

Stockport Walking and Cycling Forum

14th November 2019

Fred Perry House

PRESENT:

Andy Howard; Faye Drinkwater; Kathy England; Rob Clark; Dave Butler; Gareth Ball; Debbi Hall; Kath Edwards; Chantal Johnson; Mike Padfield; Max Wild; Joanne Hulme; Charlie Hulme; Andy Shaw; Jim Court; Diana Scotcher; Helen Pidd; Ian Barker; Peter West; Stevenson (Head of Highways and Transportation); Emily Brough (Transport Strategy Manager); Caroline Simpson (Corporate Director Place) (According to the attendance sheet)

APOLOGIES: Edgar Ernstbrunner; Ellen Homes; Siobhan Beck

1. **Introduction:** Caroline Simpson introduced herself and explained that the councillors were not present due to the elections process.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes were accepted if the following changes were made: that the details of the surfacing for the Woodbank route are checked to be correct. That WalkaDay was put as all one word throughout. That Chantal Johnson be added to the attendees list.

It was also asked when the intermediate meetings would take place and if it would not be more productive to have them before the Council had any designs. **ACTION** S Stevenson to follow up on the issue outside of the meeting.

3. Walking and Cycling Forum Terms of Reference

No comments were received after the last meeting and the Terms of Reference were accepted if the typos in the footnote were corrected.

It was requested that the dates of the meetings be planned further in advance for the future.

4. WalkRide Heatons Presentation on Waltham Forest (Presentation slides attached)

Waltham Forest is recognised as a good exemplar for Active Neighbourhoods and has been developing them for the last 5 years. The approach has changed overtime but has become very community led. The process has won over the community. This includes shop keepers opposed scheme in some areas that have been treated.

Active Communities were explained.

Questions were asked about the comparability between Stockport and Waltham Forest. It is believed that there are similarities and that the Heatons would be like one of the areas of Waltham Forest.

Questions were asked about the nature of the streets and the comparability with those in Stockport. These were seen to be similar and it was reported that Bus journey times had improved as part of the treatments.

It was asked about the bus stop styles used. Those seen had been bus bypasses like on Oxford Road.

The regularity of seating was asked about. There had been a range of treatments done to the areas that were closed off including seating.

The group also reported the high quality of the station parking and the fact that the area has 3 bike share schemes running in it.

It was noted that the way in which London can control traffic and the powers that Stockport has are different as is the amount of funding that is available.

It was noted that the public transport is better in London. It was suggested that Manchester is also potentially able to improve theirs.

Note was made of a seeming lack of litter.

It was asked if parking was charged for reducing the number of cars to be parked on street. It was not known if this was the case.

Several areas in the Greater Manchester Area have started to develop schemes for active neighbourhoods. This includes Romiley and Heaton's Mayoral Challenge Fund Applications which are still waiting for results.

There is a clear feeling that all these areas should be community led. The Heaton's want their area to be so.

Active Neighbourhoods are being investigated by TfGM and as part of this they have developed a project which is inviting 1 area for each of the 10 boroughs to receive £300,000 (approx.) to do a small active neighbourhood.

The following request has been sent out to all Walk Ride Groups in the borough. There is also the opportunity for other groups to put forward interest in a site.

"Transport for Greater Manchester has bid for funding to develop pilot active neighbourhood schemes which encourage walking and cycling in residential areas and create a more enjoyable and liveable space. They have asked each local authority to nominate an area for this pilot project. Stockport Council is seeking nominations from local interested groups who would like to be engaged in this pilot scheme. The following criteria will be used to help identify suitable locations.

- An area with local support for progressive schemes
- An area where there is an active WalkRide group
- An area where MCF Tranche 6 (or other) funding is not anticipated – Stockport is currently awaiting the outcome of two MCF Tranche 6 'community' bids (Heaton's and Romiley)
- An area with a strong community
- An area that has clear and well-known issues with through-vehicular traffic on residential roads (rat-running)

- An inner-city/town area may meet the criteria above and is also likely to have a higher strategic value
 - A neat and compact geographical area would help.
- If your group would be interested in working with Stockport council and TfGM and becoming a pilot scheme please contact transportation@stockport.gov.uk providing a short note of your initial ideas by the 30th of November and we will be in contact to arrange a meeting to discuss them. “

5. AgeUK Walk Talk Project (PDF attached)

Gareth Ball handed out information about their project Walk and Talk. They are going to do a 6 month trial and are looking for volunteers. They would also like contacts for any other groups who can assist in the project such as the U3A. they can contact gareth.ball@ageukstockport.org.uk

6. Mayoral Challenge Fund (MCF)

SMBC are expecting to release the results of the consultation in the new year due to the elections. The first area committees of the new year are expected to receive reports.

Feedback on the consultation that there were not enough officers who could explain the bigger picture of the projects. The consultations were also too many and too close together and possibly it would have been better if we had not gone for as many projects.

The detailed feedback on comments was requested to show that issues had been considered.

There were also requests that the details of designs such as drop kerbs etc need to be seen to be commented on. There is issues with this as there is little scope to make changes at detailed design phase.

7. Topics for future meetings

- GMP Cycle Theft and security talk
- That Counts
- Active Neighbourhoods
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Progress on the delivery of the Walking and Cycling Plan
- How Councils Plans link together for example LDP
- Scheme updates as a standing item
- Cycling for Woman
- Hazel Grove Playstreet
- Housing schemes and the integration of walking and cycling.
- Equestrian issues.

8. Local Group Updates

- WalkRide Heaton:** went to the Heart of the Heaton festival and did guided rides of the proposed Heaton Link route. Comments have been used as part of the groups consultation response. They also met with Chris Boardman at the Abney Park. They reported the Death of David Wiggins and requested that consideration be taken for some sort of memorial.

TPT will have new benches at the Vale Road blue railings.

- b. **WalkRide SK3:** have a meeting on Tuesday the 19th at Alexandra Pub at 7.30.
- c. **WalkRide Marple:** Have had a public meeting at the Navigation as well as other meetings with Cllrs. Have Healthy Street Check feedback that needs to be passed to the Council. This will be done at a meeting Sue Stevenson is already having about Marple.
- d. **WalkRide Romiley:** Walking Bus and Park&Stride for a local school are being put in place. A trial of a school street is also being proposed for the Spring.

9. Any other business.

- a. Questions were asked about maintenance workers duties and some seeming unoccupied. It was clarified that without knowing a specific scheme it would not be possible to identify the nature of the tasks that different workers would be needed to do. Some of which can be less visible.
- b. It was suggested that a possible way to identify desire for parklets and parking hangers for bikes would be useful to gauge interest from those who did not want to be part of a group.
- c. It was inquired about routes that did not exist on the inspections map. There will be locations that are not recorded as highways or PROW which the Council are not required to maintain. There are also locations that are PROW that are inspected by Public Right of Way officers. These are not shown on the highway inspection map that are inspected by Street Work Officers.
- d. It was requested that the rightsofway@stockport.gov.uk email was re issued.
- e. What to the Cheadle Hulme Cycle Symbols mean **ACTION Cycle Officer**
- f. When will the route from Mellor Road to Swan Lane be made a bridleway **ACTION for PROW officer.**
- g. Request was made for people to consider joining the Local Access Forum. Details can be found at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-local-access-forum>

10. Future Actions

- a. Future meetings will be booked in advance. **ACTION DN to identify dates for 2020.**