

Walking and Cycling Forum Meeting Minutes

23rd May 2022

6.00pm- 7.40pm

Attendees

Ian Barker	Edgar Ernstbrunner	Anthony S
Shaun Freeman	Robert Clark	
David Butler	Sarah McClelland	SMBC
Denise Irvine (DI)	DLC	Sue Stevenson (SS)
Andy Pennell	Steve Davies	Emily Brough (EB)
Cllr Matt Wynne	Katherine Jones	Gillian Heyworth
Simon Temple	Diana Scotcher	
Andy Howard	Alex Purrier	

Apologies for Absence:

Helen Pidd

Kathy England

Minutes	Actions
1. Minutes from the last meeting (14th February 2022)	
Minutes approved subject to clarification around the Heatons' Cycle Bridge and the Access Controls review/report and update	JW/DB
2. Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF)	
In recognition of the contribution that Jim Court had made to Stockport as a whole and cycling/active travel in particular, it was acknowledged that his recent loss was huge to many communities at local, regional, national and international levels. Not only had he been instrumental in progressing cycling and active travel over many years, he would also be missed by colleagues at Stockport Council where he had been a valuable member of the team. Jim continued to have a large impact on cycling in Stockport until the day he died and his legacy was significant.	
3. Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF)	
MCF Update- General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works are substantially complete: 	

- from Bramhall Green Roundabout to Chester Road,
- at the Dean Lane / Macclesfield Road 'Fiveways' junction,
- on Mill Lane and Macclesfield Road.
- Works are also well underway along Dean Lane and through Happy Valley.
- Some works to complete in Bramhall Park.
- All works along the main route to be substantially completed within the next month.

Delivery Update

The **Offerton to Stockport** scheme is a package of measures to create a route away from busy roads.

- Works are complete to upgrade the crossing on Offerton Lane and routes through St Thomas' Rec.
- New crossings have been installed on St Mary's Way and Waterloo Road.
- Works are complete on the new crossing on Hempshaw Lane at the entrance to St Thomas' Rec.

The **Cheadle Crossings Package** comprises new signalised crossings for cyclists and pedestrians across busy roads to improve access to local facilities and the wider walking and cycling network.

- Sparrow crossings have been installed on Bird Hall Rd and Councillor Ln (at Calderbrook Dr). Works are substantially complete to upgrade the crossing near Tarvin Rd.

The **Hazel Grove Links Package** comprises measures to connect communities in Hazel Grove by increasing walking and cycling use on off-road routes and local roads.

- Works are substantially complete to improve the west-east route across Torkington Park between Torkington Road and Lingfield Avenue.

The **A555 Community Links** connect the existing path to local areas. Works to the Cheadle Hulme link are substantially complete, as well as the path through Woodford Rec.

- The Cheadle Hulme route runs via paths on the A34, newly installed and improved crossings at Stanley Road and Gillbent Road, and a new 20mph speed limit in the St James' High School estate west of Gillbent Road. The passage next to the school has also been improved.

Scheme Development

A number of schemes have funding for development, which is ongoing, with delivery subject to further funding. This includes wider elements of some schemes on site. The development process includes TfGM Design Reviews and consultation, which includes this Walking and Cycling Forum.

- Consultation has been undertaken on Heaton to Stockport route, and post-trial scheme consultation is planned for Heaton's Active Neighbourhood.

- Consultation is also planned for a further scheme in Edgeley, centred around crossings on Edgeley Road.
- A number of schemes are entering a period of post-implementation activation and monitoring.
- A region-wide signage strategy for the Bee Network is being developed.

Development & Delivery – Funded Schemes

- Cheadle Town Fund Cycling & Walking
- Interchange Elements
- Thomson St Bridge Replacement (Edgeley to Stockport)

Heatons Cycle Link — The Heatons Cycle Link is a quiet route between the Fallowfield Loop and Trans-Pennine Trail.

- Works are largely complete on Nelstrop Rd North (lighting to be energised from this month) and through Meadow Gdns. The bridge over the Black Brook, between the two, will be replaced from this month with completion end of June.
- New crossing is complete on the A6 near McVities, and a section of cycle track has been installed at Chandos Road / Buckingham Road.
- Works are substantially complete to create a sparrow crossing on Didsbury Road, near the Griffin Hotel. Electrical connection and commissioning expected imminently (TfGM).

Wider update :

Bramhall Park to A6 is a 4km route with spurs linking residential areas in Hazel Grove and Bramhall with facilities / amenities.

- Works are almost complete from Bramhall Green Roundabout to Chester Road (along Bridge Lane and Jacksons Lane), as well as through Bramhall Park, on Mill Lane and Macclesfield Road.
- Works at the Dean Lane / Macclesfield Road junction and through Happy Valley are well underway.
- Works on Dean Lane commenced in January.
- Full completion is planned for spring 2022 (likely date is June).

The **Offerton to Stockport scheme** is package of measures to create a route away from busy roads.

- Works are complete to upgrade the crossing on Offerton Lane and routes through St Thomas' Rec.
- New crossings have been installed on St Mary's Way and Waterloo Road – electrical connection and commissioning expected imminently at St Mary's Way (TfGM).
- Works have commenced to install a new crossing on Hempshaw Lane at the entrance to St Thomas' Rec. Construction is programmed to finish by April.

The Cheadle Crossings Package comprises new signalised crossings for cyclists and pedestrians across busy roads to improve access to the wider walking and cycling network and better access to local facilities.

- Works to implement sparrow crossings are complete on Bird Hall Rd and Councillor Ln (at Calderbrook Dr) – electrical connection and commissioning expected imminently (TfGM)
- upgrade of the crossing on Councillor Lane near Tarvin Road subject to some delay due to third party/utilities works

SCHEMES ON SITE

The **Hazel Grove Links Package** comprises measures to connect communities in Hazel Grove by increasing walking and cycling use on off-road routes and local roads. The Hazel Grove Links Package comprises measures to connect communities in Hazel Grove by increasing walking and cycling use on off-road routes and local roads.

Works to improve and re-align the west-east route across **Torkington Park** between Torkington Rd and Lingfield Ave commenced in January for approx. 3 months.

SCHEMES ON SITE (complete)

The **A555 Community Links** connect the existing path to local areas.

- Works to the Cheadle Hulme link are substantially complete, as well as the path through Woodford Rec.
- The Cheadle Hulme route runs via paths on the A34, newly installed and improved crossings at Stanley Road and Gillbent Road, and a new 20mph speed limit in the St James' High School estate west of Gillbent Road. The passage next to the school has also been improved (Bank Road near the school)

FORTHCOMING SCHEMES

A number of schemes have funding to be developed, which is ongoing, with delivery subject to further funding. This includes wider elements of schemes on site.

Development – Funded Schemes

- Ladybrook Valley (link between Ladybridge Rd and Bramhall Park Rd)
- Heatons Cycle Link (Phase 2)
- Bramhall Lane South / Holland Rd Crossing (A6 MARR Links)
- Romiley Crossings
- Elements of Edgeley to Stockport

Development & Delivery – Funded Schemes

- Cheadle Town Fund Cycling & Walking
- Interchange Elements
- Thomson St Bridge Replacement (Edgeley to Stockport)
- Consultations have just been undertaken on Heatons to Stockport and Heatons Active Neighbourhood proposals

Signage

Signage strategy under development that aligns with wider Bee Network (see below)

SMBC

SMBC

<p>Questions/ Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leegate Road – in development but land ownership issues have caused delays and need to be resolved fully • Crossing prioritising traffic – needs discussion with UTC to ensure waiting times not too long and smart crossings are working optimally • Hazel Grove links –crossing on Chester Road is funding dependent • Signage –TfGM looking at all signage in conjunction with DfT to allow integration of NCN type signage; waiting for audit completion (autumn 2022); additional funding required for mass signage changes. Proposals to be agenda item for next meeting • Suggestion that signs should include both expected journey times and distance on signs • New routes completion welcomed, especially High Lane to Bramhall; concern about some variation in surface smoothness; SMBC to check as some new flexipave will have been laid manually and some rolled; accepted that snagging is not yet necessarily complete • New scheme development (Tranche 4) for Stockport will be dependent on detailed guidance; as such, no new funding opportunity as yet but information from DfT expected soon. Confirmed that submissions will need to conform to the funding conditions, align with priorities and strategic coordination at regional level • A good pipeline of schemes exists (MCF) and SMBC to review and check eligibility against criteria for level of acceptability Town Centre West and A6 School Lane/Manchester Road; all schemes will be subject to consultation • Proposals for Marple Centre will be consulted on later in 2022 <p>Concern that cycle parking removed in Stockport Town Centre near Primark, Adlington Walk and around the Market Place.</p> <p>Confirmed that public realm improvements underway, including the full resurfacing of Merseyway; cycle parking will be restored and potentially increased. Some delays acknowledged due to construction industry disruption</p>	<p>SMBC/TfGM</p> <p>SMBC</p> <p>SMBC</p> <p>SMBC</p>
<p>Active Neighborhoods Update</p> <p>Active Neighbourhoods Programme in Stockport: Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heaton Chapel Active Neighbourhood Trial ran for roughly 12 weeks from September to December 2021. • Several different interventions were trialled including modal filters, 20mph zones and a one-way system. • Traffic counts and monitoring took place during the trial. There was also an email inbox and phone number for residents' queries • A post-trial consultation was undertaken by Aecom in January 2022. All residents in the trial area were asked to respond • A report on the post-trial consultation will be presented to Councillors, and they will vote at area committee whether to proceed with a further consultation on a permanent scheme. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings have been held in recent months with Councillors from Marple/High Lane, Romiley and Hazel Grove concerning the potential for an Active Neighbourhood scheme in those areas. • Other than Romiley, no funding stream has been identified for other Active Neighbourhood trials in Stockport. • Progress on the previously proposed Cheadle Active Neighbourhood is paused, as local concerns are reviewed. 	
Heaton Chapel Active Neighbourhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AN Trial in Heaton Chapel was approved at area committee in August 2021. • The trial ran for ~12 weeks from 12th of September 2021 to early December 2021. • Post-trial consultation conducted by Aecom in January 2022 • Post-trial consultation report presented to Heaton & Reddish Area Committee in March 2022. • Councillors voted to support the research and design of a permanent scheme for the AN trial area at March Area Committee, based on the finding of the post-trial consultation. 	
Heaton Chapel AN – Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has begun on designing a permanent scheme based on the trial results and post-trial consultation • This proposed permanent scheme will require Ward Member and TfGM/GMCA approval. • Stockport Council would intend to advertise this permanent scheme and conduct a public consultation it, planned for summer 2022, subject to Local Ward Member and TfGM/GMCA approval. • Based on this public consultation, minor revisions to the proposals would be made, then agreement and funding would be obtained from GMCA/the Mayoral Challenge Fund. • Following funding approval, work would be targeted to begin in late 2022/early 2023, subject to usual caveats 	
Romiley Active Neighbourhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally planned to run to the same timescales as the Heaton Chapel Trial. However, ward members decided they would like more in person community engagement before a trial could go ahead (this was not possible due to Covid restrictions at the time). • Romiley Cllrs have said they could support an AN scheme in their area. • Stockport Council are preparing trial design to present to Cllrs, which will require their support to be implemented, in addition to the approval of TfGM. It is intended a trial would run for up to six months. • No consultation/engagement with public or advertising of the potential for a scheme was possible until after the May 2022 elections • Important that any trial AN does not clash with other Highways works in Romiley (Romiley Crossings Package, Romiley to Stockport cycle link), therefore a trial may have to be delayed until 2023 	
Other Active Neighbourhoods	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheadle AN, which was being progressed by Sustrans and Arup in association with TfGM, was paused until after the May elections. It is the intention to progress further work on this scheme leading to further public consultation, but this will require Ward Member approval. • No funding stream currently identified for other proposed ANs in Marple, Hazel Grove, Edgeley etc, but are in SMBC's Phase 2 and Phase 3 Active Neighbourhood programme plans 	
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heatons: is there a date for consultation? – confirmed that SMBC officers will discuss with Councillors and hoped to make some early progress • About 1/5th of the proposed schemes in the Heatons are in design/delivery – when will there be opportunity to address the remaining area? Confirmed that this is all subject to funding becoming available and potentially phasing works across multi-modal and wider packages of interventions • The consultation period for schemes was not consistent – confirmed that the length of consultation reflected local Councillor discussions 	SMBC
Stockport County Community Trust	
<p>Stockport County FC have developed community opportunities to reach out to and support people in the community living with long-term health and mental health conditions, those experiencing loneliness, and living in social isolation, physical and learning disabilities, complex needs, and dementia. The intention is to make positive difference to their lives, improving health and mental wellbeing, confidence, and self-esteem. The overall impact of the project is that it brings together vulnerable individuals, their families, carers, and friends reducing stigma and raising awareness in the community.</p> <p>County's Social Well-being Group project is a weekly drop-in on Wednesday morning at the Stockport County ground at Edgeley Park to expand opportunity and choice for the target groups.</p> <p>The project provides opportunities for vulnerable people and senior citizens to meet up and socialise with friendly staff and volunteers, make new friends, swap stories, and reminisce about their present and past life experiences and memories. Members can take part in therapeutic interventions by enjoying stress-relieving activities such as gentle yoga, relaxation & body movement and art therapy delivered by trained qualified professional therapists, helping to make long-term lifestyle changes improving their quality of life. Members can socialise over refreshments, play bingo, and take part in a quiz, a ground tour and gentle exercise walking around the pitch.</p> <p>The CCT Walking Football Project holds its Walking Football sessions each week on Thursday mornings at Box Football, Stanley Green, Cheadle Hulme providing drop-in activity for those above 50 years of age who want to take part in some physical activity, to socialise, make new friends and to have fun doing so. It provides opportunities for those living with long-term health and serious mental illness, dementia, or people who are experiencing loneliness and living in social isolation. Players are also given the chance to be part of a team and play in tournaments, have match day trips and ground tours throughout the year.</p>	

Attendees undertook to promote this opportunity	
Stocksport	
A full day of activities on 26 th June for all age groups and abilities	
<p>The day builds on the success of last year and will focus on running and cycling. Multiple organisations are involved with giveaways, Doctor Bike, opportunities for new experiences with different types of bike (including adapted), yoga, fun runs, 5k and 10k runs, parkour, BMX stunt displays, cycle club-led rides and an evening criterium. All activities will be within traffic-free areas and designed to encourage activity.</p> <p>The programme runs from 8am until 10/11pm</p> <p>SMBC to send out the promo video and attendees undertook to promote the day through various media</p>	DI
Walk Ride Groups Update	
Robert Clark update: developing campaign goals with announcement due in the next few weeks	
Any Other Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about how the Forum is working and timing of initial engagement in scheme development • Attendees were supportive of work overall but some wished to become involved in earlier stages of design development and pre-consultation design • Forum needs to address issues that cyclists face currently, not just in the future – need to build schemes identified 2-3 years ago before looking at new ones • Aspiration to ensure walking is properly represented as group can be cycling focused • Recognition that the 3-year Walking and Cycling strategy needs updating • No update on SMBC political/Cabinet appointments (expected imminently) <p>Next meeting to be hybrid to allow both attendance in person and virtually</p> <p>Request that agendas are distributed earlier than previously</p> <p>Agenda items for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Issues • Walking and Cycling Strategy • Involvement of Forum members in design development 	SMBC to discuss with Councillors
Next meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th September 2022 • 5th December 2022 	