

Committee Minutes

Cycle Forum

Edinburgh, 23 February 2010 at 2:00pm

Present:-	Councillor Gordon Mackenzie Phil Noble Chris Brace Kevin Murphy Brian Sherry Alasdair Marshall George di Ponio Peter Hawkins Dave du Feu Sandy Scotland	Convener of Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee, City of Edinburgh Council (Chair) City Development, City of Edinburgh Council City Development, City of Edinburgh Council City Development, City of Edinburgh Council Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council Cycling Scotland CTC Scotland CTC Scotland / SPOKES SPOKES SPOKES
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Apologies:-	Chris Hill Emma Crowther Katharine Taylor Gavin Murray	ChangingPace University of Edinburgh Sustrans tie Limited
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1 Minute

The minute of the Cycle Forum meeting on 10 November 2009 was approved as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising from Minute

2.1 Road Safety Plan (item 2)

Concerns were raised that the draft Road Safety Plan sent to members referred to a target of cutting casualty numbers by 50%, rather than a casualty rate. It was acknowledged that this had been a factual error, and would be amended.

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Members also expressed concern that there was not enough emphasis placed on the responsibility of motoring organisations to make roads safer for cyclists.

Decision

Phil Noble to pass members' concerns to Road Safety.

2.2 Presentation on "Place Making and Movement" / Streetscape (Item 4.1)

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie advised that he would be attending a meeting on 23 March 2010 to discuss the future of the Streetscape Board, and that he would report back to the forum on these discussions.

Decision

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to report back to the forum following discussions on the future of the Streetscape Board.

2.3 Planning Issues (Item 6)

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie provided an update on public consultations regarding the future of Princes Street. There were five options being considered at present and it was hoped that this would be narrowed down to two options before being made public.

Chris Brace confirmed that he had spoken with the Flood Prevention Team regarding work being undertaken on the Braid Burn, and advised that the path would be re-opened within the next few weeks.

Decision

To note the position.

2.4 tie Ltd (Item 7)

Chris Brace advised that he had raised the issue of access for cyclists at Russell Road, requesting that the underpass be kept open, but had been unable to confirm any details of what closures might entail nor any timescales.

Decision

To note the position.

2.5 Maintenance of Cycling Facilities (Item 8)

Chris Brace confirmed that the 20 mph roundels had been replaced following the resurfacing of the road outside Sciennes Primary School.

Decision

To note the position.

2.6 Budgets/Programme (Item 10)

Chris Brace advised that a signalised crossing between Inch Park and Craigmillar Country Park was unlikely, and that alternatives were being considered.

Decision

To note the position.

2.7 Cycle Training (Item 12)

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie had spoken to Councillor MacLaren regarding members' concerns that there should be more cycle training in schools, and had been advised that it was for each individual school to decide how much time should be spent on cycle training.

Members discussed the best way to approach schools regarding cycle training, from contacting Parent Councils to appointing voluntary 'Cycling Champions' in school staff.

Decision

To note the position, and to look at ways in which schools could be encouraged to give more priority to cycle training.

3 Chair

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie left the meeting, and Phil Noble took the Chair.

4 Cycle Action Plan

Phil Noble advised that the Cycle Action Plan had now been subsumed into the Active Travel Plan, which sought to look into cycling and walking, and it was hoped that it would contain a record of all cycling facilities in the city.

A draft Active Travel Plan would be discussed at the SPOKES public meeting on 23 March 2010, with a further draft being made public in May, and it was

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anticipated that the final Plan would be presented to the Council's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in July.

Decision

To note the position.

5 Planning Issues

The Planning Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2009 had approved the preparation of Area Development Frameworks for Waterfront/Leith and South Central Edinburgh. Cycling facilities would be addressed as part of this preparation. The Frameworks were currently targeted for completion by September 2010.

Members discussed the planning consultation process, with specific reference made to the role of organisations such as SPOKES in feeding into developers' proposals. Kevin Murphy explained that developers were provided with contact details for relevant bodies (including SPOKES) before submitting their application, but that it was for the developer to decide how much consultation should take place.

Other planning issues raised by members were the possibility of improving cycleways around the New Royal Infirmary as part of improvements to the car park associated with the proposed Royal Hospital for Sick Children, as well as concerns about accessibility at the planned Gogar Station underpass.

Decision

- 1) Kevin Murphy to clarify the role of Planning's consultation database, and to advise on the best way for interest groups to ensure that they are consulted by developers.
- 2) Chris Brace to look into the possibility of improvements being made to cycleways around the New Royal Infirmary as part of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children expansion.

6 tie Limited

Sandy Scotland advised that SPOKES were currently in contact with tie Ltd regarding the ongoing Traffic Regulation Order Public Consultation process, and would be commenting in due course.

7 Maintenance of Cycling Facilities

6.1 Allocation of Maintenance Budget

Members discussed the possibility of reviewing how the maintenance budget was allocated, with Alasdair Marshall (Cycling Scotland) suggesting that the City of Edinburgh Council follow the example of East Ayrshire Council in using additional resources in the form of Community Service volunteers.

Concerns were raised about the use of steel plates to cover holes caused by road maintenance works due to the potential danger they presented for cyclists. It was agreed that it was important to report any particularly dangerous examples to CLARENCE.

Finally, members expressed concern that cycling facilities throughout the city had been left untreated following the recent severe winter weather, and that more priority should have been given to their maintenance.

Decision

- 1) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to comment on the maintenance of cycle facilities
- 2) Chris Brace to look into the issue of steel plates being used to cover holes caused by road maintenance works.
- 3) To incorporate winter maintenance of cycling facilities into the Active Travel Plan, and to ask Services for Communities to look at cycling facilities as part of their wider winter maintenance review.

7 Cycle Promotion and Marketing

Alasdair Marshall (Cycling Scotland) gave a summary of forthcoming schemes and events, including the Cycle to School campaign, Pedal for Scotland and Bike Week 2010.

Decision

To note the position.

8 Budgets / Programme

Phil Noble suggested that the budget for the forthcoming financial year was likely to be consistent with the present year, but advised that he would confirm this in due course.

Details were provided of ongoing development projects and related road closures (Appendix 1).

Updates were also provided on proposals for development at North Meadow Walk, and a cycle route between Sandport Place and Portobello.

Decision

Phil Noble to confirm figures for the Council's budget for cycling for the forthcoming financial year.

9 National Cycle Network

Design work was ongoing on the proposed link between Seafield and Leith.

Decision

To note the position.

10 Cycle Training

Members discussed difficulties in raising the profile of cycling in schools, and the fact that the Active Schools team had no national target for cycle training due to a commitment to other sports and leisure activities. Phil Noble confirmed that the Council would be producing a document for school councils setting out the benefits of cycle training and outlining the resources that were available to support this. The aim was to produce this document in the second half of this year.

Decision

City Development Transport to produce guidance for schools on cycle training.

11 Any Other Business

A number of other issues were discussed, including:

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- The potential for Neighbourhood Partnerships spending their budget on cycle projects.
- The Traffic Regulation order currently advertised that converts large amounts of single-yellow line in the city centre to spaces for car parking.
- The lack of a 'Feeling safe when cycling on roads' from the Transport 2030 Vision indicators.

Decision

- 1) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to comment on the use of Neighbourhood Partnership budgets for cycling projects.
- 2) To advise that it would be difficult to include 'Feeling safe when cycling on roads' as an indicator in Transport 2030 Vision Outcome 6 because of the lack of measurable data.
- 3) Phil Noble to look into the possibility of obtaining data on 'Feeling safe when cycling on roads'.

12 Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.