

Luton and Dunstable Cycling Forum
Meeting held 11th November 2015, Travel Choices Hub, Dunstable

Attendance

Robin Cowan (Chair), Adam Bell, John Pratt, Ben Garner, Bob Deeley, Steve Lakin

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Woodruff, Trevor Brennan, Peter Devine and Alister Barclay

2) Minutes of last meeting and points arising

Robin went through the minutes of the last meeting which were agreed subject to some minor corrections from Trevor Brennan. Robin advised that Trevor was leaving the Council on 27th November and so would do a letter of thanks. It was confirmed that the overgrowing vegetation on the Upper Lea Valley Way had all been cleared away. In respect of the Busway, Adam confirmed that the section from Blackburn Road to College Drive was now closed off and Bob also mentioned the replacement barriers now in place, which it was agreed were better than the A-frames. It was also noted that on the newly re-surfaced Park Street, some bike lane marking had now been put in.

3) Charity Bike Ride

For next year's event, Adam confirmed that if we still wanted to be covered by Sustrans' insurance, then they would still need to be one of the charities as a potential beneficiary, although as an alternative the Forum could become a CTC affiliated club and be covered by their insurance. Robin suggested we nominate Sustrans and 1 other charity, but it was agreed to discuss at the next meeting. For the start point, Ben suggested Kensworth Village Hall which he could obtain for £10/hour and we should also be able to use the adjacent playing field for car parking. Robin mentioned that for the Five Bells Sportive they had numbers put on bikes which made it clear who was actually on the ride. Robin confirmed he had been to the Luton Funding Fair and advised there could be scope for funding from the airport and also Luton Area Partnership which is why the Ride Registers now show postcodes to show Luton residents are participating. Ben queried if funds would be for the ride or the Forum generally and Robin confirmed it was to cover the costs for first aid cover/ bike mechanic and food for the ride. Robin also confirmed that the Signpost organisation may be able to provide 10-20 volunteers as he hoped that for next year we would get 150 riders.

4) Led rides & other issues

Adam confirmed that the Forum had now run 52 rides and would have rides over Christmas. Robin also mentioned that the Forum had helped act as Bike Marshalls for the Love Luton Half marathon which had been appreciated by the organisers, and he had also stepped in as a ride leader on the ride to Loos.

5) Busway & Central Beds issues

Having circulated the plan of the resurfacing to be done, it seemed that Section 3 was being done first. Steve confirmed that the sections would be closed for regrading first, to level the surface before tarmac being put down. He advised that next year Station Road to Jeansway might be done subject to funds, but the rest of Section 4 would be unlikely to be resurfaced. Adam mentioned the poor positing of the new barriers which had already been noted and Robin also requested that advance warning be provided of any closures, as apart from the original notices posted on the Busway saying work would commence at the beginning of November there had been no other notification. Steve confirmed that there would also be work done on links such as to Sainsbury's which should be completed by Christmas, with the Jeansway bus stop being done in the New Year. In addition work on the shared use path from Brewers Hill to opposite Capron Road should be done by April. Steve also mentioned the previously reported problems of lorries parking on the path from Dog Kennel Down into Arenson Way and would be looking to put in place some form of parking restrictions. In addition the cycle lane in place along Chalk Hill would also be removed as it was not connecting with anything.

Ben queried what the effect of the Comprehensive Spending Review would be, and Steve advised that at this stage it wasn't clear what the cutbacks would be.

The next meeting was scheduled for 13th January at Kent Athletic Club.