

## **Stockport Walking and Cycling Forum**

30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Fred Perry House**

**PRESENT:** Peter West; Tegan Narain; David Gosling; Brian Robinson; Ruth Robinson; Roy Bradshaw; Steve Davies; Charlie Hulme; Joanna Hulme; Siobhan Beck; Simon Temple; Mike Padfield; Andy Shaw; Nick Harris; Ellen Holmes; Christine Turner; Ian Barker; Diana Scotcher; Rob Clark; Fran Brewin; David Brewin; Iain Bate, Chantal Johnson  
Andy Howard (guest-TfGM); Faye Drinkwater (guest-TfGM)

Cllr Kate Butler (**chair**)(cabinet member for Citizen Focus and Engagement); Cllr David Meller (cabinet member for Economy and Regeneration); Cllr Aron Thornley

Sue Stevenson (Head of Highways and Transportation); Emily Brough (Transport Strategy Manager); Don Naylor (Senior Cycling Officer); Nick Robinson (Walking and Cycling Officer)

**APOLOGIES:** Reg Boot; Dave Butler; Jonathan Fingland; Helen Pidd; Max Wild; Kath Edwards;

**1. Introduction:** Cllr Butler introduced SMBC officers and Cllr Meller.

Cllr Meller's opening remarks included that information that he had just had a meeting with Chris Boardman where he impressed upon him that Stockport MBC wants to be a leader within Greater Manchester in terms of Walking and Cycling.

Cllr Meller mentioned the WalkRide groups in the area (more than any other borough in Greater Manchester and nearly a third of the total) and asked that they should try to gain as much local support as possible for Walking and Cycling improvements, including the forthcoming Mayoral Challenge Fund (MCF) schemes.

**2. Walking and Cycling Forum Terms of Reference (draft attached)**

The terms of reference had not been sent out prior to the meeting. Attendees were requested to study and send considered responses to [transportation@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:transportation@stockport.gov.uk).

It was noted that the membership of the Forum is intended to reflect the wider population and not be dominated by campaign groups.

The Forum is non statutory but see items 1.1 and 1.2 in the Draft Terms of Reference for clarification of its role.

It has been stated that the Council will respond to all suggestions. Any we are unable to carry forward will receive a reason as to why not.

There are various Forums which will overlap, but each has specific points of reference e.g the Rights of Way Forum deals with legal issues while the Disability Access Forum deals with wider transportation issues.

**3. Mayoral Challenge Fund**

### 3.1 Active Neighbourhoods (Andy Howard, Transport for Greater Manchester)

The Mayoral Challenge Fund is funding the development of the Bee Network across Greater Manchester.

There are three main elements of the Bee Network: Severance; crossings; and Active Neighbourhoods where movement of people is prioritised over that of motorised vehicles (cutting rat running)). This is mainly applicable to residential areas.

TfGM wishes to bring forward 10 Active Neighbourhoods (without prejudicing any previously brought forward in other MCF tranches) and are looking to select areas proposed by *residents*, not by the Local Authority. They are looking for suggestions as to which areas might be most suitable (and what particular features might be popular), and are planning to bring in outside expertise for the design stage.

This is a *pilot* programme-TfGM are looking for early success so that the programme can be expanded upon in the future.

TfGM would be very interested in hearing any suggestions made by members of this Forum. Further information is available on request via [cycling@tfgm.com](mailto:cycling@tfgm.com). Ideally suggestions will come from local area groups (of any kind) but support for local engagement will be available via TfGM. Some areas have already been suggested on the Bee Network Map (<https://mappinggm.org.uk/bee-network>); the suggestion is that an area enclosed by severances is ideal, and this could be as small as a few streets.

Cllr Butler gave a brief explanation of the Bee Network. For more detail please see <https://tfgm.com/made-to-move> and the map at the previous link.

### 4. Town Centre Access Plan (TCAP) update (Sue Stevenson)

We are in year 4 out of 5 of the project. The most recent completion is the Travis Brow Link Road with associated cycle improvements on the link road, Travis Brow and George's Rd.

TCAP 606 at Pear Mill/Woodbank Park is on site. It is intended that the bridge abutments are complete by Christmas, with the bridge in place early 2020. The routes to the bridge will be constructed after the bridge installation, with the intention to complete in spring 2020. This will be a significant missing link removed from the Marple/Romiley to Stockport route, as well as being an important connection for other routes to the east of Stockport Town Centre (further information is available at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/town-centre-access-plan/town-centre-access-plan-overview> )

The route will mostly be surfaced with Ultitec (similar to Toptrek), a recycled bituminous mix which binds over time to produce a durable surface, with a section of bitmac
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SMBC are progressing a creation order for the former CCAG route in the Ladybrook Valley. This is likely to go to a public enquiry.

There is not yet a set date for the closure of Stockport bus station for the interchange works, but is currently expected to be late 2020. There will be a temporary bus station on Heaton Lane. **ACTION** - SMBC will find out if there are to be temporary toilet facilities at the Heaton Lane site.

Maintenance for routes is *reactive* not scheduled. Our Asset Management strategy is available at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/well-managed-highways-infrastructure-code-of-practice>

## **5. Mayoral Challenge Fund (MCF)**

SMBC are consulting on all MCF schemes with programme entry during October. We requested as much engagement/comments as possible. The details were sent out in the action note for the meeting.

## **6. TfGM Sustainable Journeys Team (Faye Drinkwater)(presentation attached)**

The team provides Personalised Travel Plans for people who work in Stockport or are in the process of moving house/have just moved. Useful links to access these

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/smarter-choices-for-travel>

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/smarter-choices-for-travel/personal-travel-plans>

The Sustainable Journeys team have funding to support local groups who would like to increase cycling and walking for utility trips and would welcome suggestions for groups they could support (application form and grant guidance attached). Faye has indicated that if you have any questions you can email directly [Faye.Drinkwater@tfgm.com](mailto:Faye.Drinkwater@tfgm.com)

Upcoming events from TfGM that might be of interest to the forum:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cargo-bike-empowerment-workshop-tickets-73815956513>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tfgm-co-invest-in-construction-logistics-and-community-safety-clocs-tickets-72935643473>

## **7. Walkaday (Kath Edwards)**

Walkaday is a SMBC originated project originally intended to promote the use of Public Rights of Way. Is this statement accurate [1996]? It also aims to assist [not stated aims but participants state that the walks enhance their physical and mental health, as well as providing socialisation opportunities for them] to assist physical and mental health, as well as improving socialisation for its participants. It is planned independently by walk leaders and coordinators, with publicity and other support from the council. There are four seasonal programmes a year, with information available online (<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ways-to-get-walking/walkaday>) and via the leaflets available at libraries and other places.

This is a free programme, all you have to do is turn up (Frequently Asked Question information is on the leaflets).

This scheme promotes the use of public transport as well as Rights of Way, but there are issues with the variability of public transport schedules.

The age range is generally OAP as the walks are during the day. There are walks on [a] FOUR days each week for 50 weeks with [b] Tuesday & Thursday afternoon-walks being suitable for a wide clientele and [c] Wednesday & Friday longer, more challenging day-walks suitable for more able-bodied participants. Some of the shorter walks are suitable for more rehabilitative purposes.

There is also a separate Stockport Health Walks programme available <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ways-to-get-walking> ).

There are over 800 people on the database, with 21 leaders currently for the programme (some with an area specialisation and some with special interests). Kath would like people

to help distribute leaflets to local facilities including surgeries, libraries etc. The new season's AUTUMN programme begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 8. Local Group Updates

- a. **WalkRide Heaton:** have had several meetings and public events, resulting in many comments and suggestions. Also had a visit to Waltham Forest.  
Collaborated with SMBC on a bid in the latest MCF round-awaiting assessment.
- b. **WalkRide SK3:** have had one meeting; are studying the map and cultivating contacts. Are pleased that local councillors are engaged.
- c. **WalkRide Marple:** several meetings plus a Healthy Street Check event. Issues identified so far are: bad footway surfacing, crossing needed on Brabyns Brow, Stockport Rd needs "solving". Another meeting is imminent.
- d. **WalkRide Cheadles:** several meetings to date. Are mapping possible active neighbourhood sites, holding discussions with schools.  
Have stated that they will be formally opposing the Cheadle Crossings package.

## 9. Any other business.

- a. **Ellen Holmes (UK Cycling):** they are organising the Big Bike Revival events (<https://www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival>) but would like to increase participation in Stockport-the campaign is a behaviour change programme. Ellen is the development officer for the whole of Greater Manchester and can be contacted at [ellen.holmes@cyclinguk.org](mailto:ellen.holmes@cyclinguk.org)
- b. It was stated that we need to talk about better public transport in order to better facilitate walking and cycling. Many of these transport issues are GM wide issues and Cllr Butler suggested that this forum would be better focussing on Stockport issues. Issues raised will be passed on to the most appropriate forum.
- c. It was requested that we have additional meetings to look at scheme plans, as happened previously with the Cycle User Group sub-group meetings. Meetings will be convened to look at specific schemes.
- d. It was suggested that WalkRide Heaton make a presentation re their recent visit to Waltham Forest.
- e. It is intended that there be a future project to link the A555 and Middlewood Way. This is not imminent but is recognised as important.
- f. Pavement Parking was raised as an issue of crucial importance, particularly to pedestrians but also in context of cycle routes and contraflows.
- g. The question was raised as to how to attract diverse groups. It was noted that the age range of attendees was skewed to one side of the average.
- h. SMBC was urged to consider organising a Town Centre Car Free Day.
- i. Air quality was raised as an issue motivating greater urgency in the encouragement of walking and cycling. Air quality information available <https://cleanairgm.com/> and [https://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/4166/air\\_quality\\_reports](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/4166/air_quality_reports)
- j. Greater recognition was urged for Park Runs in Stockport.
- k. The TfGM cycle maps and Stockport Green A-Z's were praised as useful tools for encouraging Walking and Cycling (<https://tfgm.pindarcreeative.co.uk/> for TfGM cycle map; <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ways-to-get-walking/green-a-to-z> )

## 10. Future Actions

- a. An action note based on these minutes will be issued.
- b. Future meetings. Will be quarterly, although intermediate meetings may be arranged for specific schemes or issues.

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