



SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CYCLING STRATEGY – UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN

To – SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Date of meeting – 26TH MAY 2015

**Notes of - PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, ENGINEERING,
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

BRIEFING NOTES RE CYCLING STRATEGY – UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN

BACKGROUND:

- Pendle's 3rd Cycling Strategy was adopted by the Executive in August 2011. The strategy links up to national, regional and local strategies
- Pendle's Cycling Strategy predominantly focuses on cycling infrastructure but also aims to increase levels of cycling through better infrastructure and working alongside cycling clubs and groups
- PBC cycling policy focuses on; on and off road routes to increase cycle journeys to work, school, shopping and short trips; cycling for leisure; making connections to regional routes; planning apps for new developments; cycle parking and the Cycle Forum
- One of the biggest constraints in delivering the Action Plan is lack of funding as there is only £5,000 for maintenance for cycling and so we rely on external funding and planning gains for the larger schemes in the Action Plan.
- Pendle's Cycling Strategy was reviewed by the Scrutiny Management Team in October 2011 and at that meeting it was resolved that "the Cycling Strategy be kept under review and six monthly progress reports be submitted to future meetings of the Scrutiny Management Team."
- In May 2013 it was resolved that progress reports be submitted on an annual basis.

CURRENT POSITION – UPDATE (MAY 2014 – MAY 2015)

- **Cycling Development Pendle Partnership (CDPP):**
 - CDPP was inaugurated initially as part of the bidding process to Inspired Facilities to demonstrate that the Steven Burke Sports Hub cycle circuit was greatly supported by the cycling community.
 - CDPP continues today with the aim of co-ordinating cycling activity across Pendle and assisting PBC with the Cycling Strategy, Leisure Strategy and Public Health Action Plan.
 - CDPP consists of various cycle clubs, cycle training providers, cycle shops and event organisers.
 - CDPP signed a Community Agreement with Inspired Facilities and a User Agreement with British Cycling (both funders of the Steven Buke Sports Hub cycle circuit) together with Pendle Council to jointly manage the circuit.
 - The agreement is that Pendle Council's Park's Department manage the maintenance and booking of the circuit (for non-cycling activity) and CDPP assist with the development of the circuit by marketing and encouraging events amongst other cycle groups and providers to encourage more people to use the circuit as well as bookings for cycling activity at the facility.
 - Working with CDPP is crucial for the delivery of the Cycling Strategy as a means to encourage more people to cycle.
- **Steven Burke Sports Hub**
 - The Steven Burke Sports Hub cycle circuit was officially opened on the 28th June 2014 with a day of youth cycle racing by the North West Youth League.
 - Steven Burke opened the circuit.
 - Funding for the circuit was from Inspired Facilities, British Cycling, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Pendle Council and Colne and Nelson Area Committees.
 - One of the actions in Pendle's Cycling Strategy is to encourage more people to cycle. The hub is where people can learn to ride and progress onto longer cycle rides and this will perhaps encourage more people to cycle thereby achieving one of the aims set out in the strategy.
 - There will be races at the Steven Burke Sports Hub during the weekend before the Tour of Britain on the 7th September which will form part of Pendle's Cycle Festival which also includes the Colne Grand Prix, see below.
- **Colne Grand Prix**
 - We are preparing once again for the Colne Grand Prix which will take place on the 15th July this year.
 - It was uncertain whether or not the race would go ahead this year as Cycling Development North West (CDNW), who used to co-ordinate the racers and the races, ceased to exist.
 - However, it was felt that it was an important event, especially as a lead up to the Tour of Britain this year.
 - The event has now been registered.
 - So far sponsorship has been secured from 'Cottages 4 You' and 'Fort Vale'.
 - Cycle Sport Pendle together with British Cycling will take over the running of the races and will sign up the cyclists, which was CDNW's role.
 - Pendle Council officers will manage the rest of the event such as road closures, VIP area, marshals, cycle event, toilets, road sweeping etc. etc.
 - It will form part of the Pendle Cycling Festival leading up to the Tour of Britain.

- Again, this is an important event as far as the strategy is concerned as it keeps people interested in cycling.
- It is particularly important in future years as a legacy of the Tour of Britain and to ensure that Pendle demonstrates that it is an important cycling hub in Lancashire.
- **Tour of Britain – 7th September**
 - The Tour of Britain comes to Pendle and Ribble Valley on the 7th September. It will start in Clitheroe and end in Colne.
 - We are assisting with road closures, safety management and route planning as well as event planning.
 - An Event Group has been set up and amongst other things they have arranged guided rides, races and events for the 5th and 6th September at the Steven Burke Sports Hub and they are working with Promotions on a guide for schools to encourage them to take part and watch the event on the day as well as trying to get them involved before the event.
 - There is the opportunity for some activities within the road closure in Colne, where the race finishes, between 11.30 and 12.30 on the day of the Tour of Britain, 7th September. Possibilities are being explored.
- **Section 106 funding - Booths**
 - A scheme was prepared for Booths Section 106 monies where £30,000 was granted for cycle schemes in Barrowford.
 - The scheme is to convert the existing footpath to a shared use path and create a new section of shared use path on Colne Road leading from the Heritage Centre to the canal.
 - This followed a request made by PLT's 'Out and About Project' at the Cycle Forum as they highlighted that group cycling was made difficult on this dangerous road.
 - It will create a circular route around Barrowford connecting Nelson, Colne, Barnoldswick, Earby to Barrowford and thereby to Booths.
 - There would be two informal road crossings on this route which isn't ideal. However, it will allow cyclists who are not that confident cycling on the road to access a safer route to the canal and creates a pleasant circular off road route and access to the canal towpath for longer distance traffic free routes.
 - It should encourage more people to cycle to the new Booths store particularly as there is a café proposed for the new building.
 - We are currently awaiting approval from LCC Highways and will need to do consultations and a report to Area Committees before putting the scheme out to tender.
- **West Craven Cycle Way**
 - We reported in the past that we were looking for funding for the West Craven Cycle Way which forms part of the Cycling Strategy Action Plan. This is ongoing.
- **Cycle Forum**
 - The Cycle Forum continues to meet 3 times a year.
 - The Forum approves schemes such as the Booths Section 106 scheme mentioned above and the Steven Burke Sports Hub as well as highlighting route repairs or cycle facilities that are needed in the borough.
 - The non-dedicated cycle ways continue to be maintained by the Environmental Action Group (EAG) on a quarterly basis using the Cycle Maintenance budget.
- **Pump Track, Bullholme/Swinden**
 - Following Public Health Action Plan meetings and Up and Active meetings it has been agreed that we will try and secure funding for a pump track and junior training area with additional parking at Swinden and thereby extend the Steven Burke Sports Hub.

- The scheme will upgrade the current BMX circuit with a new pump track.
- Parks Department are leading on this scheme but Pendle Engineers will do the design and contracting work.
- This follows a plea from a local BMX group for better facilities as they currently have to travel long distances for their sport.
- They will be working alongside Cycle Sport Pendle and CDPP as well as Pendle Council
- Again, it is achieving an aim of the strategy by encouraging more types of cycling and will enhance the Steven Burke Sports Hub at Swinden
- **Lancashire Cycle Challenge**
 - Pendle Council will sign up to the Lancashire Cycle Challenge again this year. This is where employees will be encouraged to get on a bike either to work or for leisure and exercise.
 - They will log rides on the Lancashire Cycle Challenge website and there are a lot of prizes to be won.
 - The aim is to compete against other businesses/authorities to encourage more employees to cycle
 - Tricia will send an e-mail to advertise this soon.
- **Lancashire Cycling Website**
 - Meetings of the Lancashire Cycling Steering Group have ceased. Tricia attended these meetings.
 - What came out of the meetings is the 'Cycle Lancashire' brand and website for a one stop shop for cycling in Lancashire which is being managed by Marketing Lancashire
 - The Cycling Lancashire website was launched on Tuesday 17th March. The aim is to attract more people to cycling. There are route searches using an interactive map and groups can add cycling events on to the website themselves.
 - British Cycling and Marketing Lancashire are connected using Cycle Lancashire as a channel. Together with Lancashire Sport Partnership the three organisations are working on this new website to promote Lancashire as a prime location for cycling.
 - They will be in touch and may set up a new system/group to oversee the process. It is encouraging to have British Cycling on board as a means to co-ordinate cycling across the county as they are a national organisation.
 - Keeping in touch and on board with these meetings should help to keep Pendle's Cycling Strategy in touch with other cycling activity both on a regional and national level.

Town Hall,
NELSON,

Report Author: Tricia Wilson (Tel:) (01282) 661051 E-Mail: tricia.wilson@pendle.gov.uk

Background Papers: Pendle's Cycling Strategy 2011 - 2016

Ref:

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