

# CYCLE FORUM

## MINUTE

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2003, Committee Room 5, Town House.

### Present:

Jeremy Rushton, Friends of the Earth (Chair)  
Dave Lindsey, CTC, Right to Ride Officer  
Derek Williams, CTC  
Saville Gunn, Aberdeen Wheelers  
Maureen Young, CTC  
Louise Napier, Aberdeen City Council  
Sheila Rusbridge, CTC  
Peter Mayo, Ecurie Neep and BP  
Helen Keron, BP  
Jackie Wilkins, CTC  
Helen Adamson, Shell

### Apologies:

Sonia Element, BP  
Warren Murphy, Aberdeen City Council

Item	Action By
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>JR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Sonia Element and Warren Murphy.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minute of last meeting (04/11/03)</b></p> <p>The minute was agreed.</p> <p>JR updated the Group about the set up of Spokes. Three or four people spend about half a day to a day a week each volunteering for Spokes. They have low bureaucracy and are a campaigning group which have the most success responding to planning suggestions.</p> <p>DW also informed the Group that a meeting has been arranged with Roads for Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December and that JR, DL and himself would be present at that meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3. Cycle Forum aims</b></p> <p>DW put forward several aims for the Forum to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <i>To promote cycling as part of a sustainable transport strategy for Aberdeen and to ensure that the Council and other relevant agencies do the same.</i></li><li>ii. <i>To campaign for improved cycle facilities and a safer cycling environment in Aberdeen.</i></li><li>iii. <i>To promote the benefits of cycling as an enjoyable, healthy, cheap, efficient and non-polluting way of getting around the City.</i></li></ol> <p>There was a general feeling that the word 'ensure' in the first aim was too strong and the Group agreed that it should be changed to <i>encourage</i>. The aim now reads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <i>To promote cycling as part of a sustainable transport strategy for Aberdeen and to encourage the Council and other relevant agencies to do the same.</i></li></ol> <p>The Group agreed the aims as the formal aims of the Forum. It was thought the aims could be updated if anyone wished to add to them.</p>	
<p><b>4. Cycle map working group update</b></p>	

<p>JW spoke about the two cycle map meetings that had taken place. There are still areas where cycling routes are missing, specifically Middlefield and Mastrick. She added that the map group thought the map should be launched in June 2004 for Bike Week. January would be set aside for checking the routes and road testing would begin in February. Volunteers had put themselves forward for the road testing – but the more that helped the better.</p> <p>LN gave details as to the cost of the OS base map which might be done by Lovell Johns Ltd. The estimated price at this point in time for the production of an A1 size map is just under £2,500 (includes VAT). The cost of printing is also estimated at this point in time to be £1,500 for 2000 maps, and then £150 for every 500 copies after that. It was suggested to LN by the Technical team in City Development that 5,000 copies should be produced. This will cost another £1,000 for 3,000 copies. The total cost for 5,000 copies of the map is therefore estimated at £5,000.</p> <p>JR asked about colours on the map and thought that since 1 in 9 men are colour blind that the map would have to use patterns instead of colours. LN to ask Technical department, as well as the Disability Access Officer, what is normally done in this kind of situation.</p> <p>The Group also discussed sponsorship. JR commented that having a cycle map sponsored by only oil companies might be imprudent. LN mentioned that David Tulett had spoken to the Marine Lab and they might be willing to put forward some sponsorship money – in the region of £500 – for credit and their logo on the map. Questions of how much sponsorship could come from different sources were discussed and it was thought that ten sponsors for £500 would have to be found, as it would be discriminatory to ask some sponsors for more money than others. HA and HK to approach Shell and BP to see if any sponsorship might be forthcoming. HK also raised the issue that if the Forum were to sell the maps then bank accounts, etc. would have to be set up.</p> <p>The Group agreed that there were too many issues regarding the maps that would need to be discussed and it was decided to leave the decision of sponsorship until after Christmas. LN advised that the Council would provide a ‘bridging loan’ for the production of the base map until the question of sponsorship was decided.</p>	<p>LN</p> <p>HA, HK</p>
<p><b>5. NESTRANS</b></p> <p>DW spoke of the NESTRANS Consultation Panel both he and DL attended the week before to represent cyclists’ interests on behalf of the Cycle Forum and CTC. NESTRANS is the North East of Scotland Transport Partnership and consists of Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen &amp; Grampian Chamber of Commerce and Scottish Enterprise Grampian. At the Consultation meeting they were informed that a windfall £1.3 million had to be spent on transport in the North East before March, 2004. LN had advised that approximately £100,000 had been set aside (indicative only) for cycling in the North East – which will mean nearly £50,000 for the City. It has been suggested that the Cycle Forum could help identify projects where this money could be spent. These have to be ‘quick-win’ projects where no traffic orders are needed as these take months to get permission for and the projects have to be invoiced by the end of March. LN informed the Forum that to get permission any projects would have to go through Environment &amp; Infrastructure Committee that is meeting in January. Therefore, the Forum has to make suggestions as to how this money is spent as soon as possible. The Group was concerned that they did not know what would or would not require a traffic order as well as the cost of various projects. LN to ask Roads and to email a list of possibilities with prices to the Forum. Any responses are to be emailed to LN by Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. LN to co-ordinate suggestions and JR, HA, HK and DL to prioritise suggestions for Roads. This group will meet the second week of December.</p>	<p>LN</p> <p>JR, HA, HK, DL</p>
<p><b>6. Western Peripheral Route (WPR)</b></p> <p>LN advised the Group that the WPR would be a ‘special’ road and cyclists, among others, would not be allowed to use the Route (similar to the Edinburgh Bypass). This is for safety reasons as the Route will be of a high quality to dual-carriageway standard with grade separated junctions. This means there will be no junctions on the road, only slip lanes for vehicles to leave/ join the rest of the traffic. The engineers that are designing the Route informed LN that there would be a reduction of traffic on surrounding roads which cyclists would then find preferable to use. LN also believed that it was entirely within the Cycle Forum’s remit to object to the classification of the Route to being ‘special’ but thought that the decision would stand for safety reasons alone.</p>	

<p>The Council is appointing a Transport Consultant to ‘consult’ with various groups as to the design of the Route and LN believed the Cycle Forum should concentrate on where potential ‘crossings’ over the WPR could be made. Although the Forum has not been formally asked for a response, LN was aware that the Consultants would need to have a response to any consultation by Spring.</p> <p>The Group looked at a map of the WPR and made suggestions as to possible under/ over passes. LN to compile list and email to Forum. Suggestions could be made at any stage and the list would have to be prioritised but this could be done after Christmas at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p><i>List attached to end of minute.</i></p>	LN
<p><b>7. Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be a map meeting at 7.30pm, Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January in the Town House. The main Forum meeting will be at 7.30pm Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January in the Town House.</p>	

## **List of potential underpasses/ overpasses of Western Peripheral Route**

Causeymouth Road (North – South)

East/west connection avoiding South Deeside Road (past Jameston)

Deeside Railway Line – any bridge should have provision for cyclists

North Deeside Road – but route for cyclists that avoids a roundabout

Countesswells Road

Cycle path to Westhill (A944) must be kept – again provision that does not require cyclists to use a roundabout.

Crossroads at Newhills – south of Scottish Agricultural College.

Kingswells road must be maintained – as a great number of cyclists use this route to go to Dyce from the South.

Stone circle?!

Route north of Overton/ Pitmedden

Cycling provision over Don?

Old Meldrum Road

Route 1 NCN – Formartine and Buchan Way.

Sheilhill to Newton of Sheilhill

B999 Aberdeen to Potterton.

All established cycle routes must be maintained – North Deeside Road, Westhill, Deeside Line, Formartine and Buchan Way (NCN Route 1)

Cycling provision on all roads being ‘underpassed’/ ‘overpassed’.

For new road crossings preference would be for bridges rather than underpasses.