



## WYRE FOREST CYCLE FORUM

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008

#### PRESENT

Dr. Clive Prince (CP)	-	Bewdley Medical Centre ( <i>Chairman</i> )
Ed Dursley (ED)	-	Worcestershire County Council
Philip Oliver (PO)	-	Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth (WFFoE) and CTC
Bob Green (BG)	-	Bishops Wood Environmental Centre
Dave Woodruff (DW)	-	Sustrans
Hugh Burton (HB)	-	Sustrans
Julian Phillips (JP)	-	Wyre Forest District Councillor
Jenny Moreton (JM)	-	Wyre Forest District Council - Principal Health & Sustainability Officer
Elaine Wilcox (EW)	-	Wyre Forest District Council - Forward Planning

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rebecca Mayman (RM)	-	Wyre Forest District Council - Forward Planning
Richard Pannell (RP)	-	WFFoE/CTC
Elaine Halford Bishop (EHB)	-	Wyre Forest District Council - Health & Sustainability Officer

#### **CM.297 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

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

#### **CM.298 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Item **CM.280** - Bike Ability - (CP) drew the group's attention to the WFDC Cycle Strategy and the objective to support the County with its Safer Routes to School. Wyre Forest District has a high proportion of obese children and there is a need to promote cycling and walking. (ED) advised that the County Road Safety Officers instruct the safe use of cycling but, unlike the national Bike Ability training, they are not able to take groups out on the road cycling. The County is hoping to implement the latest national standard.

(BG) would be keen to offer cycle training in schools if funding was available

(CP) wants to push links with the PCT.

(JM) advised that there may be funding available through the LAA (target to tackle childhood obesity).

#### **ACTIONS:**

**ED** to let the group know which schools offer cycle training

**CP** to contact Richard Harling re links

**JM** to email the group with information on possible funding through LAA.

**Item CM.291** - Proposed Marlborough Street Cycle Lane - There are no Section 106 monies available at present.

**Item CM.293** In Town without my car - As part of European Mobility Week 2008 the District Council is holding a 2 day event. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am-4pm, in Kidderminster Town Centre and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-4pm) at Wyre Forest Glades Arena. Several members of the Cycle Forum will man a table at the event promoting the cycling routes around the District.

**Item CM.294** Cycle Forum Constitution - The Group need take no further action on this.

**Item CM.296** Bike Week - Cycle from Tesco in Kidderminster to Hartlebury took place in the evening of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. The event was reported in the Shuttle.

Following this event (CP) pointed out that there appeared to be a sequencing problem with the lights at the bottom of Bewdley Bypass. (ED) will get the signals team to check this out.

**ACTIONS:**

**ED** To report the problem with sequencing of the traffic lights at the bottom of Bewdley Bypass.

**CM.299 ADVANCE STOP LINES BEWDLEY ROAD/SUTTON ROAD JUNCTION**

The group discussed the problems with this junction. It was felt that following recent changes the junction had become more dangerous. Part of the reasoning for the removal of the advance stop lines was the accident analysis. This analysis (2008-2008) was forwarded to (PO). There is no evidence from this that the junction was more dangerous with the stop lines and (PO) has written to Dave Clee (County) to ask that the matter be looked in to. An acknowledgement was received 14/08 but an update into the investigation is still awaited. (ED) will chase.

**ACTIONS:**

**ED** Will raise the issue with Dave Clee.

**CM.300 CYCLE ROUTE KIDDERMINSTER TO HARTLEBURY**

The group discussed Route 45 and Route 54. There are still some broken sections but the route is mostly all there.

The County Council is interested in acquiring Hartlebury Castle, although there has been some political opposition to this.

A cycle route to the Castle would be easier to implement if the land is in the County ownership.

**ACTIONS:**

**CP** To look on internet to find out where the political opposition is coming from so that the Cycle Forum can lobby those concerned.

**CM.301 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEMES AND INFORMATION**

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

- Comberton Hill - Maintenance works are scheduled for 27-31 October. Following this the lining of the route from the rail station to town is expected to take place in early November.
- Brintons Park - The County have not had much success with the removal of the barrier at Talbot Street. (ED) advised that the County was trying to strip out this type of barrier (as they are not DDA compliant) and would welcome any information from members of the Forum as to where other such barriers were causing problems. (CP) advised that the barrier at Gould Avenue Kidderminster was still causing problems for cyclists. The District Council was responsible for erecting this barrier. (EW) will discuss with (RM) as to how to progress.

- Hartlebury to Droitwich - Now completed as far as Inns Lane. (CP) advised that there is a problem with one of the signs, from Stourport High School to the Canal, which is pointing in the wrong direction. (ED) to investigate
- Tour of Britain took place 10/09/08 and was very successful. The Forum is to send letter of congratulations to the County requesting that they support future events.

**ACTIONS:**

**EW/RM** - Investigate the change of barrier at Gould Avenue

**CP** - To write to County re Tour of Britain.

**CM.302 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Raised platform, bottom of St John's Avenue** - (BG) advised that there was a large chunk missing from this platform that could result in serious accident for cyclists/motorcyclists. (ED) told the group how to report such instances to the County - By phoning the Worcestershire Hub or reporting online to County via the website. A reference number is issued for each report which allows the progress to be monitored. (ED) will report this issue and forward reference number to (BG).
- **Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy** - The Group has recently been notified of the Revised Wyre Forest District Local Development Scheme (LDS). This document sets out the intentions of the local planning authority and details the documents it is looking to produce over a three year timeframe. Detailed in the LDS is a need to replace the Wyre Forest Cycling Strategy (2002) post 2010. (CP) is keen for the Cycle Forum to have an input to any replacement document and would like this topic included on the Agenda for the next few meetings. It was suggested the strategy could include an objective for every school child to have the opportunity for cycle training in school. The group also discussed the problems with monitoring cycle usage. Rather than cycle counters (PO) suggested that a better way of monitoring was for cycle parking areas to be checked on their usage. (ED) advised that the County does also monitor in this way particularly where new schemes have been implemented. (ED) will forward location and stats on the counters in the District
- **20mph default in residential areas** - (PO) raised this issue. Portsmouth are about to implement this. Is also being considered in Norwich and Hull. It will make the roads safer and therefore encourage people away from motorised transport.

**ACTIONS:**

**EW** To include the Cycle Strategy on the Agenda for the next few meetings.

**ED** To email the group with location and stats of cycle counters in the District.

**CM.287 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 2pm, in the Loom Room, Duke House Kidderminster.