

Meeting of the Active Travel and Accessibility Forum

Zoom meeting 16.12.20

Attendees: Cllr Joanna Wright (JW); Chris Major (CM) BANES; Cris Fletcher (CF) RUH; Saskia Heijltjes (SH) University of Bath; Adam Reynolds (AR) Walk Ride Bath; Frank Tompson (FT) Two Tunnels Group; Mark Minkley BANES (MM); Alison Sherwin (AS) BANES; Neil Terry (NT) BANES, John Taylor (JT); Bryn Jones (BJ) Transition Larkhall, Paul Garrod (PG) BANES; Louise Murphy (LM) BANES; Alasdair Barron (AB) Bathwick Estates Residents Association; Liz Trethewey (guest from Eastbourne Access group); Mary Young (MY) Ramblers Association, Phillip Haile (PH) Transition Bath, Councillor Yukteshwar Kumar (YK), Tom Britten (TB) University of Bath, Nick Helps (NH) BANES; Jon Usher (JU) Sustrans.

Apologies: Sam Willets (Keynsham Cycling); Paul Speirs (Avon Frome Partnership); Nigel Sherwen (Bath cycle club); Shelly Dewhurst (project manager Bath Riverline).

Item 1: Liveable Neighbourhoods

NH gave an overview of the project.

The Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy now been approved by Cabinet.

The Clean Air zone will be in place 15th March 2021.

BJ -how many responses the have been to questionnaire? – 1600 89% from Bath.

FT -What is the publicity process going forward and how can areas put forward for a LN.

JW- there will be a proforma for Councillors to work with communities.

CM- there will be a prioritisation process, co-design and then delivery. Need to map how the city fits together working with for example CURO and RUH. Also keen to engage with community segments that are under-represented in formal consultations.

AR-what is the timeline for this circulation plan?

CM- the Council are working on it. Need to consider local attractors, school routes and public transport routes. Not as well developed outside Bath but working on it.

Other related work- Bath Delivery Action plan – consultation January 2021.

FT-Will Ward Councillors be promoting within their constituencies?

JW-Councillors are committed to letting their residents know, eg through newsletter distribution.

MY-How will the Council deal with conflict from the adjacent ward.

CM-Need to work with communities and ward members. There is no standard approach.

JW-Will look at schemes holistically with Councillors.

JU-Suggest thresholds for community engagement-percentage of people responding eg rule book that is consistent across the area. Will avoid naysayers crying foul later on. Will also help Councillors with a level playing field especially if Councillors aren't fully on board.

JT-Will there be a facility to know what others are planning?

JR-[post meeting note] all proposed LN schemes will be uploaded to a map based consultation platform with comment sharing facility.

Item 2: Active Travel Fund proposals

Funding requirement is that need to place a works order by March 2021.

Upper Bristol Road

Scheme does not go west of Midland Road junction as proposals to signalise this junction and do not want to prejudice this.

First phase is to focus on what can be done in timescales.

PH-delivery vehicles travelling west and park currently cause obstructions in the cycle lane.

PG-proposed scheme will not allow this; wands will be used to protect intrusion into cycle lane. Delivery lorries will have to stop in traffic running lane. May need to ban loading at peak times.

PG-total number of parking spaces lost will be 40. 17 spaces can be replaced on side roads and in Royal Victoria Park.

JU – suggested the Council need to be careful of minimum widths on the northern side and improve walkability of the corridor e.g. continuous footways.

CM- there is no funding for continuous footways at this stage. Will look to bring forward a showcase example.

FT-suggest using Charlotte Street car park for the displaced parking.

CM-this would be a challenged for certain users. Some residents may not move their vehicles for some time, and this would affect the Council revenue. In addition more pressure on parking as car parks such as Avon Street car park being redeveloped. Liveable neighbourhoods will also put pressure on parking. There needs to be a long term plan which is not straightforward.

JU-Can 'cyclists rejoin' signs be removed unless they are prescribed?

City centre to Bath University (includes Beckford Road, North Road and The Avenue)

Comments:

Orcas need to be more visible

SH – asked about the rational for the Avenue proposal.

NT-cyclists do use it currently and there is conflict on the narrow footway. This is an opportunity to improve it and it is straightforward.

MY-suggested Widcombe Hill would be a better route than North Road. Has a survey been carried out?

JW-Widcombe Hill has a dangerous gradient downhill and not possible to improve all routes.

LT-queried the approach for vulnerable users, does it follow BS8300. PG-it is considered as an integral part of the scheme design and any proposals should comply.

JU-queried why can't there be a floating bus boarder at the top of Bathwick Hill?

PG-lack of space and traffic backing up (queueing in opposite lane for junction may prevent vehicles from passing stationary bus) but will take another look at it.

AR-it is vital that the proposed crossing on Beckford Road is closer to Beckford gardens for access to Sydney Gardens and Cleveland Pools. Could the crossing be moved west of the canal bridge. AS-visibility was an issue but will check with the Engineer.

AB-how many parking spaces will be lost.

PG-28 and 18 can be replaced nearby including some near the junction of Forrester Road.

Councillor YK-North Road has a lower number of users than Bathwick Hill and Widcombe Hill. North Road is a longer way round.

JW-The University have been consulted and supportive of North Road route. School traffic recognised as the biggest polluter so need to address.

CORRECTION: The proposed North Road route was discussed with the University and they did not object. The University support the principle of Active Travel Schemes but note that it is the Local Authority's role to determine which route is most beneficial:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/letter-to-b-nes-re-active-travel-schemes-consultation-march-2021/>

Copseland proposed parallel crossings

AR – is it possible to have a modal filter on Copseland? PG- it is too narrow.

AR-are the Council also looking at improving the Rainbow Woods route?

AS-yes to Combe Down and Ralph Allen School.

AOB

AB-concerned about cycle bypasses at bus stops. The condition of roads is poor for cyclists.

PB-Upper Bristol Road will be resurfaced as part of the scheme.

CM-cleansing of the roads needs more consideration.

BJ-timeline for liveable neighbourhoods?

CM-expected to start early 2021 but no fixed timeline yet. The Ward Councillors will need to come forward.

FT-Concerned ATAF is top level down but can the balance be changed?

CM-the Council are committed to review this and will update before the next meeting.

Next meeting

March 2021

