

## MEETING NOTE

### Reading Cycle Forum

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 18:30 (Council Chamber)**

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| Attendance: | Cllr Paul Gittings (Chair) RBC<br>Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward RBC<br>Cllr Will Cross RBC<br>Cllr John Ennis RBC<br>John Lee<br>Brian Morley | Brian Oatway<br>Kathleen Heath<br>Jeroen Wouters<br>Mark Lyford<br>James Turner | RBC |
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| Apologies: | Cllr James Moore RBC<br>Karen Robertson | Joe Edwards |
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| No: | Item: | Action: |
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| 1. | <p><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b></p> <p>Cllr Gittings opened the meeting and apologies were recorded. Rather than official minutes it was agreed a set of actions for each discussion topic would be documented and shared. These will be reported back at the next forum.</p> |  |
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| 2. | <p><b>Officers Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading Transport Strategy 2040</b><br/>                     Consultation analysis being undertaken and will be reported back at future forum.</li> <li>• <b>ATF 2 Shinfield Road</b><br/>                     Concerns were raised over the right turn in to the University of Reading (Queens Drive) from Shinfield Road. Transport Officers to review this turn and look at proposals to improve the safety of this manoeuvre.<br/><br/>                     Following a meeting with RCC the signage plan for the Shinfield Road scheme was reviewed. Updated signage plan to be prepared and shared with RCC.<br/><br/>                     Signage and lining to be implemented prior to visit from Active Travel England.</li> <li>• <b>ATF 3 Bath Road / Castle Hill</b><br/>                     Meeting to be arranged with RCC to review the detailed design plans for Bath Road / Castle Hill scheme.</li> <li>• <b>ATF 4 Upper Redlands Road</b><br/>                     To be delivered Summer 2024</li> <li>• <b>Capability and Ambition Programme 2023</b><br/>                     The capability and ambition funded programme of events include the following initiatives (not exhaustive list):                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of free adult cycle training and cycle maintenance workshops.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>RBC Transport</p> <p>RBC Transport</p> <p>RBC Transport / RCC</p> |
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|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women only cycle training sessions<br/><i>JT to confirm with Avanti eligibility for these sessions.</i></li> <li>• Dr Bike Pop-up town centre maintenance sessions</li> <li>• Active Travel Officer Post continues to at least June 24</li> <li>• Support for Reading Cycle Festival</li> <li>• Led Walks and Cycles</li> </ul> <p>JT explained that this funding covered a behavioural change programme and as it is now in its 3rd year Transport Officers are discussing with partners and stake-holders other events and initiatives that could be delivered to keep the programme fresh and relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading Station Underpass</b><br/>A programme for the refurbishment of the underpass is expected end of next week and will be shared with the forum. It is expected to take approx. 13-15 weeks. Agreed for Transport Officers and RCC to review cycle links including signing and lining on both sides of the underpass.</li> <li>• <b>Town Centre Signing Update</b><br/>Review of cycling signage and routes in the town centre will be undertaken alongside underpass works noted above.</li> </ul> | <p>RBC Transport/Avanti</p> <p>RBC Transport / RCC</p> |
| <p><b>3.</b></p> | <p><b>Requested Agenda Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RCC Detailed Design ‘Wants list’</b><br/>The RCC have prepared a Detail Design ‘Wants list’ for consideration on scheme design and interventions and this has been sent to the Strategic Transport team. JT to share this will colleagues in Network Mgt, Highways and other relevant departments for comment before formally replying.</li> <li>• <b>Chestnut Walk</b><br/>Transport officers to arrange meeting to review issue as highlighted by KH (no obvious route to exit for bicycles).</li> <li>• <b>River Academy Cycle and Walking Routes &amp; Travel Planning</b><br/>Discussion over the new River Academy secondary school on Richfield Avenue and travel and transport ensued. ML has already held meeting with the new head teacher and will be doing some work including transition work with Year 6 children this summer prior to opening. JT ran through the infrastructure improvements that will be delivered as part of the planning conditions.</li> </ul>   | <p>RBC Transport</p> <p>RBC Transport</p>              |

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|                  | <p>The narrowness of the path and vegetation growth was queried on the access paths including at the roundabout. RBC to look into the highway boundary and also discuss maintenance with parks. A site visit will be undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lower Henley Road cycle lane and ASL</b><br/>Update on cycle lane lining and advanced stop line installation to be provide. Programme slightly delayed due to requirement for a specialist contractor.</li> <li>• <b>Bus lane proposals - consultation involvement and consideration for cycling</b><br/>Comments were received from RCC on Reading BSIP bus lanes proposals and these were passed to the design consultants with a request that these were incorporated where possible. However, it was agreed that a meeting would be beneficial with RCC and Reading’s BSIP team to discuss the BSIP bus lanes and integration with cycle schemes.<br/><br/>It was commented that two buses can not pass each other on the Oxford Road on the bridge over the IDR and an easy solution to improving the flow of buses would be to remove some of the on-street parking here.</li> </ul> | <p><b>RBC Transport</b></p> <p><b>RBC Network Mgt</b></p> <p><b>RBC Transport/RCC</b></p> |
| <p><b>4.</b></p> | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>ML informed that Sustrans <b>Big Walk and Wheel</b> is taking place 11-22 March 2024 and many schools across Reading will take part. All are encouraged to make active travel journeys to and from school particularly during this period if possible.</p> <p>The Cycle Forum - Long-list of measures was requested to be recirculated.</p>   | <p><b>All to promote</b></p> <p><b>RBC Transport / Network Mgt</b></p>                    |
| <p><b>5.</b></p> | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the CAST (Cleaner Air and Safer Transport) forum is scheduled for <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024</b> and all on this forum are invited.</p> <p>A further Cycle Forum will be arranged for later this year.</p>   | <p><b>All to note</b></p>   |