

Bicycle Users group

Thursday 2nd December 2010 3.30-4.30pm Founders East 139

Present: Ryan Scott (RS -Chair), Matthew Woodham (MW), Sigrun Wagner (SW), Martin King (MK).

Apologies: Giacomo Benedetto, John Enright, Digby Entwisle, Fiona Moore, Adam Tickell, Jennifer Lardge, Nigel Raine, David Simon, Simon George

Welcome: from the Chair and introductions

Terms of reference: The group agreed the amended BUG terms of reference which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Issues raised:

MK raised the problem of (lack of) gritting on the Spring Rise exit/entrance for both cyclists and walkers and commented that one of the street lights was not working.

ACTION: RS to put in maintenance request for light and enquire about the gritting rota on campus to ensure this path is included.

MW asked for the group's thoughts on the provision for cycling in the vicinity of the campus. There was general agreement that the facilities for the surrounding area were not ideal and the shared space on pavements was not clear for both cyclists and pedestrians (Egham Hill). It was noted that the A30 was to be avoided as much as possible given the volume and speed of traffic, especially the stretch outside of the main gate where crossing is best done using the bridge.

RS mentioned he'd been speaking with Surrey Council's Community Travel Advisor on other travel-related matters and noted that the Council seem happy enough with the current cycling arrangements for Egham Hill. **RS will continue to see if there is any scope for improvements in future meetings.**

SW raised the issue of the Airtrack proposals¹ and how they might affect cyclists travelling to and from College should the project go ahead. Any new bridges/access points across the track should be designed to be cycle-friendly. RS noted that Surrey Council had been in touch with a Freedom of Information request regarding the movement of people from the East of the railway line to-and-from the College; Surrey Council currently opposes the project in its current form. **RS will raise cycle-related issues related to Airtrack with the Council's Community Travel Advisor**

MK noted that the South West Trains policy on taking cycles on trains remains convoluted and hard to interpret, creating confusion for travellers and station staff alike. **RS to look into SWT to see if there's a contact to open up a dialogue with to work towards improvements.**

RS noted that after tagging all the abandoned bikes 2 weeks ago the cycle map of the campus is out of date (leading to RS getting lost on the tagging exercise!). It was

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http://www.heathrowairport.com/portal/page/Heathrow%5EGeneral%5EOur+business+and+community%5EHeathrow+transformation%5EHeathrow+AirTrack/100046e4daa55110VgnVCM10000036821c0a_____/448c6a4c7f1b0010VgnVCM200000357e120a____/

also noted that there are shower facilities in Bourne and the Hub that aren't on the map. **RS to look into getting the cycle map updated and get the tagged bikes removed before Christmas.** These will be stored for an amnesty period before being given to a recycled cycle shop or used in a bike auction (RS to investigate H+S/legal implications of this) – anything but landfill.

MK raised the question of whether a distinction should be made between cycle *storage* and cycle *parking* as often commuters can't *park* their bike due to bikes being *stored* in racks.

The group pointed out that there is a large, underground cycle storage area in Founders Building for both staff and students (behind and parallel with Crosslands in between the two quads). RS also noted that if the rack at Windsor Building is full, there are two covered racks behind the Nat West bank/next to the Prayer Room which are rarely used. **RS to see if one of these can be moved given their low usage.**

SW noted that there is a bike rack at the Sports Centre, but it is uncovered, despite a covered walkway between the gym and Sports centre reception. **RS to investigate who may have a budget for putting a cover on the racks here.**

The group noted that there was a lack of cycle repair facilities either on campus or in the vicinity. **RS** noted that there wasn't a budget to subsidise cycle repairs, but **would look into potential mobile repair services.**

MW noted that despite the issues with cycling in and around the campus, it wasn't all bad at all! We are lucky to have such a nice, green campus and to have access to areas such as the Great Park on our doorstep. Thanks for the reminder Matthew, it can be easy to forget this at times!

Go Green Week (7th-11th Feb):

RS brought up the topic of Go Green Week (held annually in February in conjunction with the SU: a week long series of events on sustainability issues for staff and students aimed at raising awareness and encouraging a greater involvement of staff and students in sustainable behaviour/practices). RS proposed themed days, one being on sustainable travel, and asked the group for ideas:

- Mobile cycle repair on site
- Cycle buddying
- Police security tagging/advice/training
- Cyclescheme roadshow from local bike shop
- Lunchtime cycle/Campus cycling tour
- Auction of abandoned bikes

RS to continue working on ideas and investigation of which ones will/wont be possible. RS welcomes any other ideas from any BUG members and welcomes any input/help from BUG members leading up to and during Go Green Week.

AOB:
None

Next meeting:

RS to set up the next BUG meeting for March 2011. Any smaller meeting regarding Go Green Week will be convened between those involved. Contact RS if you have ideas you'd like to feed in to Go Green Week.