

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

16th March 2023, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Thomas	Cllr Saunders	Adrian Oliver
Cllr Reynolds	Cllr Jackson	Tim Stonor
Cllr Williams		

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Comments:

None.

58. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Hook, Adrian Berendt and Chris Oswald-Jones.

59. Declarations of Interest

None

60. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 19th January 2023.**

61. Active Travel England's Tranche 4

Adrian Oliver updated members on the Kent bid for cross Faversham walking routes. The feedback from KCC was positive but a decision would not be known for at least a further few days.

Tim Stonor expressed concern about the recent works near Stonebridge Pond and the importance of seeing the design of the latest proposals.

62. Update following meeting with KCC on prioritising pedestrians over motor vehicles

Cllr Thomas reported on a recent virtual meeting held with Nicola Floodgate (KCC Road Safety & Active Travel Group Manager) and Jamie Watson (KCC Senior Programme Manager). Issues discussed included the developer funded zebra crossing in Love Lane, the recent works at Stonebridge Pond and the zebra crossing in Forbes Road. Works would be commencing on 3rd April 2023 on Forbes Road to narrow the approach to the zebra crossing in Forbes Road and improve road markings, lighting, and signage.

Cllr Thomas referred to the recent letter from Helen Whately MP regarding the Active Travel funding bid, and expressed his sadness and disappointment that Helen Whately MP's letter hadn't explicitly stated her support for Faversham's Active Travel bid. Cllr Saunders expressed disappointment at the recent funding cut announced for the Active Travel England budget. Tim Stonor referred to the support from Helen Whately regarding a crossing near The Abbey School.

Promotion of Active Travel

63. Cllr Thomas suggested promoting the hierarchy of road users in the exhibition space later in the year. The Town Clerk referred to Road Safety Week in November being a suitable time to do this.

Cllr Williams suggested greater promotion of the walking routes around town, particularly as newer residents may not be aware of them and the health and time saving benefits of walking rather than using a car for a short journey.

Cllr Saunders suggested increased promotion of cycling and working with SBC to promote the car club scheme.

Cllr Thomas asked the Town Clerk to collate these ideas so the Committee could look at them in greater detail following the election period.

ACTION:

Town Clerk to collate the ideas discussed for promoting Active Travel

64. **Cycle Fest 2023**

The Town Clerk advised she was looking at holding the Cycle Fest event in early July with a similar Saturday event on 1st July with further activities during the following week.

ACTION:

Cycle Fest event to be organised for Saturday 1st July 2023 with further promotion of cycling for the following week

65. **Bid for Community Bus Funding**

Following the success of the bid for a community bus scheme, the Town Clerk reported it was likely the KCC funding would come through at the end of March. There would then be a requirement to deliver the scheme within a year. The Town Clerk had written to KCC Councillors Lehmann and Hook, to seek their co-operation in setting up the scheme.

Cllr Thomas referred to the need for a Working Group to be formed to develop the service. The Town Clerk suggested a meeting would be required with Steve Pay of KCC regarding the requirements of the scheme including licences and legal requirements.

The route network would need to be developed but there was interest from local villages who had lost their bus services including Oare, Lynstead, Doddington, Newnham and Hernhill. The Kent Karrier network served the area but only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so it was hoped to plug the gaps in this service.

Cllr Thomas congratulated the Town Clerk for her work on the successful bid to KCC.

ACTIONS:

1) A Working Group to be established to oversee the setting up of the Community Bus Service

2) A meeting to be set up with KCC regarding the requirements of the Service, licences and legal requirements

66.

Items for Report

Cllr Thomas referred to work on Swale JTB to propose parking bays in Forbes Road to help reduce the speed of traffic coming into town. It was hoped this would be implemented later in 2023.

Cllr Williams referred to the issue of the Abbey Street/Court Street/Quay Lane junction, raised by the Abbey Neighbourhood Association. The matter was being referred to the Swale JTB. Tim Stonor referred to the need to prioritise pedestrians. The junction was already a critical junction on the Neighbourhood Plan and part of the LCWIP. Work to improve the junction would benefit the whole town.

Cllr Saunders referred to the Parishes to Town project. A report had been written by Adrian Berendt. The project included a number of good ideas and would be discussed by the LCWIP Working Group and should come to the next meeting of the Active Travel Committee.

Adrian Oliver reported the Kent cycling infrastructure plan was progressing including routes from Faversham to Canterbury and Faversham to Sittingbourne. However, Faversham to Ashford and Faversham to Whitstable were not being looked at. Funding had been secured from Sustrans to redesign barriers on National Cycle Route 1 to make them compliant with the Equality Act 2010. A feasibility study was being developed for a route through to Teynham and a further feasibility study looking at cross town walking routes. Additionally, SBC was working with Age UK to help set up their Cycling Hub.

Finally, a bicycle recycling scheme was being developed with HMP Swaleside and charities were being sought to help distribute bicycles to people who needed them. The inmates would work towards a City & Guilds qualification. The scheme would deliver an average of 20 bicycles per month. The Town Clerk suggested Adrian Oliver attended the Faversham Community Network meetings, which included the local charities.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

