

West Sussex Cycle Stakeholder Panel

Feedback Form – 14 December 2004

Summary of responses received:

N.B. Bullet points under each item relate to one view expressed, not my summary of views of all. However, some summarising has been necessary for reasons of space

Names: Elizabeth Hamilton, Brian Griggs, Angela Henshaw, Roy Fairchild, Richard Bates, David Hedges

Organisations: Midhurst Area Cycling, CTC Right to Ride - West Sussex + Bognor Regis + Mid Sussex + Crawley, Bognor Regis Cycling Club, Sussex Cyclists Association, Spokes

Session 1) – Introduction

Did the session cover the relevant points?

Yes 0 Mostly 2 Partially 2 No 0 No Response 2

Did you gain anything new from this session? What was that?

- Considering schemes crossing partnership boundaries
- Discussion on Transport Partnerships but still needs more clarification on role of stakeholders
- New funding formula for cycling needs
- Useful to see results of first stage consultation on Transport Plan

Did you have an opportunity to raise any points in discussion?

Yes 3 No 0 Partially 2 Not Applicable 1

Is there anything else *under this topic* that you would like WSCC to consider?

Please state:

- Forum members should communicate directly with Transport Planning Officer first.
- Does not support hierarchy of road users in rural areas
- Needs more instruction on how to communicate with County Council.
- Define role and responsibility of a stakeholder.
- Clear communication channels for stakeholder.
- Recognise that majority of Panel members have in depth knowledge & experience
- More formal structured panel

Session 2) – Use of Information from the Panel

Did the session cover the relevant points?

Yes 0 Mostly 2 Partially 2 No 1 No Response 1

Did you gain anything new from this session? What was that?

Please State:

- Area Transport Plans.
- Need for lobbying
- Needs to know who were stakeholders that took part in surveys.
- Presentation repeated things already knew
- Route hierarchy

Did you have an opportunity to raise any points in discussion?

Yes 3 No 0 Partially 2 Not Applicable 1

Is there anything else *under this topic* that you would like WSCC to consider?

Please state:

- Cycle Tourism, making rural roads suitable
- Upgrade Cycle route signing and improve connections for through routes
- Low level of budget key to lack of progress on facilities.
- Making sure transport plans do not just consist of platitudes
- Cycle awareness leaflet for all
- No clear information on how establishment of panel will fit into existing structure and what difference it will make

Session 3) – The National Context

Did the session cover the relevant points?

Yes 1 Mostly 4 Partially 0 No 0 No Response 1

Did you gain anything new from this session? What was that?

Please State:

- Disarray in Government over future targets for cycle use
- Local targets for cycling to school and work made mandatory.
- Summary of APR ratings.
- WSCC Excellent rating from Audit Commission.
- Development of new Cycle Friendly Infrastructure
- National Targets Explanation

Did you have an opportunity to raise any points in discussion?

Yes 3 No 0 Partially 2 Not Applicable 0 No Response 1

Session 4) – Prioritisation of Cycle Infrastructure

Did the session cover the relevant points?

Yes 2 Mostly 1 Partially 2 No 0 No Response 1

Did you gain anything new from this session? What was that?

Please State:

- Hampshire spends more on cycling than WSCC
- WSCC has not increased spending on cycling for years and it shows.
- Relying on funding from other resources unrealistic
- The hard facts to measure own proposals and make own priorities
- Cycle budget has decreased in "real" terms especially as construction cost increases out strip RPI.
- WSCC's cycle budget compares unfavourably to other LA's
- To see state of completion of cycle Network in various areas

Did you have an opportunity to raise any points in discussion?

Yes 3 No 0 Partially 2 Not Applicable 0 No Response 1

Is there anything else *under this topic* that you would like WSCC to consider?

Please state:

- Whole life costs of cycle routes.
- Sightlines on roads and paths
- Increase proportion of transport budget on cycling
- Prioritisation under existing budget means many schemes will be dropped, must press for bigger slice of the cake
- Correlation between amount spent per person on cycling issues and average distance cycled per person compared to other LA's.
- Funding from other sources
- Signs and road markings in urban areas to enhance cycle awareness

Session 5) – Cycle Action Plan for West Sussex

This session was run as a discussion concentrating on what should be included in an Action Plan, with no pre-prepared presentation

Did the session cover the relevant points?

Yes 1 Mostly 3 Partially 1 No 1 No Response 1

Did you gain anything new from this session? What was that?

Please State:

- Considerable expertise among Forum members present.
- Need a better spread of members across County.
- Useful suggestions from those present on surfaces and junctions including roundabouts

Did you have an opportunity to raise any points in discussion?

Yes 2 No 0 Partially 0 Not Applicable 1 No Response 3

Is there anything else *under this topic* that you would like WSCC to consider?

Please state, concentrating on general principals:

- Obligation for WSCC to support Cycle Forum members and introduce programme of improvements based on their suggestions, even if it means diverting resources.
- Support Slower Speeds initiative
- Barriers to cycling not absence of routes but presence of deterrents causing personal insecurity.
- Dislike of Cyclists Dismount and End of Route signs.
- Increasing awareness of all road users to cyclists with road markings.
- Lower speed limits on country lanes and 20mph on urban residential roads.
- Convert rural footpaths to shared use.
- Include hierarchy of road users.
- Maintenance of cycle tracks and roads for cyclists.
- Leave space for cyclists to bypass rumble strips.
- Cycle bypass to pinch points.
- Sealed hard top surfaces on off road routes.
- Higher budget to place WSCC in higher quartile of LAs.
- Incorporate hierarchy of provision from LTN 1/04 in new Transport Plan.
- Provide cycle symbol road markings on roads without formal lanes.
- Safety objective should be pursued in ways that complement cycling.
- Dedicated revenue funding for cycling e.g. training and monitoring.
- Participate in CTC benchmarking.
- National Cycle Network
- Directory of all cycling Activity including races, rides, training, off road routes, clubs etc
- Action Plan should ensure consistency of consultation with cycle stakeholders on new cycling schemes & schemes which affect cyclists

Meeting as a whole:

Did the meeting serve a worthwhile purpose?

- OK for starters
- Yes if it leads to being more proactive
- Yes, meeting other similar groups
- Yes
- Yes

Should the meeting serve a wider membership?

- More cycling organisations + schools
- Need more representative spread of members
- Include District Councils
- Meeting should consist of cyclists and County Council Officers.
- Yes
- The obvious members are CTC Sustrans and local campaign groups. Perhaps invite more officers and elected members?

Overall what went well with the evening?

- Talk by WSCC
- Highlighted need for local cyclists to be closely involved in developing cycle element of Transport Plan
- Interesting discussion & exchange of experiences
- Confirmed need for body to discuss and recommend cycling topics as Partnership members unlikely to have knowledge
- Like-minded people talking about a subject they were involved with
- Good Overview of County and National situation.
- Venue was high standard

What went less well?

- Not enough time for discussion
- Impatient to get involved into detail of providing quality cycle network including draft proposals
- Little hard facts in information to use by cycling group
- Not enough time for discussion or to go through Cycle Action Plan.
- Presentation pitched too low for knowledgeable stakeholders.
- Wish instead to discuss nitty gritty.
- No paper copies of presentations to take away.
- Lack of follow up timetable and structure to panel
- Lack of clear impression of how input from panel will contribute to County Council's cycling policies and plans and what difference consultation will make

What should we do differently next time?

- More discussion time (twice)
- More time to discuss specific schemes.
- Take full minutes
- More discussion on funding and routes to funding of schemes
- Provide paper copy of proposals for working practice for discussion by panel.
- Find out what local groups are doing.
- Local case study e.g. route Burgess Hill - Haywards Heath
- Billingshurst may be too road oriented a venue?

Would you be interested in presenting an item at a future meeting?

- History and experience of group, to pool experience if others do similar
- Good idea but not at next meeting until direction set
- Yes Ashenground Bridleway study includes a lot of issues and good presentation material
- No topics to suggest at present. Will require digital presentation if does one in future

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