



CYCLING ACTION PROGRESS MEETING

14TH JULY 2014

Present: Cllr Nick Davies (CCS – Cycle Forum Designate)
 Ben George (CCS – Transport Strategy)
 Colin Fielder (Wheelrights)
 Nick Guy (Wheelrights)
 David Naylor (Wheelrights)
 Mike Cherry (Bikeability)

Apologies: Cllr Sybil Crouch (Cabinet Member – Sustainability)
 Stuart Davies (CCS – Head of Service, Highways & Transportation)
 Helen Davies (Sustrans)
 Lindsey Curtis (Sustrans)

<p>1. Matters Arising</p> <p>1.1 ND complemented the Commuter Route signage which has been installed, as well as the route enhancements which were recently completed in Swansea Vale. BG commented that the signage in Swansea Vale is yet to be installed, and the commuter route signage would be added to it once in place.</p>	
<p>2. Commuter Routes</p> <p>2.1 BG reported that the signing for the red, yellow, purple and orange routes had now been issued for manufacture and installation. It is expected that these will be installed over the coming weeks.</p> <p>2.2 DN queried whether some minor route enhancements could be considered as part of this work, namely the minor rerouting at Sterry Road, Gowerton and Loughor Bridge. BG advised that there was no budget provision for this, but asked that DN send on the proposals to him for future consideration.</p> <p>2.3 NG commented that Wheelrights were working to distribute the tube maps at every possible opportunity. ND requested a greater supply of the maps and BG agreed to provide these.</p> <p>2.4 NG commented that he was still working with the Wave to secure a further promotion of the tube map by arranging a ride led by The Badger on the Blackpill to Pontarddulais route. Whilst the necessary funds have been secured by the Council's Sustainability department, the arrangements were yet to be finalised. NG agreed to update the group at the next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">DN</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BG</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NG</p>
<p>3. City Centre Cycle Network</p> <p>3.1 BG explained that since the last meeting, all of the necessary approvals have been secured to allow this project to progress.</p> <p>3.2 It is expected that with the funding available there are two distinct phases of works which can be delivered during 2014/15. These are, the route from Boulevard to Kingsway Circle via Princess Way; and The Strand to Alexandra Road via Kings</p>	

<p>Lane, Kings Street and Pleasant Street. This will greatly improve connectivity for cycling in the city centre, particularly for those wishing to cycle from Boulevard to the retail core and for students wishing to access the Trinity St David's University buildings on Alexandra Road.</p> <p>3.3 Final designs are being prepared and it is expected that works will commence in Autumn 2014.</p> <p>3.4 DN queried whether his request to tighten the junction radius at Pleasant Street/Alexandra Road had been included and BG agreed to check this.</p> <p>3.5 BG also commented that the exact form of future phases of the Cycle Network would be clarified once the review pedestrian access across the Kingsway is completed.</p>	BG
<p>4. Kingsbridge Cycle Link</p> <p>4.1 BG reported that the Council's Legal Department had now issued the instruction to the Commons Officer to undertake the registration and deregistration of Common Land associated with the construction of the A484 Llanelli Link Road. It was anticipated that this process could take up to 12 months, although it was hoped that it might take significantly less than this.</p> <p>4.2 Once the registration/deregistration process has been completed, the Council will then be able to make applications to the Wales Planning Inspectorate to seek formal approval to construct a route across Stafford Common. This is again a potentially lengthy process, but nonetheless a process which must be followed.</p>	
<p>5. Pontarddulais Link</p> <p>5.1 BG reported that the issue of a cycle link to Pontarddulais has been raised in prominence since the last meeting following representations being made by local residents and ultimately by the Town Council. The broad proposal is to continue the existing route from Station Road Grovesend, north to Pontarddulais on an alignment which is yet to be determined.</p> <p>5.2 A letter has been sent to the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart, to seek her support for the scheme. The outcome of this letter will be critical in determining the future course of this proposal.</p> <p>5.3 BG advised that without dedicated funding over and above the conventional funding mechanisms, it was very difficult to justify the development of this scheme in advance of the Kingsbridge Link, as without that being completed Pontarddulais would still be without a continuous link into NCN4.</p> <p>5.4 Having met with the local resident who first raised the issue, BG has advised that while the Council does not have a budget to pursue formal development of the scheme, it can offer assistance in determining land ownership and undertake high level options appraisal; both of which are now being undertaken.</p>	
<p>6. Fabian Way</p> <p>6.1 BG reported that the scheme was now in active development. The University has agreed in principle to release the funds in the coming months in order to fund the early construction of the infrastructure in order to be in place for the opening of the Bay Campus in September 2015.</p>	

6.2	BG has met on site with the design engineer and outline designs should be ready within the next few weeks.	
<p>7. Swansea Cycle Forum</p> <p>7.1. NG raised the issue of a Cycle Forum to specifically pick up the issues of cycle promotion and softer measures, which are not ordinarily picked up by the Cycle Action Progress group. It was proposed that the Forum could link wider cycling clubs and organisations with departments in the Council. It was proposed that the first meeting could be as early as Monday 21st July as the Cycle Facilities Group (a group working to establish a recreational cycling facility for Swansea) would be meeting to discuss the Sustrans Rider Spokes project.</p> <p>7.2. BG agreed that the element of promotion and softer measures was not being effectively covered at present and could yield significant benefits. Whilst the Cycle Forum would undoubtedly be a helpful addition, BG did cite concern that he would not be able to provide resource for its administration, nor is it likely that this can be provided from elsewhere within the Council as a consequence of the on going cuts in Public Funding. This concern was supported by ND. NG suggested that Wheelrights may be able to take on this particular role.</p>	NG	
<p>8. New Cycle Action Plan</p> <p>8.1. NG commented that the current Cycle Action Plan will reach the end of its term in 2015, and asked that work begin on refreshing this document with a view to the next five years. NG also announced that Wheelrights have established a 'Routes Group' to dedicate their efforts to proposing considered strategy.</p> <p>8.2. BG commented that whilst he agreed that there was a benefit in refreshing the action plan, there were a number of points to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council resource to undertake this work was diminishing and would therefore take longer and there are more pressing priorities at present. • That the Action Plan should tie in with the refresh and introduction of supporting statutory legislation. This could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The introduction of Local Transport Plans 2015 – 2020; ○ The introduction of the Active Travel (Wales) Act; and in particular the work to establish the Integrated Network Maps, but this would not be for approximately 2 years. <p>8.3. BG advised that the refresh would also benefit from a further assessment to appraise how cycle infrastructure could be provided to enhance the linkages to residential communities. This assessment is recognised as being needed, but the timescales for it have not yet been determined.</p> <p>8.4. It was agreed that DN would feed back the outcomes from the Wheelrights Routes Group to begin the process of the refresh.</p>	DN	
<p>9. Clydach Connect2 – B4603 Crossing</p> <p>9.1 DN reported to the group concerns, which had been raised by a number of Wheelrights members, citing concerns regarding pedestrian and cycle safety at the B4603 Crossing near the Mond Nickel Works in Clydach.</p> <p>9.2 BG agreed that he would seek advice from Traffic as to whether a controlled crossing could be advocated in this location. An additional funding source would also need to be identified if works were to be undertaken.</p>	BG	

9.3	ND agreed to seek views from the local Councillors to determine whether there was a consensus that the current arrangement may be perceived to be unsafe.	ND
10.	AOB	
10.1	Sustrans had submitted a number of points for information as they were unable to send a representative to the meeting on this occasion and these have been included in an Appendix to these notes.	
10.2	*POST MEETING NOTE – The issue of High Street Station and DN’s Note regarding cycling priority in this area was not dealt with in the meeting. The note was circulated to the Council’s Improvements Group for consideration as part of the Northern Quarter scheme. There was a consensus that a derivative of the proposed options could be provided to better the situation. However, before this was able to be considered further and programmed for delivery, the scope of Northern Quarter was reduced due to budgetary concerns and it will not therefore be possible to address this issue in the short term. The note and its principles will however be borne in mind with a view to delivering it as a future phase of the City Centre Cycle Network or another appropriate scheme.	
11.	Date of Next Meeting	
11.1	The next Cycle Action Progress Meeting will be held on 14 th October 2014 at 2pm in Civic Centre, Swansea.	

APPENDIX 1 – SUSTRANS PROGRESS UPDATE

Route 4 - Ffordd Amazon

Route 4 has been formally re-aligned along Baldwin's Crescent – Ffordd Amazon and Jersey Marine. The signing has been installed by NPT and 'End of cycle route' signs have been removed. Our online map has been updated and there is a note and photos on our Routes section of the website. I know this is NPT but I thought it would help to let you know, no doubt you have seen the signs

Community Parks Ranger

I have had a meeting with the Community Parks Ranger in Swansea who has highlighted a number of schemes across the County which may have links to the NCN. These include a mountain bike track in Clyne Woods and a potential scheme just north of Llansamlet. We will be promoting the Clyne Woods MTB on Twitter in the next couple of weeks and it incorporates Route 4.

Eisteddfod in Llanelli

Sustrans will be at the Eisteddfod in Llanelli in August. We will be launching the Sacred Trails leaflet and we will have a series of fun activities for everyone to get involved including the disco trike, art workshop and information about the Active Travel Act.

Sustrans Volunteer Conference is coming to Swansea on 19th July

The 2014 Sustrans Cymru Volunteer Conference, which this year will be held in Swansea at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea - where the city is celebrating the centenary anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. There will be a social ride along the Swansea Bay path to Mumbles in the morning, followed by of informative sessions in the afternoon covering the Active Travel Act, 20th Anniversary of the NCN and our Campaign for Safer Streets. All volunteers are welcome.