



**ELMBRIDGE CYCLE FORUM**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)  
18 JULY 2005**

**KEY ISSUE**

To inform the Committee of the content and matters discussed at the recently held fourth meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum.

**ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER**

All Divisions

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee notes the content of this report.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The fourth meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005.
- 1.2 Ian Lake chaired the meeting and welcomed all attendees.
- 1.3 Those attending the forum represented a range of cycle organisations and other groups including:
  - Sustrans – The Cycling Charity;
  - CTC – Cyclists Touring Club;
  - TOPS – Local Group campaigning for new crossing facilities over the River Thames;
  - Elmbridge Borough Council – Both Elected Members and Officers;
  - Elmbridge Sports Council;
  - Other local cyclists.
- 1.4 The main areas covered in the second meeting were
  - Introductions and welcome;
  - Update on matters raised at the last forum;
  - Feedback from workshop session (October 2004);
  - Schemes Update – Current Situation;
  - Bike Week, 11 – 19 June 2005;
  - Workshop Session;
- 1.5 The notes of the meeting of 31 May 2005 are attached as Appendix “A”.
- 1.6 The next meeting of the Forum is planned for October 2005.

## **2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 At the Local Committee Meeting in March 2005 an allocation of £5,000 was approved from the devolved LTP Budget to facilitate the continued development of the Forum.

## **3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Forum will help in the identification of improved facilities and the promotion of cycling in the Borough.

**4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

## Appendix 'A'

**Surrey County Council – Elmbridge LTS****Elmbridge Cycle Forum – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005****Notes of Meeting**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Present	Ian Lake (IL) Chris Smith (CJS) Sean Wotherspoon (SW) Roy Summers (RS) Tim Crowther (TC) John Payne (JP) Roy Turner (RT) Janet Turner (JT) Ian Burrows (IB) Alan Fordham (AF) Roger Taylor (RTA)	Vice - Chairman of SCC Elmbridge Local Committee Local Transportation Director - SCC Assistant Engineer - SCC Sustrans CATA / TOPS / Elmbridge Borough Councillor Elmbridge Sports Council Cyclists' Touring Club Elmbridge Borough Councillor Elmbridge Borough Council Cycle Support Officer – Traffic & Road Safety Team - SCC Cyclists' Touring Club
Apologies	David Wiltshire (DW) Rob Parsey (RP) Mrs J Boater (JB) Rev Robert Jenkins Graham Cannon (GC) Ian McKechnie (IM) Graham Winton (GW) Geoff Clarke (GC) Steve Jones (SJ) Mike Pontin (MP)	Strategic Director – Services, Elmbridge Borough Council Cycling Officer - Royal Borough of Kingston CATA Local Weybridge Cyclist Surrey Police Elmbridge Cycle Users Group Elmbridge Borough Councillor Cyclists' Touring Club - Sustrans

**1. Introduction Welcome**

Ian Lake (IL), the Vice - Chairman of Surrey County Council's Local Committee in Elmbridge and chairman for the evening welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the SCC Elmbridge Cycle Forum. He introduced the Members of staff present from the Elmbridge Local Transportation Service.

Sean Wotherspoon (SW), Assistant Engineer at Elmbridge LTS gave a brief introduction to all attending the Forum. Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated earlier, and a copy was available at the meeting.

## **2. Update on Matters Raised at the last Forum**

- **A307 Portsmouth Road – Long Ditton**

Sean Wotherspoon (SW) highlighted that this scheme had been in place for just under one year and highlighted the fact that minimal negative feedback had been received, particularly when compared with the amount of positive feedback received. Although the waiting restrictions introduced has displaced parking on Portsmouth Road, complaints received were limited. Extensive parking surveys have been undertaken to determine the effect on the surrounding roads. The results of these surveys indicate that the perceived problem of an increase of parking in Windmill Lane does not exist. The number of vehicles parking in Windmill Lane has not changed significantly, and overall throughout the survey area there has been a decrease in the number of vehicles parked on the highway. The reasons for this are not clear although more vehicles may be being parked on business premises?

- **A309 Hampton Court Way – Thames Ditton**

SW highlighted the works that had been completed at the toucan crossing at the Hampton Court Way junction with Embercourt Road. Works were completed in November 2004. SCC Traffic Signals have made some adjustments to the timing and sensors, which seem to have improved the situation.

- **C229 Bridge Road – Weybridge**

The recently refurbished Old Wey Bridge includes advanced stop lines for cycles. Traffic movement is restricted by traffic signals and the carriageway across the bridge is restricted by width to one lane. SW explained that previously AF and GC had visited site with a representative of SCC Traffic Systems Team to investigate problems encountered by cyclists. Some of the problems seemed to be cyclists not being picked up by traffic signal detectors and loops in the ground. This resulted in cyclists not being given a green light, or when crossing the bridge not being detected and traffic in the opposite direction being given a green light. Although adjustments have already been made, RT highlighted that there were still problems with cyclists not being picked up. This will be highlighted to SCC Traffic Signals to see if any further action can be taken.

- **Thames Towpath – Bridge Over Entrance to Walton Marina**

SW updated the forum regarding the progress made by the Environment Agency (EA) since the last meeting. The considerations of the EA are listed below.

- Safety – pedestrians and cyclists
- Noise reduction
- Signing
- Physical measures
- Accessibility for all

The view of the cycle forum, which was fed back to the EA is shown below.

- EA should at least widen or build a new bridge
- As it forms part of National Cycle Network Route 4, cycling should be permitted on it

The latest update from the EA has indicated that they are looking at a two-phase approach to solving the problems (subject to funding).

Phase I – Self-tapping steel screws to reduce noise and vibration, along with a new top surface.

Phase II – Possible signing and physical measures to reduce speed and improve safety for all users.

- **Esher Green Junction Improvement – Update**

CJS highlighted the importance of this scheme due to the high number of Personal Injury Accidents that have occurred, however issues being discussed with DEFRA have led to lengthy timescales to progress the approved improvement scheme.

- **South West Trains Cycle Policy**

The Chairman sent a letter to South West Trains highlighting the Cycle Forum's disapproval of the blanket ban of cycles on trains. The reply from South West Trains highlighted the following points.

- Consultation included Surrey County Council
- Restrictions affect busiest commuter services
- Policy is supported by the Strategic Rail Authority's cycle policy
- Fold up cycles not affected
- Final policy introduced to *"get a balance right for all passengers"*.

It was commented that South West Trains is one of the better rail operators regarding the carriage of cycles.

- **Cycling Proficiency Training**

Further to a question from GC at the last meeting, SW informed the forum that the cost of cycle training at schools has increased from £10 to £15. It was also reported that SCC's Road Safety team had highlighted that they have a problem recruiting instructors, particularly in the Elmbridge area.

IB highlighted that the borough employ a number holiday scheme staff, who could be possible cycle training recruits. Parents of school children could also be encouraged to become trainers.

IL suggested that a press release be prepared to highlight these issues and hopefully recruit some new instructors.

### **3. Feedback from Workshop Session (October 2004)**

SW gave a presentation highlighting the feedback received from the workshop session held at the last meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum.

Members of the forum split into two groups, with the initial task of rating a number of cycling categories from 1 - poor to 10 - excellent. A summary of the results is shown below.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Elmbridge Cycle Forum Score</b>
On-carriageway cycle facilities	6
Adjacent facilities	5
Cycle tracks	5
Off-carriageway routes around roundabouts	4
Maintenance of cycle routes	3
Cycle parking provision	6
Surrey Cycleway	7
Cycle forum consultation	6
Surrey Cycle Guides	8

***Table 1: Elmbridge Cycle Forum group views.***

When developing future schemes, areas that are good will be analysed and good practice will be replicated. Poorer performing areas will be identified and improved where possible. Although maintenance of cycle routes will be considered as an area for improvement, it must be remembered that our partner constructors are following National / SCC policy when addressing potholes etc. AF highlighted that the next edition of the Surrey Cycle Guides will

be progressed in Spring 2006 (subject to funding), and would like to involve the local cycle forums to gain their input.

#### **4. Scheme Update – Current Situation**

SW informed the forum that due to some operational issues in 2004/05, a number of schemes had not been built. These schemes were ready to be built and the LTS would be working closely with Carillion to complete the works. Funding for 2005/06 is currently £50,000.

The schemes to be built are:

- **Priority 1 – Signing**
  - Redhill Road
  - Downside / South Cobham
  - Tilt Road area
  - West End Lane
  - Hawkshill Way
- **Priority 2 – Construction**
  - Portsmouth Road
    - Cobham to Fairmile Lane
    - Fairmile Lane to Esher (part)
  - Hampton Court Way link (Ennismore Gardens)
  - Woodstock Lane

#### **5. Bike Week, 11 – 19 June 2005**

- **Elmbridge Cycle Road Show**

IB explained that EBC had arranged a cycling roadshow as part of bike week. The event is to be run by Get Cycling and the Company of Cyclists. The event will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2005, 10am – 5pm at Sadlers Ride, Molesey, on Hurst Park. A variety of different bikes will be available to try along with various promotions, maintenance information, fact sheets and the Police will be attending to assist people with cycle security.



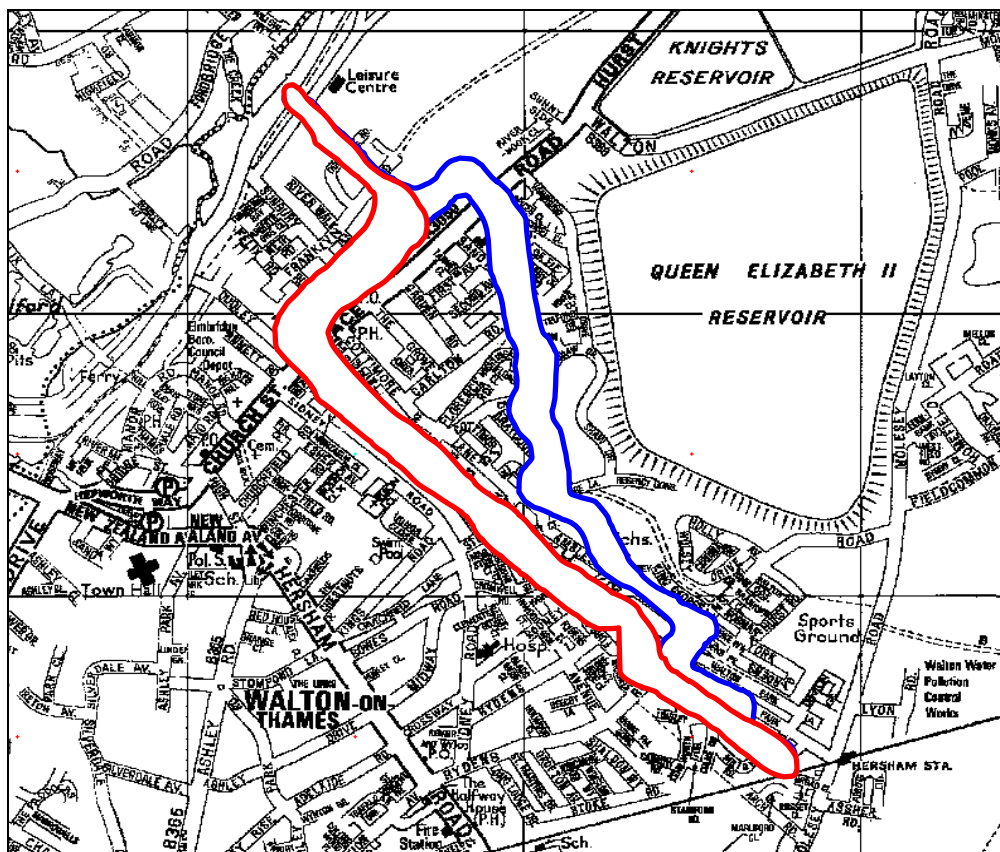
- **NW Surrey Cycle Forum Bike Ride**

SW went though the details of the forthcoming cycle ride on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The ride will start at Staines Bridge at 09:15hrs and proceed to Hampton Court Station, Esher Common, Cobham, West Byfleet Railway Station, Woking, Ottershaw, Chertsey and Back to Staines Bridge. The circular route is approximately 41 miles in total.

## 6. Workshop Session

- **Session 1 – Hersham Railway Station to Elmbridge Leisure Centre**

As part of the new Elmbridge Leisure Centre, EBC have a requirement to provide a cycle route from Hersham Station to the new Leisure Centre. SCC are to undertake the feasibility and design of the scheme on behalf of EBC. The forum were asked for their input at an early stage (before the feasibility has been undertaken) to give their input. The aim of this session was to get ideas for potential routes, while considering any potential problems and budget constraints. The following plan indicates possible routes identified by the forum, and will be included in the feasibility work.



*Figure 1: Plan of possible routes.*

- **Session 2 – Future Ideas for Cycle Forum Meetings**

The forum were asked to consider ideas to be brought to future meetings of the cycle forum. The ideas received are listed below.

- Co-ordinating cycles / pavements when resurfacing
- Improving cycle parking facilities at rail stations
- Promote cycling to businesses
- Promotion of health / environmental benefits of cycling
- Research barriers to prevent cycling

## **7. Other Items Raised and Conclusion**

The question was raised as to why Tesco in Molesey had installed bollards rather than cycle racks outside their store in Molesey.

On behalf of MP, RT highlighted that TOPS is still promoting the Sunnyside Bridge scheme, and has now had the proposal accepted by The River Thames Alliance as part of its aspiration plan for the lower Thames.

With reference to the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) in Claygate, and the use of 4x4 vehicles, it is anticipated that an item will be brought to the next meeting of the Elmbridge Local Committee.

Although improvements to Walton High Street are in an early stage, it is very unlikely that a one-way system would be introduced. Works will be looking at improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, while reducing the traffic dominance.

The next full meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum is to be arranged for October 2005.

IL drew the meeting to a close, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.