

**West Swindon Forum
Minutes of Meeting
14th November 2011**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mary Martin (Chair), Mick Bray, Michael Dickinson, Nick Martin, Garry Perkins, Steve Wakefield

Police:

Steve Yeates, Adrian Burt

Stage Coach:

Bill Smith, Tim Hewer

Swindon Borough Council:

Bernie Brannan, Philip Martlew, Ben Staite, Simon Lymn, Robert Sanders, Gwillam Lloyd

Residents:

G Williams, S Hurrell, Elizabeth Elstone, Eric Elstone, John Hill, M & J Edgerton, J B Gurung, Vanessa Parfitt, Andrew Parfitt, Paul Shepherd, Kayleigh Williams, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Edward Eggleston, Kevin Fisher, Di Rodgers, Lesley Shepherd, Chris Shepherd, D Ponting, M Ponting, Jenny Corkett, Ruth Kiddle, L Lancett, D Barlow, A Haakanson, Junab Ali, Terry & Sheila Ratcliffe, John Hughes, Roger Ogle, 5 residents not signed in

Apologies:

Cllrs P Greenhalgh, K Williams

1. Items from the Floor

- 1.1 The Swindon Housing Vote was discussed in some detail and B Brannan responded to several questions. Details of the housing vote can be found at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/swindonhousingvote>.

2. Police Update

- 2.1 PC Steve Yeates highlighted a parking problem outside Greendown School, which has resulted in two near misses recently. It was suggested that policing this area becomes a West Swindon priority. Gwillam Lloyd

and Bob Sanders (SBC) provided an update. This was not identified as a priority in the summer, but there may be funding for a solution this financial year.

- 2.2 PC Steve Yeates reported on progress on policing priorities (ASB, targeting drugs and theft from vehicles). Progress has been good particularly with targeting drugs and partnership working with the Council.
- 2.3 Some speed checking work has been carried out in West Swindon, no major issues with speeding recorded.
- 2.4 Three youths identified in Crawford Close as causing considerable ASB in the area. The police are working closely with partners to try and resolve this issue.
- 2.5 The Police were congratulated for their presence and reduction in crime and ASB in Lydiard Park.

3. Improving Cycling and Walking Routes to the Town Centre

- 3.1 Philip Martlew provided a briefing, which is attached to the minutes.

4. Highways Update

- 4.1 Gwillam Lloyd gave further details about Mannington Park road signals; they will be part time for trial period from tomorrow. They will be triggered by the volume of traffic using the roundabout.
- 4.2 A meeting has been arranged with the Police to sort out the parking problems outside Greendown school.

5. Idovers Drive Bus Stop

- 5.1 B Brannan explained the issue with cars parking in the bus stop area, as it is not designated as a bus clearway. Cllr Mary Martin has visited residents in the area to determine their views. Options: a) do nothing, b) create a path across the bus pull-in to the road edge and keep the area as parking, or c) designate the area as a bus clearway, d) provide additional parking and improved lighting to rear of properties. It was agreed to investigate feasibility and costs of implementing option b.

6. Stage Coach Bus Company

- 6.1 Bill Smith and Tim Hewer have an update to the operations of Stage Coach in Swindon. There are no planned changes to Swindon routes. Nine new double decker buses have been ordered, and from January all No 8 buses in West Swindon will have low-level access. There has been an increase in the number of people using the buses.

6.2 The number 54 was stopped in West Swindon because it was not commercially viable. There were several suggestions by residents about timings of buses. Stage Coach will take these suggestions to their head office, who plan bus routes. Route changes take several months due to investigation, consultation, and 56-day notice to the traffic commissioner.

7. Ridgeway Farm Planning Update

7.1 A meeting is taking place between Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council this week to discuss the respective positions regarding this application. In the meantime, the developers are continuing with their application and negotiating the Section 106 agreement with Wiltshire Council.

**The Western Flyer cycle route
Element 3 of the Swindon Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid
The West Swindon Forum
14 November 2011**

Overview of the Western Flyer

The successful Swindon Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid consists of 4 elements. Element 3 will upgrade an existing cycle route from West Swindon to the town centre, known as the Western Flyer.

Work is underway on the feasibility study for the Western Flyer and this will continue up to the end of March 2012. Workshops will be held with stakeholders over the next few months to conclude route feasibility and the design requirements. There will also be engagement with employers along the route, particularly in Swindon town centre. The infrastructure works are due to take place from summer 2012 until late 2014.

Proposed route upgrade

The proposed core route for the Western Flyer follows the designated National Cycle Network Route 45 (Link) network from Sheppard Street – Iffley Road -Barnfield – Westmead Industrial Estate - Mead Way. Audits have been undertaken highlighting opportunities and weaknesses of the core route.

Reasons for the proposed route upgrade

This route is being prioritised for the following reasons:

- Poor quality surfacing needs to be improved as well as improved lighting along the length of the route;
- Realignment of the route in the vicinity of the railway line to address the fear of perceived and actual crime (as reported by local employees);
- Nearly a fifth of town centre workers live in West Swindon;
- The route between West Swindon and the town centre takes 10 minutes by cycle, is off-road and flat;
- Car drivers currently don't see the "hidden" route from the road and therefore awareness of the alternative is low amongst our target audience;
- Employees driving to the town centre from West Swindon travel through congested junctions and along Great Western Way, which is identified as a strategic route into the town centre.

Design characteristics

The Western Flyer cycle route will have the following design features:

- Deliver a high quality, high profile route that is safe, direct and continuous from Swindon town centre to West Swindon.

- Encourage more journeys by foot and preferably by bike.
- Formal branding and design standards are to be identified for the full route. This will reflect and build on best practice drawn from Transport for London and the Cycle Demonstration Towns in the United Kingdom. It will also link in with the existing work being undertaken in West Swindon related to improving the signage of the cycle network.
- Forward Swindon is undertaking feasibility works to carry out improvements in the Sheppard Street subway, looking at lighting enhancements and public realm works. This will compliment surfacing works, lighting and drainage improvements along the length of the Western Flyer route.

The Swindon Bicycle Users Group is assisting with the audit of feeder routes from Mead Way through the West Swindon district.

Next Steps

The next steps will be to progress route feasibility options and the design standards for the scheme. A public exhibition of the final scheme is due to be held in late March or early April 2012.

Further information

Please use the contact details below to get in touch if you have any questions or wish to find out any further information. Also use the following contact details to register for regular updates on this scheme.

Ben Staite

Project Sponsor for the Western Flyer cycle route

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