

Meeting of the Active Travel and Accessibility Forum

Zoom meeting 14.09.20

Attendees: Cllr Joanna Wright; Chris Major (CM) BANES; David Trethewey (DT) BANES; Cris Fletcher (CF) RUH; Saskia Heijltjes (SH) University of Bath; Adam Reynolds (AR) Walk Ride Bath, Stephen Little (SL) 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, Cllr Sue Craig; Paul Garrod (PG) BANES; Paula Spiers (PS) Avon From Valley partnership; Shelly Dewhurst (SD) BANES; Louise Murphy (LM) BANES; Sam Willets Keynsham Cycling Group, Tom Britten, Tom Sauko (TS) Bath University

Apologies:, Alasdair Barron

Item 1: Bath Riverline project (Shelly Dewhurst)

SD gave an overview of the project.

The aim of the Bath River Line project is to create a continuous and high quality walking and cycling connection between Bath City Centre and the Western City Limits, together with a series of improved public access points and improved parks, hard landscaped and green spaces. There are major opportunities to connect the Bath River Line with new development to provide accessible green space, recreation opportunities and a high quality walking and cycling route into the city centre.

It also includes investigating the provision of a route from the east of the city between Batheaston & the city centre.

SC: What about security and lighting?

SD: this is in the design brief to be investigated.

AR-will it be designed to LTN 01/20. SD: This will be reviewed. A wide segregated path would require land acquisition and may have ecological impacts.

AR: what about links routes between Bath and Radstock. JW: These interurban routes are recognised as a problem and are being considered as part of a larger master plan but it is at its very early stages.

Covid 19 and the Council (David Trethewey and Chris Major)

David Trethewey, Director - Partnership & Corporate Services is responsible for work on Covid 19 recovery, climate emergency, the Local Communities Hub. Need to consider how we respond to change shape places. This is an opportunity to think differently.

Chris Major, Assistant Director, Highways & Transport responsible for the highway network, passenger transport, clean air zone.

CM noted that some traffic statistics in relation to the impact of Covid-19:

- Traffic levels down by 90% during lockdown
- Air quality now back to pre-covid levels
- Public transport now 47% occupancy

- Park & Ride 25% of previous volumes
- Parking in B&NES the same as pre lockdown. Less use of short stay & people are staying longer.

Wiltshire Whippet – This is a study consultants are working on.

FT asked if the east P&R definitely not going ahead. JW confirmed that it is not.

BJ asked if the east of Bath study would include London Road/Cleveland Place. JW-this project very broad at this stage and looking at cycling corridors.

AR said developers not being consulted and need a cycle/pedestrian network. CM said that the Council are working on a masterplan. DT said the Council are looking into how comments on planning applications can be improved.

Feedback on social distancing measures via Sustrans (Justin Reeve)

Sustrans were gathering feedback on temporary walking/cycling measures through the Space to Move consultation. BANES schemes were promoted online and through QR codes on site.

713 responses had been received at time of meeting. 354 were positive, 318 negative, 30 neutral.

66% of all responses were either 'very happy' or 'very unhappy', demonstrating that opinions were highly polarised.

Most positive reception was for Manvers St; Milsom St; Cheap St; Kingsmead Sq; Moorland Road; Upper Borough Walls; Westgate Street and York Street.

Most negative reception: St Saviour's Road; Monmouth St

Neutral reception: Queen Sq; North Parade; Keynsham High Street

DfT Tranche 2 schemes for cycling and walking (Paul Garrod)

Tranche 1 was for quick measures (budget £400-500k) and included footway widening, road closures, push buttons on signalised pedestrian/cycle crossings automated.

Tranche 2 schemes need to be permanent and the works orders placed by end of March 2020. The aim is provide alternative sustainable travel to public transport. The Council expect to hear about the funding in October 2020. The schemes likely to score highest are Upper Bristol Road cycle lanes and a route up North Road to Bath University main site.

FT asked why the proposed Upper Bristol Road scheme did not go as far as Windsor Bridge. PG-this would require changes to the signals on Windsor Bridge and have to be realistic about timescales.

BJ asked about London Road. PG-again it would not be feasible to deliver something within the timescales as wider changes would be required to the network.

Electric scooter trial/plans (Jess Fox-Taylor))

West of England Combined Authority (WECA) have been awarded £24 mil from the DfT for a future transport zone. Electric scooters are part of this and has been bought forward as a result of Covid 19. Legislative changes have been required for this. Electric scooter classified as motorbikes. Users must have a driving licence and insurance.

Purpose of this trial:

- Provide an alternative sustainable transport mode in Covid 19 recovery
- Improve connectivity
- Change modal shift
- Provide more options for people without cars

WECA are leading on this. It is a 12-month trial.

Monitoring - will be consulting on this throughout the trial e.g. equality groups and police. Feedback to DfT on lessons learned.

Procurement is being carried out by WECA. Looking for 2 operators: free floating and personal lease option i.e. borrow a scooter. Close to appointment and hope to launch at end of September.

Still clarification required on where these scooters can be used.

Would like to have clusters of scooters in Bath city centre, RUH, Bath Universities and P&R sites.

AR- the Dutch have gone for the type with a bigger wheel. JFT-none of the operators offered this.

FT asked about proposed Brompton hire proposal. This is going ahead for Bath Spa Uni and Bath University. The hire model will be for whole day. Add this to a future agenda.

Liveable Neighbourhood Strategy (Chris Major)

CM gave an overview. This includes Low traffic neighbourhoods, and EV charging.

Currently consulting on the strategy but need to know the views of the silent majority. Need to talk about space, social interaction and ownership by communities.

340 responses in the first few days. There is agreement on reducing dominance of vehicles in residential areas. Need to get feedback from blue badge holders and people with hidden disabilities. Comments on cycling have been positive and negative. Mixed views on community involvement.

Commonplace-this is a map-based consultation. Going forward can get feedback before designing.

An officer will be appointed to lead on this project.

Railway Cycling/Walking Hubs (JW)

Cycle storage at railway stations. Working with GWR but complicated in providing a hub as GWR own the land.

We need to know what you would like.

AOB

School Streets-have asked WECA for funding. Currently B&NES do not have the funding or capacity to deliver these.

Next meeting

Nov 2020

