Derbyshire County Council - Cycle Liaison Group Meeting

2pm to 4pm – 5th November 2019, Committee Room 1

County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire

Attendees

A Meikle, L Hopkinson, J White, P J Smith, M Connley, M Smith, A Chapman,   
E James, T Williams, J Dean, P White, D Sharpe, G Chapman, J Lowe, S Crapper, C Allen, G Millward, A Marsden, B Gould, A Leather, E Shepherd (minute taker), R Lovell

1. Apologies

D Clasby, D Gray

GM welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Notes from Previous Meeting

AC in reply to AMe mentioned that the footway alongside Erin Road may not be wide enough for a shared path. The Traffic Regulation Order at Unstone would be referred to in the Greenways Update. There was no further update on cyclists coming to grief on bumpy roads. GM reported that a replacement bridge had been provided on the High Peak Trail after the lorry strike at Longcliffe. AMe raised concern that there was no agenda item regarding HS2 as requested at previous meetings. GM/AC offered to deal with this under AOB (NB as we ran out of time to deal with this item, it will need to be added to the agenda for the next meeting). A Development Control officer was invited to the meeting but was unfortunately unable to attend on this occasion.

3. Update on Greenways – AC to email report to all

AC gave a soundbite on the report. She told the meeting that Countryside is currently in the middle of a review with the aim of making the Service more efficient. Rights of Way is moving back to Highways. The Access and Greenways team is going to the Sustainable Travel Team where their projects will continue to be taken forward. See attached Greenways Report for information.

White Peak Loop

AC said they were still playing catch up as they have no replacement project officer to work on this. They have secured LTP funding to upgrade the bridleway between Rowsley and Bakewell and are now working on designs to improve the drainage and surface. JL enquired if we had funding for the Haddon Estate section and was told that there was some design money available.

Hipper Valley (Phase 3) – Somersall Park to Holymoorside

A Project Team meeting is held every 3 weeks regarding the above and there is one due next week. The final creation agreements have been prepared and offer letters will be sent out soon. We need land owners to agree to the scheme and there is a lot involved in this.

Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat and the Archaeological Way

We are trying to create well connected routes for tourism, bikes and walking. A grant bid has been submitted and we just have to wait for the outcome expected in December. LTP funding has been secured to upgrade part of the Skegby Trail in Derbyshire.

Clowne Branch Line

This is moving towards completion. The trail goes over the top of 3 bridges which are being worked on. The trail will open when the bridge work is complete. There is still a lot of habitat work to be done but it is hoped to be open by April or May 2020. Much appreciation was shown for the work that has been carried out so far.

Derwent Valley Greenway

PW told the meeting there is Highways England money available for the section between Derby and Little Eaton which goes under the proposed A38 flyover, plus a Toucan crossing for the eastward link from NCN54 towards the Great Northern Greenway near Breadsall. These schemes are being prepared by Highways England. It was mentioned that DCC does not currently have any resources allocated for this project so the Highways England funding needs to cover the costs of any input required from the County Council. It was also necessary to make sure that arrangements are in place to deal with these new assets in the future. If the council adopts them they will need to be able to pay for their future maintenance.

Pennine Bridleway

There are gaps in the Glossop section of the above. DCC is in discussions with Natural England to try and move things forward and secure funding for the preparatory work and construction of the remaining sections.

D2N2 Sustainable Travel Programme

Dronfield/Unstone cycle route – a decision on the Traffic Regulation Orders is expected this month.

Ilkeston Gateway

This is now complete with £1.7 million having been spent on a package of route improvements over the past several years. PW enquired as to how far the route would go and asked if it would reach Bennerley viaduct. Sustrans is going to make it a walking route in the future. He also said that he is pushing the heritage aspect of this site. Someone else asked if the route could be extended at the top of the hill to go into the housing estate and take people away from the main road. BG said at the moment there is no money available for this. AM mentioned that the Ilkeston Gateway proposals are compatible with any future plans for a route over Bennerley viaduct.

A61 Growth Corridor

The River Washlands scheme is hoped to be completed by November 2019. Work on the shared use path scheme from Whittington Moor to Sheepbridge is due to start on site in November and designs for the Whittington Moor roundabout are almost complete. Regarding the Wayfinding project for Chesterfield, AM went in September for grant funding which is now in place so DCC officers can take the next steps. We need to produce a plan of all works, with Construction scheduled to begin in July 2020.

Avenue Site

The Land Trust has taken this site over. There are some defects in the trail surface condition that need sorting out. MC said much of this work has now been done and AMe offered to go and check out the routes. He also raised the issue of too many restrictive barriers. Discussions are planned to take place with Network Rail regarding several of the connecting links.

Development Site Gain

Regarding Development Site Gain we are trying to secure provision for walking and cycling on proposed development sites. Legal agreements have also been put in place for section 106 monies from the developer to help pay for onward connections etc.

JL mentioned the Buxton development roundabout being implemented by High Peak Borough Council. He asked if the section 106 was available to High Peak Borough Council and, if so, could we take the opportunity to improve cycling in Buxton using this money. It was said that we scrutinise planning applications as they come in and we always try to get provision for cycling and walking routes wherever possible. SC told the meeting that there will soon be an App available called ‘Street Focus’ and this can be used for helping to suggest cycle routes when looking at new developments.

4. Derbyshire’s Key Cycle Network (KCN)

RL told the meeting that a report will go to Cabinet in December and this will be on the website a week before. AM said the KCN work has taken account of a large amount of data and the assessment of 127 individual links to help identify which should be the top priorities for investment. It is a strategic high level sift and there will still be a lot more detail to work on after this. RL added that a huge amount of work had gone into compiling the report which supports the Derbyshire Cycling Plan. It was pointed out that this is Derbyshire’s Key Cycle Network, not just the County Council’s and many different organisations will have a role to play in its delivery, including District/Borough Councils.

5. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

GM and EJ have attended meetings for the LCWIP being prepared for the D2N2 area and told the meeting that this was now being written up so a draft can be sent to DfT before the end of November. The KCN would be used as the basis for supporting the work of the consultant producing the LCWIP for the Derbyshire area.

6. Healthy Pupils Capital Fund

RL told the meeting that £377,000 was available from Department of Education to promote cycle parking for children in the form of bike stands. He said that lots of people will be going for this money and there’s not much to go around but still we need to look into it. It was also mentioned that safe access to schools is important as well as the provision for cycle parking.

7. Round Table Discussion

* SC said the ecological study for Barlborough Link is now complete.
* AMe said he had reported the surface of the Hipper Valley Trail, all the way through, to Highways Maintenance but nothing has been done. AC recommended he report it again this time to the Highways Hub as it was not an issue she could deal with.
* AM said there are lots of cars parked near to the trail around the junction of Factory Street/Goyt Side making the road unsafe to cycle on. BG said this needs a bit of thought and will investigate what can be done to improve the situation.
* AMe also said that the link to Chesterfield station is badly overgrown with brambles at head height and asked who had taken over the adoption of it. BG said RL would need to raise this with Joe Battye.
* RL Waterside – progress regarding the bridge to link with the Trans Pennine Trail. Several different options have been presented and there will be another meeting after Christmas.
* AMe requested that we put a contraflow cycle lane outside the Premier Inn at Chesterfield on Elder Way. BG said they are trying to create a Café Culture here.
* LH asked what DCC is doing to promote electric bikes. She also asked what DCC is doing to reduce the amount of traffic on the streets around schools and could this be referred to at a future meeting.
* MC said the cycle lane near Brassington Lane at Clay Cross needs widening.
* JL referred to the Buxton Town Travel Plan project and the development of a local cycle network in and around the town. He specifically referred to Nestle Water’s planning application and potential alignment with pipeline proposals and possible cycle route and asked if DCC could use their influence regarding this. RL also suggested picking this up through existing channels ie Buxton Town Team.
* DS referred to DCC’s position on the ‘possible’ rail implications surrounding the Monsal Trail. DCC confirmed it has not been officially approached with any proposals and was therefore unable to comment on any proposals emanating predominantly from external sources.
* PW Asked for consideration to be given for the delivery of small, bite-sized chunks of the proposed Derwent Valley Cycleway, as many of these could potentially provide big benefits. He also asked regarding branding and signage. PW also raised Bennerley Viaduct and RL relayed comments sent in from Dave Clasby, Sustrans, confirming planning permission granted however, following receipt of tenders, there will be a need for re-profiling/finding increased funding. RL reiterated DC’s comments that the viaduct is an internationally recognised monument in need of support. PS referred to work he is currently involved with regarding the East Midlands Manufacturing Zone – Mobility Strategy.
* AL referred to proposals the Canal & River Trust are currently working on re the Willington and Shardlow sections of the Trent and Mersey Canal Corridor and would keep the group informed of progress.
* AM alerted the group to the recently announced Towns Fund totalling £25m. Staveley, Long Eaton and Clay Cross to all benefit from this fund.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.