ELMBRIDGE CYCLE FORUM

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL’S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE AREA)
15 NOVEMBER 2004

KEY ISSUE:
To inform the committee of the content and matters discussed at the recently held third meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER:
All Divisions.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the Committee notes the content of this report.

LEAD CONTACT OFFICER: Chris Paisley - Senior Principal Engineer
Sean Wotherspoon - Assistant Engineer

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01372 832510/832582
1 REPORT

1.1 The third meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum was held on 12th October 2004, and was chaired by Ian Lake.

1.2 Those attending the forum represented a range of cycle organisations and other local interest 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;
- Royal Borough of Kingston;
- Other local cyclists.

1.3 The main areas covered in the third meeting were:

- Update on matters raised at the last forum;
- Feedback from workshop session (March 2004);
- Schemes proposed for 2004/05 and later years;
- Cycle Parking – Ideas for locations;
- Thames towpath bridge – Environment Agency problems;
- Esher Green Update
- LTP II - Workshop Session;

1.4 The minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix “A”.

1.5 The next meeting of the Forum is planned for March 2005, although an additional meeting to consider specifically the development of LTP II with particular regard to cycling is planned for January 2005.
2  FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1  At the Local Committee Meeting in March 2004 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.
Surrey County Council – Elmbridge LTS

Elmbridge Cycle Forum – Tuesday 12th October 2004

Notes of Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Lake (IL)</td>
<td>Chairman of SCC Elmbridge Local Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Paisley (CP)</td>
<td>Senior Principal Engineer - SCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Wotherspoon (SW)</td>
<td>Assistant Engineer - SCC</td>
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<td>Mike Pontin (MP)</td>
<td>Sustrans</td>
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<td>John Payne (JP)</td>
<td>Elmbridge Sports Council</td>
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<td>Peter Clint (PC)</td>
<td>Cyclists' Touring Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Crowther (TC)</td>
<td>CATA / TOPS / Elmbridge Borough Councillor</td>
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<td>Janet Turner (JT)</td>
<td>Elmbridge Borough Councillor</td>
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<td>Graham Winton (GW)</td>
<td>Elmbridge Borough Councillor</td>
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<td>Dave Page</td>
<td>Elmbridge Borough Council – Leisure &amp; Cultural Services</td>
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<td>Roy Turner (RT)</td>
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<td>Geoff Clarke (GC)</td>
<td>Cyclists’ Touring Club</td>
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<td>Apologies</td>
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<td>Maggie Martin (MM)</td>
<td>SCC Councillor – The Dittons</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Wiltshire (DW)</td>
<td>Strategic Director – Services, Elmbridge Borough Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Fordham (AF)</td>
<td>Cycle Support Officer – Traffic &amp; Road Safety Team - SCC</td>
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<td>Rob Parsey (RP)</td>
<td>Cycling Officer - Royal Borough of Kingston</td>
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<td>Mrs J Boater (JB)</td>
<td>CATA</td>
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<td>Daniealla Wardley (DW)</td>
<td>Elmbridge Road Safety Officer</td>
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<td>Rev Robert Jenkins</td>
<td>Local Weybridge Cyclist</td>
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<td>Graham Cannon (GC)</td>
<td>Surrey Police</td>
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<td>Sian Charlton (SC)</td>
<td>British Cycling Federation</td>
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<td>Ian McKechnie (IM)</td>
<td>Elmbridge Cycle Users Group</td>
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<td>Roy Summers (RS)</td>
<td>SUSTRANS</td>
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<td>Roger Taylor (RTA)</td>
<td>Cyclists’ Touring Club</td>
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1. Introduction Welcome

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

Chris Paisley (CP), Senior Principal 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) summarised the work that had been done since this scheme was discussed at the last meeting of the Cycle Forum, in March 2004. Further to the overwhelming support of the Cycle Forum and approval at the SCC Elmbridge Local Committee, the scheme has now been in place for almost 2 months. Members of the forum were very positive about the success of the scheme. The implementation of the scheme in partnership with The Royal Borough of Kingston had been very successful. Recent monitoring data has indicated that within a 12-hour period, 233 cyclists travelled northbound and 195 cyclists travelled southbound on September 2004. CP highlighted that although the waiting restrictions introduced has displaced parking on Portsmouth Road, complaints received were limited. An extensive parking survey has been undertaken to determine the effect on the surrounding roads, and will be repeated again in November 2004.

- **A309 Hampton Court Way – Thames Ditton**
  SW highlighted the works currently in progress for the toucan crossing at Hampton Court Way junction with Embercourt Road. Off-carriageway facilities will be created to allow the roundabout to be negotiated, and a 4m wide staggered toucan crossing will be installed. Works are expected to be completed in November 2004.

- **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. Adjustments had been made by Traffic Systems and comments from GC indicated that there had been some improvement, although recently he had been encountering problems again. Elmbridge LTS will highlight these issues to the Traffic Systems Team.

3. Feedback from Workshop Session (March 2004)

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

- **Top 12 Common Schemes**
  1. A307 Portsmouth Road (Winters Bridge to Borough Boundary), The Dittons
  2. B365 Seven Hills Road, Hersham
  3. Pointers Road link, Cobham – link actually in Guildford
  4. A244 Copsem Lane / Warren Lane (Esher to Oxshott)
5. Weybridge Town Centre
6. Link from Molesey Road, Hersham to Mill Road, Esher
7. Route from Cobham to Esher Common and Oxshott
8. Roundabout safety – problems at many locations
9. Esher town centre – funding for a feasibility study
10. A317 Queens Road, Hersham
11. Woodstock Lane link, Long Ditton
12. Hampton Court Way – Summer Road to Embercourt Road (along Ennismore Gardens), Thames Ditton

It has been identified that the section of Pointers Road in item 3. that requires improvement is actually in the Guildford LTS Area. Elmbridge LTS and AF have been in contact with Guildford LTS and although it is unlikely that the scheme will be progressed this year, it is hoped that progress can be made in the next financial year.

Problems were highlighted with item 5. Weybridge Town Centre, relating to converting a public footpath using the Cycle Tracks Act 1984. Experience of other county’s indicates that objections from ramblers associations is expected, as the footpath would be removed from the definitive map. Any objections received would result in a public inquiry.

4. Schemes Proposed for 2004/05 and Later Years

Proposed for 2004/05
SW highlighted the schemes that had been identified for construction during 2004/05. These schemes have been developed in consultation with AF, and have been identified as “quick wins”.

- Priority 1 – Signing
  o Redhill Road
  o Downside / South Cobham
  o Tilt Road area
  o West End Lane
  o Hawkshill Way

- Priority 2 – Construction
  o Portsmouth Road
  o A307, Long Ditton (completed)
  o Cobham to Fairmile Lane
  o Fairmile Lane to Esher (part)
  o Hampton Court Way link (Ennismore Gardens)
  o Woodstock Lane

With reference to the section from Fairmile Lane to Esher (off-carriageway), it was questioned who would use it. Further discussion indicated that this would form a link with leisure routes at Esher Common. A safer off-carriageway facility may encourage further use. With reference to the issue of an on-carriageway facility, the Chairman highlighted that this would be considered too dangerous on the 50mph section.
Future Projects
The following schemes have been identified and will be considered as future projects for later years.

- Anyards Road – contra-flow cycle lane
- Brooklands Road, inc. Byfleet Road junction
- Fairmile Lane / Hogshill link
- Other Cobham links
- Sections of Portsmouth Road
- Miles Lane / Sandy Lane (Common link)
- Lammas Lane & Esher Green
- Weybridge station to Brooklands (back route)
- Church Street, Cobham – one way, opposite to vehicles
- Queens Road, Hersham
- Byfleet Road
- Burwood Road
- Seven Hills Road
- Weybridge Town Centre
- Copsem Lane / Warren Lane
- West End Common
- Hersham to Molesey (across River Mole)
- Ashley Road (when resurfaced)

Esher High School – Safe Routes to School Feasibility Study
CP highlighted the issues raised in the Esher High School Feasibility Study. The proposals for cycle facilities were discussed and it was noted that the section between Molesey Road and Mill Road had been identified by the forum. The other end of the scheme will link in with future works proposed at Esher Green.

5. Cycle Parking

SW informed the forum that Elmbridge LTS have some Local Allocation funding available for cycle parking facilities. Feedback received during the forum is summarised below.

- Sheffield rack is preferred (frame not to be too thick)
- Cycle lockers are liked, although due to their high costs are not suitable considering the budget available.
- Not enough parking available at stations
- Only two racks at Hinchley Wood, with one currently obstructed by a grit bin
- No bike racks at day centres

GC informed the forum that he was currently in discussion with Sainsbury’s at Cobham and Walton, and they are looking into providing additional covered cycle parking facilities.

The forum was asked to forward any further thoughts on this issue to Elmbridge LTS.
6. Thames Towpath - Bridge Over Entrance to Walton Marina

SW informed the forum of the issues raised at a recent meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) at the bridge over the entrance to Walton Marina. National Cycle Network Route 4 runs along the towpath and at this section is on EA land. Work has previously been done to the bridge, which is formed of a metal frame with timber boarding. The EA have been receiving calls from nearby residents who have commented that the noise caused by the bridge is causing a disturbance. The EA would therefore like the comments from the Elmbridge Cycle Forum regarding this issue. The following considerations were highlighted during the cycle forum.

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

Taking the above points into consideration, the view of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum was:

- 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

7. Esher Green Junction Improvement – Update

CP updated the forum about the progress of the Esher Green Junction Improvement scheme. Following on from committee approval to develop the scheme, a “paramics” computer model has been created to assess the proposed traffic flow. As part of the scheme, ideas for improving pedestrian and cycle flow, parking and conservation / heritage (war memorial) are being developed. Although the proposals are still being developed, Elmbridge LTS intend to include it as an intermediate scheme in the 2005/06 LTP bid.

8. LTP II – Cycling Objectives, Workshop Session

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.
Table 1: Elmbridge Cycle Forum group views.

All forum members received a handout detailing the LTP II Cycling Objectives and Local Priorities. They were asked to complete the tables indicating what their comments in relation to the objectives, and also indicate their comments and rank a list of scheme types. The completed tables will then be passed back to the LTS, who will compile a reply and forward a copy to AF, highlighting the view of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum.

It was agreed that a meeting to consider the implications for cycling as part of the LTP II would be arranged in January 2005, with the next full meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum to be arranged in March 2005.

9. Items for future Forums

Items to be considered in future forums include:
- Progress on LTP cycling schemes
- Route identification for future years programmes
- Progress on LTP II
- Other issues raised by forum members

10. Other Items Raised and Conclusion

Problems on Route 4 between Hampton Court Bridge and Molesey Lock were identified. It was requested that maintaining the cycle route on the river-side be looked into. Any feedback to be brought to the next meeting of the cycle forum.

GC enquired whether cycle training fees at schools had recently increased, which may explain recent reduction in participants. SW to follow up with Elmbridge LTS Safe Routes to School Officer.

GC highlighted the recent issue about the blanket ban of cycles on trains, which operates on trains both to and from London. Elmbridge Cycle Forum is to write a letter to South West Trains highlighting their disapproval. The letter is to be signed by the Chairman.
It was agreed that a meeting to consider the implications for cycling as part of the LTP II would be arranged in January 2005, with the next full meeting of the Elmbridge Cycle Forum to be arranged in March 2005.

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

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.