

MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

23rd June 2022, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Thomas
Cllr Williams

Cllr Saunders
Chris Oswald-Jones

Adrian Berendt

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Comments

Mr Chris Oswald-Jones had sent a request to become a member of the Committee, which had been received and would be actioned this evening. He noted he had sent a request for an addition to the previous minutes which would be considered at Item 4 of the Agenda. Mr Oswald-Jones questioned the SBC wayfinding design. Cllr Thomas reported the work was part of the High Street Fund of £800k and Councillors were working to get the best results for Faversham, including additional dropped kerbs, replacing the tarmac with bricks in West Street. He suggested that any questions about how the money was spent needed to be addressed to SBC. Cllr Saunders noted the lack of consultation with FTC how the money was spent, but the lead officer had now left SBC.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs Hook, Jackson and Reynolds

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Election of a Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to elect Cllr Saunders as Vice Chair**

4. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Thomas reported that a grant application was sent to the Road Safety Trust, but Faversham had not received any DfT funding in the last tranche. We are awaiting feedback to help guide the next application of Tranche 4, expected in August/September this year.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that the HIP and interventions had been merged but wasn't sure which officer in KCC were now dealing with them.

Mr Oswald-Jones suggested that ITEM 10 - SPEEDWATCH, were "truncated" and need completing as follows: "we aim to make a restart with

Training Sessions. We have 7 Police Approved Recruits now patiently awaiting their Roadside Practical Training." At the 20'sPlenty meeting - ...it was agreed that LB would construct a Doodle Poll in order to fix a date for an initial Group Briefing for Recruits.

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 20's Plenty Working Group dated 14th April 2022 with the above amendments.**

5. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were noted.

6. Budget Project Proposals

Cllr Saunders spoke to his Report (Appendix A) highlighting where funding was available and recommended three areas of spend - £55k for physical works, £15k design work and £5k promotion.

The feeling was the plan needed to be more ambitious to attract DfT funding.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the provisional budget.**

7. Project Template

Cllr Saunders noted that the 3 projects will be reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on a project template, although the first two will not have officer implications.

8. LCWIP

Cllr Saunders explained that the LCWIP Working Group is now working on the consultation around the LCWIP and suggested it should report to this Committee. It should become a task and finish group to oversee the consultation and revise the LCWIP. The Group is also overseeing the Parish to Town Project, which is on Phase 2. Membership of the working group are Cllrs Saunders, Thomas and Reynolds with strong support from officers from KCC and SBC and community involvement.

The LCWIP interventions list will be sent to Committee Members. It was agreed to defer this item until more Members were in attendance on 21st July.

9. Parish to Town Cycling and Walking Project

Cllr Saunders introduced the project, which is being undertaken by Adrian Berendt. He has spoken to local parishes and initial findings are supportive with minor interventions. More work to be undertaken for links to Whitstable, looking at the Solar Way as a route. He has also worked with QEGS to increase the amount of active travel and will circulate the initial report.

Cllr Thomas noted that KCC Officer Jamie Watson said a county LCWIP was required to enable cycling between towns and to access funding. Adrian Berendt reported the government requirements for a bus strategy and a transport plan, he felt if the plans were not ambitious enough with active travel you would not get funding for other transport plans.

10. Faversham HIP Update

Items from the LCWIP should be noted on the HIP, Cllr Thomas had no further updates on the HIP.

11. Cycle Hire and Bike Hangar Update

The Clerk reported on the first month's hire and noted that the East Street location was the most popular. This was not a full month, but all the bikes had been hired the previous day. We will continue to advertise, but did not see that this would cover its annual costs from the hire.

There had been no communication from the Bike Hangar company.

Cllr Thomas noted for a future agenda item a way to promote cycling.

12. CycleFest 1st to 10th July

The Town Clerk provided an update on the proposed event, including Macknade who are partnering to provide a number of events on their site. Several led rides as well as adult training and confidence training and balance bikes for 2-4 year olds. There will also be a bike jumble on the Rec at the Community Day event.

13. Speed Cam Anywhere App

Cllr Thomas asked if anyone had looked at this, he had used it as well as Adrian Berendt, but it seems easier the more you use it.

14. Items for Report

Adrian Oliver is SBC's Active Travel Coordinator.

An application has been made to the Road Safety Trust for changes to the junction at Reedland Crescent, which had been highlighted in the LCWIP audit.

Cllr Saunders raised concerns about the wayfinding project and felt Councillors had been approached informally, in a similar way with the proposed road closure consultation, and he felt both of these subjects should be discussed by this Committee to enable a more formal view to be voiced.

Cllr Saunders asked whether the dates of the Committee could be looked at, as it clashes with SBC's Planning Committee.

Active Travel Committee: Budget Proposals for 2022/23

Internal Budgets available and External Funding Opportunities

The Active Travel committee has a budget of £28,000 for this year, but has also built up an earmarked reserve of £47, 817. KCC had also promised a contribution of £30,000 from their Highways Fund towards the cost of physical interventions to increase compliance with the 20mph scheme and it needs to be established whether this funding is still available.

The 20s Plenty Committee didn't apply all its budget and reserves last year because we were waiting to hear whether we KCC had been successful with a bid into Tranche 3 of the DfT Active Travel Fund for interventions to help pedestrians cross our streets more easily and slow traffic further so that cyclists feel safer. Unfortunately KCC only succeeded in getting funding for two projects in Herne Bay and Sevenoaks. The next round of the Active Travel Fund could launch as soon as August and the funding is significantly larger this time, so the chance of getting additional external funding is still very much there.

Options for Project Spend

1. LCWIP Interventions

The Town Council now has a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan in place including a prioritised list of 69 potential interventions to make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists. This has been signed off by the Swale JTB and adopted by KCC and Swale BC and there will be a strong logic in applying a significant amount of this year's budget to interventions that are high up the priority list and which are not due to be funded through other sources.

2. Preliminary Design work to support application to DfT Active Travel Fund

Tranche 4 Informal feedback we have received from Berendt Consulting and Adrian Oliver, SBC's Active Travel Officer, suggests that the DfT are keen on funding ambitious projects which take space away from motorised vehicles and provide separation of pedestrians and cyclists. Much of their focus appears to be on encouraging cycling rather than doing more for pedestrians and there is a risk that the model we have developed for the LCWIP, which is highly logical for a historical town with narrow streets, may not attract DfT funding. In this case we may need to bring forward some of our more ambitious proposals including traffic free neighbourhoods, improvements to the Bysing Wood Road Cycle lane and even a new long bridge with separated space for cyclists and pedestrians. If we do this there will be a benefit in paying for some initial design work.

3. Promoting attitudinal change

In the evaluation of the 20 mph experimental scheme commissioned by KCC the importance of promoting attitudinal change to cycling through publicity, education and training was emphasised and this was then picked up in KCC's proposal that the scheme be made permanent.

The Town Council has already run webinars promoting cycling and is due to run a Cycle Fest in July with a range of activities. It has also been funded by SBC to run pilots for a cycle hire scheme and a secure bike storage scheme.

A number of other suggestions for promoting cycling have also been made in the past including organising family rides, promoting local safe routes, providing training. Running events will help maintain the profile of active travel and it would be sensible to allocate some funding to this, if our staff have the resources to organise.

Conclusions and Proposals

Detailed discussions will need to take place with KCC to establish which top priority interventions from our LCWIP they will support and be able to implement in the next period. The time lag between them agreeing to carry out work and actually delivering can be over 12 months, so even at this stage it can be safely predicted that expenditure will not be incurred during this financial year.

Detailed discussions will also need to take place with KCC and SBC to agree what proposals from Faversham should be carried forward into KCC's Tranche 4 DfT Active Travel bid and whether they will need initial design work carried out.

In the meantime it is proposed that the Committee agree a provisional budget allocation for this year as follows:

1. Physical works to promote compliance with the 20mph scheme up to £55,000
2. Further design work to support application for DfT funds up to £15, 000
3. Activities, Events and Publicity to promote active travel up to £5,000

Cllr Julian Saunders