

## Walking and Cycling Meeting October 26<sup>th</sup> on Teams 6:15 PM

### Attendees

|                   |                 |                  |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Councillor Meller | Andrew Howard   | Sue Stevenson    | Dave Butler       |
| Councillor Davies | Debbie Hall     | Councillor Wynne | Diana Scotcher    |
| Emily Brough      | Faye Drinkwater | Nick Whelan      | Helen Pidd        |
| Ian Barker        | Kathy England   | Martin Bain      | Mike Padfield     |
| Nick Rosenthal    | Pete Vickerman  | Peter Jackson    | Peter West        |
| Rob Clark         | Simon Temple    | Siobhan Beck     | Chantelle Johnson |
| Anthea            | Chris Bennett   | Kath Edwards     |                   |

### A 34 consultation

The national government has identified a Major Road Network which includes the A34. Stockport Council submitted an application to an initial funding round regarding this network and have now been asked to submit an outline business case for work to improve the levels of congestion along the route. Stockport Council is consulting on proposed improvements along the A34 corridor between the A560 and A555 to alleviate congestion, unlock development potential in the surrounding area and enhance accessibility by sustainable modes.

View proposals and have your say at [www.stockport.gov.uk/a34-chedale-improvement-plan](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/a34-chedale-improvement-plan)

All comments will be collected and analysed to help inform the development of this scheme. Consultation ends **13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

Contact the team if you require any further information, by email at [A34Improvement@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:A34Improvement@stockport.gov.uk) or phone on 0161 474 3434 (voicemail only).

If successful with our outline business case we will need to produce a full business case with a intention that construction should take place between 2022 and 2025.

Mr Padfield expressed concern that the Gatley Road junction was not being addressed due to a council focus on the A62M 60 Relief Rd. He queried whether there would be clear benefits to the scheme. He also expressed concern that there was no route north of Gatley extending into Manchester.

Nick Whelan assured Mr Padfield that a modelling of the effects of the scheme would need to be done for the business case to be submitted.

Mrs Stevenson assured Mr Padfield that the council is talking to the Manchester Council and seeking to work with the Manchester Council about improvements to cycling routes across our borders.

Councillor Meller informed Mr Padfield that councillors in Manchester city are also interested in improving these links.

Ian Barker enquired about the opportunities to see the business case once it is completed. He also expressed concern that the yellow signs used to advertise the consultation did not mention cycling. Nick Whelan assured Mr Barker that he expected, subject to any legal restrictions, that the outline business case and full business case would be made public upon submission as this is currently often a requirement of government funding submissions. Mr Whelan also assured Mr Barker that along with the signs there had also been social media information and local leafleting to promote the consultation to the public. One of the reasons this topic is on the agenda tonight is to encourage other interest groups to share the details of the publication with their members.

Concern was raised that there was no information available about an overall network for cycling that is being planned. Mr Whelan assured that we are working with Transport for Greater Manchester and their Bee network however the council must also work within funding streams available. Further information about the Council's overall approach to cycling and walking can be found in the Stockport Cycling and Walking Plan - <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/our-plan-for-walking-and-cycling-in-stockport-2019-2029>

Rob Clark asked if LTN120 or Bee network design guides will be followed for this work. Nick Whelan indicated that both would be utilised where possible with regard to space and budget.

### **Clean Air Consultation**

A presentation was given encouraging the public to participate in the clean air consultation which is ongoing until 3 December. Residents can have their say by visiting <https://cleanairgm.com/clean-air-consultation/> and completing the questionnaire. Hard copies of the questionnaire can be picked up at local libraries on request. It was noted that this is not a consultation about whether there will be a clean-air zone as this has been mandated by national government but it is instead about the details of its implementation.

At the same time there is also a consultation about minimum taxi licensing standards ongoing which may also be of interest. Details can be found at [gmtaxistandards.com](http://gmtaxistandards.com).

It was raised in discussion that the M 60 is not part of the clean-air zone due to its management by Highways England who are responsible for their own clean-air actions. It was also highlighted that private vehicles are not included within the zone charges. Councillor Meller made it clear that this is not a congestion charge.

### **Mayoral Challenge Fund**

Sue Stevenson highlighted the schemes which are to be delivered soon starting this Autumn, including Gillbent Road, Five sections of the Heaton Cycle Links, Bramhall Park to A6 and Crossings Package, Cheadle Hulme. Sue Stevenson indicated that it was expected that approval would be given soon for the A6MARR links and the Offerton to Stockport projects.

### **Safer Streets Save Lives**

The council recognises that the delays to the delivery of the parallel route for the first tranche of this work are frustrating. The delays to funding approval and the effects of design evolution have been part of this, however, the continued delays are due to waiting for elements of the scheme to be

delivered by manufacturers as there is a supply shortage due to the number of requests being received from across the country.

Mrs Stevenson identified that the tranche two submission will be regarding the pedestrianisation of the Marketplace. . Consultation will take place about this piece of work shortly

Questions were raised about the accessibility of Lower Bury Street it was identified that this was previously a cycle route and that the route was temporary in nature. Kathy England expressed concerns about a lack of double yellow lines on Tatton Rd, North near the traffic lights. Mr Whelan explained the council's intention to wait until all elements were available and do the work in one go.

Ian Barker expressed disappointment that the A6 parallel route was not direct and again expressed displeasure that a route had not been put in place along the A6.

Anthea raised an issue with A-frame barriers on cycle paths as her current bicycle will not fit through. Rob Clark expressed the opinion that the solution to antisocial behaviour on pass is the police and not barriers being put in place. Councillor Meller indicated that while he believed GMP could be prevailed upon to give support in school holidays he had doubts that they had the capacity to enforce all year round.

Concerns were raised about the speed humps that have been put in place on schemes in tranche one. Cyclists and horse riders expressed concern that they may be unsafe for these users.

Nick Whelan indicated that they did meet the necessary requirements for use on highway and reassured that as temporary measures they could be removed but that they did have the desired impact of slowing traffic.

Debbie Hall informed the meeting that she believes some of the speed humps had already become loose.

### **Active Neighbourhoods**

The Heatons and Romiley consultations have now finished and the results are to be analysed. Questions were asked about details regarding routes within active neighbourhoods areas. Members of the meeting were assured that any works done would have the necessary considerations taken with regards to the environment and the natural landscape to ensure that work was done with sympathy.

Rob Clark told the meeting that Walk Ride Heaton's had been happy with the results of the consultation so far.

Sue Stevenson indicated that it would be several weeks before the initial feedback could be given, however, we would share major headlines as soon as possible.

The Cheadle active neighbourhood work is being undertaken by TFGM using consultants Who have recently been appointed. The council has also spoken to other local groups to identify future work regarding active neighbourhoods for when funding is available.

### **Walk Ride Feedback**

Rob Clark again repeated that the Heaton's WR are happy with the consultation. He also announced that work is underway to reinvigorate the Reddish Walk Ride group and encourage those who may be interested to attend the meeting which is being advertised on Twitter [@walkridereddish](#).

### **Any Other Business**

Faye Drinkwater informed meeting that TFGM has a three-year project across Greater Manchester promoting walking and cycling community toolkits. This will include walk leader training, access to bikes, cycle confidence training, etc. and will be focused on women, people with low incomes, and ethnic minorities.

Manchester Road speeding was raised as an issue and Mrs Stevenson indicated the council was aware, as is Greater Manchester Police, that speeds have increased across the borough, as fewer cars have been on the roads. Greater Manchester police are aware and are addressing as they see fit.

Debbie Hall update that the bridleway strategy work is still ongoing.

An enquiry was made about Swan Lane bridleway. Sue Stevenson undertook to get an update on this issue. **ACTION SS**

Martin Bain enquired of a risk assessment to be undertaken about the shared use pavement outside near Heaton Lane. Nick Whelan said the scheme will have had a safety audit and undertook to ask the relevant member of staff about this. Questions were also asked about the removal of ASL's on road. Nick Whelan indicated this was due to the change in layout requiring improved space.

An enquiry was made about whether councillors have had training about cycling as part of work regarding climate change. Chris Boardman has been undertaking such training for all members, however, Councillor Meller indicated he would be interested to see further work done on this topic. Faye Drinkwater indicated TFGM was open to assist councillors in cycle training endeavours.

An enquiry was made about the date of the opening of the new Goyt Bridge. Sue Stevenson indicated that there was still work to be done but it would be a soft opening due to a need to reduce groups congregating as a COVID measure.

An enquiry was received about the date of the closure of the Stockport bus station. Sue Stevenson indicated that this would be late spring and early summer before this was underway.

Chantelle Johnson requested an update on the re-commencement of health walks in Stockport. Mrs Stevenson undertook to enquire with the relevant officers as to any information regarding this.

**ACTION SS**

The meeting ended at 8:04 PM