



WYRE FOREST CYCLE FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – 23rd January 2008

PRESENT

Dr. Clive Prince (CP)	- Bewdley Medical Centre (<i>Chairman</i>)
Cllr Rob Wheway (RW)	- Wyre Forest District Councillor
Alan Couchman (AC)	- Worcestershire County Council
Philip Oliver (PO)	- Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth (WFFoE) and CTC
Richard Pannell (RP)	- WFFoE/CTC
Bob Green (BG)	- Bishops Wood Environmental Centre
Dave Woodruff (DW)	- Sustrans
Hugh Burton (HB)	- Sustrans
Christina Attwood (CA)	- Wyre Forest District Council - Health Improvement Facilitator
Susan Pinfold Brown (SPB)	- Worcestershire PCT
Joe Rowe (JR)	- Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club
Elaine Wilcox (EW)	- Wyre Forest District Council - Forward Planning

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ed Dursley (ED)	- Worcestershire County Council
Rebecca Mayman (RM)	- Wyre Forest District Council - Forward Planning
Ian Connolly (IC)	- West Mercia Constabulary

CM.277 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These were recorded as a true and accurate record of the meetings procedures.

CM.278 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Item **CM.256** - Bike stands in Bewdley. (CP) has spoken to Town Councillors. (AC) advised that the County Council would be in a position to supply the 'Oxford Hoops' from 1st April 08. (CP) will approach Bewdley Development Trust to discuss contacting local shop owners.

ACTIONS:

CP to speak with Bewdley Development Trust re contacting local shop owners.

- Item **CM.270** - Bike Ability. Following a speech on TV by the Prime Minister on child obesity and the link to diet, (CP) took the opportunity to write to re emphasise the need for exercise to help tackle this issue. (CP) pointed out that to encourage exercise the

Government needs to tackle issues such as traffic speed, cycle routes & personal safety/fear of crime. A political response was received from the Prime Minister's office. (HB) suggested that we send a follow up letter.

ACTIONS:

CP & RW to send follow up letter to Prime Minister

- Item **CM.271** - (CP) has an application form for £1000 grant from Kellogs. The group previously talked about closing off a road to encourage walking/cycling. (AC) pointed out that unless this was an 'important' road, would the public notice? (CA) suggested that we use a road where a community centre is situated. (PO) suggested using a road near Brintons Park, perhaps Park Lane. As we will need residents support, (RW) suggested that we advertise the event & get the public to nominate a road for closure. Grant monies could be used to provide street entertainment. (SPB) suggested that monies could be used to hire bikes for adults and children to try.

ACTIONS:

CP To check date for application

RW To look at arranging Press release

RP Will assist with arrangements

CM.279 STAYING SAFE

(RW) gave a power point presentation on 'Staying Safe' highlighting the reduction in children playing outside. The Government says that parents are risk averse. (RW) points out that it is an environmental problem that needs an environmental change. Traffic in residential areas need to be slowed right down or stopped to enable children to play safe.

(PO) highlighted the loss of play areas & open space due to the increasing numbers of houses being built. Also the number of on street parking that reduces area of play.

(AC) highlighted that the County Council receives numerous requests for signage, in quiet residential areas, for 'No Ball Games' and 'No Cycling'. Cultural changes are needed.

The Government needs to take action. Look at good practice from the continent.

(DW) gave a power point presentation showing two homezones that have been successfully created.

CM.280 BIKE ABILITY / CYCLE PROFICIENCY

(AC) reiterated that adult training was available through the County Council.

(PO) reminded the group that Local authorities have been invited to bid for funding to deliver more cycle training, with the 2008/9 Local Authority Cycle Training Fund.

(DW) gave the group some information on the new Bike Ability standards. Unlike the old cycle proficiency, where a test was taken at the end, Bike Ability issues a certificate and highlights areas where improvement / care may be needed.

It was suggested by the group that motorist should reach level 3 of the Cycle Proficiency test before being allowed to pass a driving test. (RW) suggested that perhaps a reduced driving test fee could be offered for those with a level 3 Cycling Proficiency

(JR) told us that Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club is a 'Go Ride' registered club. They go into local schools & teach cycling techniques and skills to the children for free. They are introduced to schools by British Cycling.

(AC) told us that the latest initiative is to get 1/2 million children into cycling. The County Council are looking to appoint a Bike Ability Officer in Worcester.

(HB) asked if we could be advised of the schools in the District where Bike Ability is offered. This would give the group the opportunity to campaign those schools not currently offering Bike Ability to pupils.

(SPB) suggested that WCC Healthier School should be linked to WCC Road Safety Unit. Physical activity is one of the key areas for Healthier Schools. SPB will find out information & circulate to group.

ACTIONS:

CP- To check, via ED, which schools are currently offering Bike Ability.

SPB - To find out information on physical activity in WCC Healthier Schools.

CM.281 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

(SPB) gave a short talk to the Forum outlining her new role as Health Information Manager. The role encompasses provision of health information and strategic lead for physical activity. (SPB) will circulate the following documentation:

- Health Information for Public Health - powerpoint presentation.
- Worcestershire Public Health Directorate Business Plan 2007/08
- Draft - Worcestershire Walking Network Business Plan
- Worcestershire Activity Referral Schemes - Protocols and Guidance

CM.282 WYRE FOREST CYCLE RACING CLUB - CYCLE SPORTIF EVENT 2008

(JR) updated us - Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club is a 'Go Ride' registered club. They presently have five accredited trainers. During the summer months they organise a series of weekly rides. The Sportif Event 2008 is scheduled from Sunday 6th July. It comprises three events - 100 miles, 60 miles and 20 miles. All circuits around Worcestershire and starting and finishing at Stourport Leisure Centre. The event will be promoted by local radio, press and the web www.wfcrc.org.uk They will be looking to make this an annual event.

Bike Week this year is 14-22nd June.

(HB) suggested that the group look to set up 'bike packs' which would have details of cycling groups, routes etc in the area. These packs could be placed in bike retailers and given out to purchasers of new bikes.

CM.283 BEWDLEY HILL CYCLE LANES

(PO) highlighted the problems with cars parking on the cycle lane. It is not illegal to park on advisory cycle lanes. The group discussed the various options to ease the situation: possibility of yellow lining the cycle lane; change the colour of tarmac on the advisory lanes; try to get them made mandatory cycle lanes. A Traffic Regulation Order would be needed for any alterations to be made to the cycle lane. (CP) has spoken to some of the residents regarding the dangers to cyclists when cars are parked on the cycle lane and this has improved matters.

ACTIONS:

PO - Will take forward the problems to WCC

CP - When writing to PM (**CM.270**), will raise the issue of parking on cycling lanes and suggest a change in law so that there is no parking on advisory lanes.

CM.284 BEWDLEY ROAD/SUTTON ROAD JUNCTION - ADVANCE STOP LINES

When travelling from Kidderminster to the junction & turning left into Sutton Road, the well is only 3m deep which causes problems for cyclists. (PO) thinks that this should be 4-5 m. (AC) will check regulations.

(CP) commented on the improvements made at this junction. In particular, when travelling down hill into Kidderminster, the pinch point that was by the bus stop has been cut out.

ACTIONS:

AC - Will check out regulations for the advance stop line well.

CM.285 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEMES AND INFORMATION

(AC) updated the group on the County Council schemes:

Live Schemes:

- Comberton Hill - White lining, signing & drop kerbs to be done. Expected to be completed March/April 2008.
- Birchen Coppice - On target for completion this quarter.
- Brintons Park - There have been problems with the signage. Short term, temporary, blue cycling signs to go in. Also problems with entrance onto Talbot Street. Awaiting new monies in April budget.
- Charlton Lane Ramp at Leapgate - Expected to complete by end of March 2008.
- Cycle route from Hartlebury to Droitwich, along Doverdale Lane, expected to be complete by end of March 08.

Other Schemes:

- Pedestrian bridge at Bewdley - There has been no support from District Councillor Clee. CP will approach Cllr Clee to seek support.
- WCC website - Bike security recommendations. Pages on these issues will be available on the County website shortly.

ACTIONS:

CP - Will approach Cllr Clee re pedestrian Bridge at Bewdley.

CM.286 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (RP) asked about the 'Barbourne Bus Priority Scheme' and whether cyclists on bus lanes have been considered, (AC) was not familiar with the scheme and (PO) will contact County direct.
- (AC) announced that he will retire at the end of March. (CP) thanked him for all the work he has done for the Forum and District over the years. (AC) thank the Forum for their support.

ACTIONS:

RP - To contact WCC re Barbourne Bus Priority Scheme.

CM.287 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 30th April 2008, at 2pm, in the Loom Room, Duke House Kidderminster.