

CYCLING ACTION PROGRESS GROUP

Meeting Minutes – 17th July 2019

Present:

Councillor Nick Davies (Chair)	(Cllr. ND)	Swansea Council
Councillor Mark Thomas	(Cllr. MT)	Swansea Council
Ben George	(BG)	Swansea Council
Chloe Lewis	(CL)	Swansea Council
David Naylor	(DN)	Cycling UK
John Sayce	(JS)	Wheelrights
Nick Guy	(NG)	Wheelrights
Mike Cherry	(MC)	Bikeability
Ryland Jones	(RJ)	Sustrans

- **Matters Arising**

- DN raised point 1.2 from the previous meeting, to look at the possibility of making improvements to the crossing at the Mond in Clydach. BG advised that the Road Safety Team have submitted a bid to the Road Safety Fund to address this; BG will clarify the details and send an update to all in the group.
- NG raised point 8.3 of the previous meeting regarding the widening of Wellington Street. BG advised that work is being undertaken on this and have included for shared use as part of the redevelopment. Discussions ongoing regarding gradient and segregation. BG advised that the design has not been seen, if able to view, will share with group.
- Points 2.8 and 2.10 were raised from the previous meeting. BG advised that improvements at Nantong Way were not currently achievable due to the need for the adjacent housing development to be completed prior to commencing works. Council not in a position to resolve currently.

- **Active Travel Fund 2019/20 Projects**

- BG presented a summary of the full bid that was submitted for 2019/20 and then advised of the successful schemes for delivery and development within this financial year.
 - Core Allocation (Design and Minor Works) – £533k
 - Strategic – Northern Strategic - £705k comprising:

- Kingsbridge Link – £625k
- DVLA to Morrison Hospital (Development Only) – £25k
- Penllergaer to Gorseinon (Development Only) – £55k
- Local – City Centre - £1.533m comprising:
 - Gors Avenue Shared Use Path – £708k
 - Townhill Northern Link – £825k
- RJ discussed the changes in active travel legislation, and that it is anticipated that light segregation will be favoured in future.
- Cllr. MT queried whether current phased schemes that have secured funding for shared use paths, may in the future be split from being an off-road shared use path in one section, to a segregated on-road section in another resulting in a lack of continuity of provision type.
- Cllr. ND discussed a statement made by Lee Waters AM (LW), stating that simply painting lines on the road is not effective enough.
- NG suggests that for new cyclists, a shared use path is a good starting point for achieving behaviour change, but that signage and publicity is needed.
- Cllr. MT discussed LW stating that he wants to see evidence that active travel infrastructure is used.
- RJ advised of an Active Travel Charter that has been put together by Dr Tom Porter (Public Health Wales) in Cardiff, who is looking to roll this out further, with a focus on workplaces.
- BG advised that Welsh Government (WG) representatives had been happy with the City Centre routes package but had not been able to fund due to a lack of money.
- Pontarddulais Link was discussed, which is included as a project under this year's Core Allocation for design work. BG advised that Network Rail (NR) have been difficult to engage with on Pontarddulais, however they have agreed in principle that there is a solution and the paperwork needs to be completed. Options testing will now take place, with a separate bridge structure thought to be preferable.
- RJ raised the engagement that has gone on with Pentre Farm and that a change of owner could be an issue if they are not as amenable to selling.
- Kingsbridge Link was discussed and DN raised that improvements are also

needed to the north of Gorseinon.

- BG advised that Kingsbridge Link has had a licence agreed from Fairwood to the Station, and that the Station change process had been completed. A Licence is in place for Somerset Trust land under a Section 38 agreement from the Planning Inspectorate. A legal agreement is needed to cross the Welsh Water road, and a licence from Alder Way to Welsh Water (this has been drafted, approval pending). A works contract is being prepared and is anticipated to start in September for areas with licence. A second and third works contract will be put in place for the remaining sections, once agreements are in place.
- Cllr. MT queried whether Kingsbridge Link would be an available walking route; BG advised that it would be.
- Gors Avenue and Townhill Northern Link were discussed. JS suggested that e-bikes will be key to the scheme due to the challenging topography, and is keen to do work around this to reduce the cost in areas of deprivation.
- MC raised the Rosehill Quarry route and that this is a busy route. Improvements would attract more people which could lower anti-social behaviour which has historically been a problem.
- JS suggested that bollards are needed along Cwm Level Road and along Neath Road (under Railway Bridge) as cars and vans are parking on the new shared use path. BG agreed to speak with Dave Hughes (DH) regarding this issue.
- **Signage of Cycle Routes**
- NG suggested that a barrier to cycling is the lack of continuity when signage is put in place, with signage of old routes needed. NG explained that Sustrans volunteers would prefer if signs were attached using nuts and bolts so that they can amend when needed, as they cannot move strapped signs when they are pointing in the wrong direction. Wheelrights happy to feed into work on signage.
- RJ advised that Sustrans has developed a process for reviewing signage on INM, ERM and NCN routes. Working with 10 local authorities to review.
- BG advised that a signage review has been included under Core ATF Funding; resource not yet known.
- DN advised that there is a lack of signage from Upper Bank to Trallwn; signage towards the North is needed.

- **Publicity of New Routes**
- NG suggested circulating cycle route information in the Swansea Leader with campaign for Active Travel. NG advised that lessons were learnt with Trallwn in avoiding election period due to an inability to publicise new route during this time.
- NG discussed future route openings and suggested that getting people cycling and having a bike ride to open the route would be beneficial. The circulation of maps and involving the Lord Mayors Charity were also suggested.
- NG proposed looking at Morryston route, and forward planning to involve the community.
- JS advised that he spoke with the Leader at Ynystawe Link Opening, and discussed the idea of a park and pedal scheme, which would be the first in Wales.
- **Forward Plan**
- BG advised the group that any Active Travel bid suggestions (schemes and minor works) would be needed by the beginning of September, in order that it be included in the December bid.
- RJ queried the Council's position on 20mph zones. BG advised that the Road Safety Team would need to comment on the Council's position.
- **AOB**
- DN raised the Gower Access Path Consultation that he attended on the 1st of July, where preliminary plans were tabled. DN advised that concern was raised by the public regarding the plan for a 3m path alongside the road. DN discussed with Alan Ferris and Jeff Green, who took on-board his comments regarding Active Travel design Guidance. BG will flag up this issue.
- **Date of Next Meeting**
- The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th of October 2019 at 2:30pm in Committee Room 6, Guildhall.