](#)

AS (SCC Senior Transport Planner):

There is just one other such roundabout in the country in Cambridge at the moment. The difference with this style roundabout, is that cyclists have priority over vehicles when circulating the roundabout. The cycle track (red section) runs around the outside of the roundabout, where vehicles exiting the roundabout would give way to cyclists continuing round the roundabout. The roundabout is also smaller and tighter to encourage slower vehicle speeds. The zebra crossings on each arm of the roundabout give full access for pedestrians which should all help to make this area feel more pedestrian and cyclist friendly encouraging more sustainable travel.

The materials and pallet used in the surrounding area will be improved, giving a high quality, Grey to Green style paving throughout, with high-quality planting to help with sustainable urban drainage. This will help with any kind of future flood risk and help towards climate resilience of the city.

This scheme is part of the extensive active travel scheme to connect the city centre with Kelham and Neepsend.

AH (SISK):

SISK is the contractor working on this scheme.

The roundabout will be an extension of The Grey to Green Project already in place near the Law Courts, which will extend to the roundabout and then along Gibraltar St. as well as along Tenter St.

This development will brighten up the area. Much of the engineering work taking place is not visible, as it is below ground. There's improved drainage and various levels of aggregate as well as other drainage solutions before the planting can take place, which means this scheme is a flood defence scheme as well as an active travel scheme.

Full street resurfacing around the roundabout will take place for 2 weeks during the night from the 23rd of September. Followed by further works in Neepsend and Tenter Street

It is hoped that by early November, most of the works will be completed and at this point the barriers can start to be removed and the new roundabout will be available to use.

SCC Comms team and SISK have been working together to put together a communications campaign. There is a press release ready to go out which will inform people of the night works and the upcoming opening of the roundabout.

Social media posts are planned, which will use the animation as a hook to encourage people to click onto the press release and watch the animation, which demonstrates how the roundabout will be used.

SISK will continue with fortnightly drop-in sessions at the Emergency Services Museum, which is at 10 o' clock every other Thursday. The next one is on the 26th of September.

There will also be a couple of public information events to meet members of the public, answer any questions. One event will be online and one in person, hopefully at the Emergency Services Museum. We would welcome any comments and ideas relating to the launch of this new style roundabout.

Question from IH : Have we taken onboard any learning from Cambridge about what's worked well with regards to communication? Whilst they are wonderful innovations, we know that it has been a bit challenging introducing them and making sure that people are aware of them

Answer from MM : We (Comms) have looked at what Cambridge has done to introduce their roundabout and we have looked at the media comments, but we haven't spoken to any colleagues in Cambridge – maybe that is something we can do.

Question from SO : Huge supporter of these scheme – but again need to highlight the lack of communication on site relating to the plans, designs etc and how it fits in to the larger picture of the full development of the area and how it all links up.

Answer from BM : Agree that Sheffield needs to adapt a consistent approach across the whole city.

Answer from TFS : Unfortunately the area around the roundabout doesn't have the same facilities to show signage/messaging on hoardings as used on Fargate, but we have taken on board that more messaging needs to be done to keep the public informed.

Answer from MM : 2 banners are planned to go up outside the Emergency Services Museum – one to introduce the roundabout and the second to be more informative about the change in priorities.

Question from RS : Are we providing any information to schools, colleges and universities? Particularly universities, as students are just starting and there will be an increase in people new to the area.

Answer from AH : As part of our social value promises through the scheme I have spent the last year visiting secondary schools and colleges to highlight the scheme. We have also worked closely with Sheffield Hallam University and invited students from across Sheffield to visit the site. That work has been going on in the background, but I think I think now is a good time to perhaps get in touch with the school clusters and provide some blanket information to the primary and secondary schools as well as the colleges and universities.

Comment from RM : This scheme is in my ward and it's really welcome because that area is a collision hotspot for serious injuries. I think when we're spreading the word about this to highlight not just that it's a transport scheme, but that it's also helping to alleviate flood risk and that it's a great addition to the public realm by having more greenery in an area that lacks it.

Question from RM : How to stop obstructive pavement parking. Will there be TROs in place to stop this and can it be included in the city centre pavement parking ban, for example, to stop people from just parking on the newly laid, walking and cycling routes here?

Answer from AS : Yes, TROs will be in place. A Clearway is being introduced along the length of Tenter St, so any verges and planting are covered by that Urban Clearway enforcement. There will also be restrictions along West Bar and Gibraltar St – so the area is comprehensively covered in terms of pavement parking or any sort of illegal parking at junctions and on the carriageway

Comment from BM : thank you very much, colleagues, for running us through the wonderful measures that we're seeing at West Bar. Anything that we can do together to make sure that we amplify our voices will be absolutely brilliant. We need to be progressive when it comes to active travel schemes, and we need to make space for walking for cycling in a safer environment.

4. Item: Feedback from SYMCA South Yorks Walks Challenge

HK (Active Travel Officer SYMCA)

Continuing the Mayor's Year of Active Travel (- Mayor Oliver Coppard's commitment to active travel and building a healthy future for generations to come) – we had the Mayor's Walk and Wheel challenge in the summer, which was around encouraging primary school children in South Yorkshire to walk, wheel and cycle to school.

Then we had South Yorkshire by Bike, which is a new 250-kilometre route around South Yorkshire, which has some family friendly sections. Details can be found [South Yorkshire By Bike - South Yorkshire MCA](#)

The latest challenge was South Yorks Walks Challenge held on 13/14/15 September, working with existing walking groups across the authorities, friends' groups, community organizations and charities.

The idea was to promote and champion walks that they were running across South Yorkshire. It took place on the weekend of the Sheffield Walking Festival, so there were quite a few different activities going on throughout the whole of South Yorkshire. Mayor Oliver and Ed Clancy were both out in the communities showing their commitment to active travel.

One of the big aims for the weekend was to encourage people to get out and share their photos and videos using the South Yorkshire Walks hashtag. Lots of positive stories.

5. Item: Feedback from Sheffield Walking Festival (6 – 15 September)

RH – Event organiser

Unfortunately, a number of false bookings were received which were, soon identified through the booking system on Eventbrite – but meant that numbers were down initially. Luckily the effect was not too severe as we realised what was happening and could open up more places on the walks.

So the numbers: 1020 original bookings. 168 cancellations and therefore 852 final bookings.

There were 218 no shows on the day, which would have been a lot less if we hadn't had the false booking problem.

Huge thank you to the whole team at Welcome to Sheffield for their great work in publishing and promoting the festival and the staff at National and Local Heritage Open days for their support.

There were a selection of walks led by experts in their field – e.g science, engineering or history - and a variety of distances including some shorter city centre walks as well as 6/7 mile walks through the countryside of Sheffield – showcasing the fact that Sheffield has some varied and interesting walks.

6. Item: Update on data workshop

TH (Road Safety Manager)

The workshop will be on Tuesday 19 November at 17:00. Possible data that we have are: collision data, cordon counts, data from cameras (old and new) in the city, national & local travel surveys.

From different partners including SYMCA, Sheffield City Council, also DfT, which we can start to look at bringing together and discuss in more detail. Input welcome.

7. Item: Any other business

SO : Just like to draw people's attention to a planning application that's current at the moment on the Five Weirs Walk, it's a planning application by FORGEMASTERS for a new machine shop. This is to be welcomed obviously for the local economy and jobs. But they're making a bit of a hash of the Five Weirs Walk.

Diverting it on a rather unnecessary ramp and also not doing anything about the quite dangerous crossing of Weedon St.

Reply SO: I can have a look at this with a view to resolving it if possible and will report back directly to SO

JM : Would like to share a good news story - Two nominations for healthcare teams from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals have been nominated for a ModeShift award and will be going to the awards ceremony on in Leeds on 19th of November. The work has included the University of Sheffield, so it's been a real cross-organizational project, looking at getting travel plans, including walking and cycling embedded for NHS teams

[Healthcare Engagement Project of the Year – Sponsored by Baileys Street Furniture Group](#)

- Foundry PCN / University of Sheffield Greener practice project – NHS Foundry PCN, Greener Practice, University of Sheffield Medical School
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals – BetterPoints – Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Link : <https://modeshift.org.uk/modeshift-news/team-modeshift-national-sustainable-travel-awards-2024-finalists-announced/>

MD question (emailed in his absence) : “concerns at the moment for the need for Sheffield Council to increase its support for the PROW Unit's work on the local path network and the temporary suspension of meetings of the Sheffield Local Access Forum”.

Answer from A Butler: the Local Access Forum meetings have been suspended as there were not enough attendees. Sam Beaton is providing quarterly updates to those who were previously present. Any queries please contact Sam.

Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 10 December 2024 17:00 – 18:30 Teams Meeting