

Minutes of the London Disability Cycling Forum 13 June 2007

Held at the LCC offices, 2 Newham's Row.

Present:

Jim Blakemore, Bikeworks
Digger, Cycling for All
Sarah Slater, London Cycling Campaign (LCC)
Janet Paske, Wheels for Wellbeing
Richard Taylor, Haringay Mencap
Jo Roach, Pedalpower
Liz Mincer, Cycling for All
Dr Veena Natarajan, Cycling Centre of Excellence, Transport for London(TfL)
Tracey Hickey, Sutton Mencap

Apologies

Oliver Schick, LCC board member
Verena Hewat, Penrose Housing Association
Roger Ferrington, London Borough of Walthamforest

1. Welcome and introductions

JP apologised that the venue was not accessible.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The words "viewing pen" should be changed to "trackside viewing". Otherwise these were agreed.

3. Actions arising not covered elsewhere

Nothing to report.

4. Veena's TfL slot

TfL report

Veena produced a 2004 report commissioned by TfL into the views of disabled people who either did or did not cycle. She stressed that the conclusions in this would feed into but not form the basis of any decisions. Paper copies were made available and an electronic version is attached to the minutes.

TfL funding news

Veena wanted to listen to our views about TfL proposals for the next 3 years (2007/8 – 2009/10). She explained that:

- TfL want to put a greater emphasis on cycling for disabled people over the next 3 years, and that there are resources available to do it from the Cycle Training Budget she controls (worth £2.9m in total for all cycle training ie not just for disability-related projects);

- TfL are interested in innovative projects, in projects which want to expand or work across borders. TfL would like more presence of cycling for disabled people in the West and the North of London similar to the Croydon and Mile End projects;
- TfL want effective monitoring of any schemes so need suggestions from the Forum for appropriate outputs and outcomes for All Ability cycling eg BikeAbility outcomes?
- TfL has set up a London Cycle Training Partnership Board to discuss all issues of relevance to cycle training, including All Ability.

There was a heated debate:

- *How would this money be accessed?*
Veena suggested that the money could be accessed through the boroughs' Cycle Training budgets but most people had anecdotes of why this would be difficult. We decided that a better mechanism was to use the LCC as a conduit as it already has experience of administering a grants process and it should be quicker than boroughs at paying out. To enable this to happen, JP agreed to write to Veena on behalf of the Forum with evidence as to why the LCC is the preferred option. People will need to provide examples of the difficulties of using the boroughs as the funding mechanism to JP. This needs to be done promptly to allow time for setting up any new process by April of next year.
- *What about looking again at the 6 projects with a disability focus which weren't funded through the first round of the Community Cycling Fund London (CCFL)?*
Veena agreed to look again at these, should they not be funded during the second award round. Sarah said she would send any applications over in August.
- *What can be funded over the next 3 years?*
Over the next 3 years all projects which relate to cycling for disabled people will be seriously considered, whether they are for people cycling off road or for people on road.
- *What happens after the 3 years are up?*
Veena was not able to give any guarantees about funding post Mar 2010. This is because TfL's budget is not guaranteed after this time.

In addition, after 3 years it is possible that funding for cycling projects for people who will never be able to ride on the road (eg. due to lack of road safety awareness, typically people with learning difficulties or people with visual impairments) would not come from TfL. That is because TfL's Cycle Training Budget is about getting people riding on the road. But this decision is not a foregone conclusion. However, knowing this now means that there is a lead in time for cycling providers to look to other sources of income to replace any TfL have provided.

- *Where does social inclusion fit into this?*
The cycling projects for people who will never be able to ride on the road typically fit the social inclusion agenda. Most people around the table were able to provide stories of the major changes in people's lives achieved by getting cycling but we were all agreed on the difficulty in measuring them. (Many other cycling projects for disabled people will also fit into the social inclusion agenda) JP mentioned a possible approach which others

might like to consider – the Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment Toolkit, produced by the Care Services Improvement Partnership. (There seems to be no useful link to information about this but I have attached some draft questions that could be used to assess people's mental wellbeing before and after a cycling project.)

- *Don't we need more disability-aware cycle instructors before we start putting money into disability cycling projects? What about training?*

Lots of people raised concerns about the inter-personal skills and lack of disability awareness of cycle instructors. JP said that Cycling England had been charged with producing something. She said that she had been working with Ian Tierney of Cycling Projects and under the auspices of the CTC, they had put together a proposal to develop a disability training toolkit which would sit within the National Standards scheme. This is currently with the Department for Transport and it is not clear when a decision will be made.

The proposal includes a questionnaire to people on various instructor mailing lists and 4 workshops where cycle instructors can share their knowledge and experience of getting disabled people cycling. The aim of the toolkit is to provide tips on achieving Bikeability outcomes with people across a range of impairments. Bikeability will not require instructors to use these approaches. It will also include a list of suppliers and manufacturers and existing project provision.

- *Projects like Cycling for All in Croydon aren't what's required everywhere.*
People were positive about Cycling for All but did not think it should be used as a template for the rest of London. People thought cycling should be an activity that people can access easily and, if possible, independently. The further people have the travel, the more likely they are to need to support to get there. It is also counter to TfL's and the government's attempts to get people to reduce the use of non-sustainable travel. It also reduces the number of times people are going to cycle as the further it is to get there, the less often they will go.
- *The London Cycling Action Plan (LCAP)*
JP asked how these new developments linked in with the LCAP. Veena explained that the LCAP had been written in February 2004 and that it has targets for 2010 and 2020 but the 2010 target had already been reached. It is probable that once the Mayor's transport strategy has been revised in 2 years time, the LCAP would need to be revised in the light of this so we might expect to see a new LCAP in 3 years.
- *Disability Equality Scheme (DES)*
JP asked how cycling is covered in TfL's DES. The DES is a legal requirement for TfL and arises due to its "Disability Equality Duty" (DED). The DED is meant to ensure that all public bodies pay 'due regard' to the promotion of equality for disabled people in every area of their work. Veena offered to look into this and report back at the next meeting.
- *Other benefits of cycling projects for disabled people*

Several people reported that carers and support workers are also starting cycling as a result of their projects.

Actions agreed

- Veena – will provide more information about the London Cycle Training Partnership after project plan is agreed after the inaugural board meeting (July 07)
- Veena to look into TfL's DES and feedback at next meeting.
- Does the LDCF think we should have a place on the Board?
- All to provide evidence of problems of getting money from councils . Please send to JP by XYZ so she can write a letter to Veena asking for an alternative route to access TfL money for projects.
- People to approach their borough officers for funding this year, asking them to contact Veena with requests. If you have problems with this, then contact Veena directly. She can be contacted at Veena.Natarajan@tfl.gov.uk or 020 7027 9178.
- Jo Roach to provide case study of problems of funding projects which are cross boundary.
- All – what do we do about monitoring outputs and outcomes?
- Sarah to send unsuccessful CCFL applications to Veena for consideration.

5. Pedalpower and Bikeworks in conversation

Jo Roach and Jim Blakemore talked through their experiences so far in starting up an outreach project at Mile End Park, where Jim is based.

Jo gave an introduction as to why she got Pedalpower going in the first place. Within 3 years has had to move base several times and now has a very successful project working from Finsbury Park. Jim wanted to work in partnership with her group as they are so close geographically. The joint collaboration is still in development.

6. Sarah's LCC slot

- *The Community Cycling Fund London (CCFL)*
Twenty six awards were made out of 68 applications. SS apologised but due to bureaucratic hitches money would probably not be paid out for about a month at the earliest. Anyone who has difficulties with that should contact her.

The second funding round for CCFL closes on 2 July 2007. You can apply for up to £5k for a project, and individuals can also apply eg for a bike. Application forms are available on www.lcc.org.uk and are pretty easy to fill in. Any questions, then get in touch with Sarah 020 7234 9310 ext 212 sarah@lcc.org.uk .

- *Bike Week and the Tour de France*
There's lots going on at the moment. Check out www.lcc.org.uk or <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/> for more details.
- *Staff changes*
Simon Brammer, the director, is going to be replaced by Koy Thompson who currently works at Action Aid. He is apparently supportive of campaigning for cycling for disabled

people so hopefully in time there will be more resource made available to promote and support this from LCC.

Sadia is now responsible for corporate work and she and Sarah are trying to see if there is any possibility of getting Corporate Social Responsibility to include some element of Community work. Ben is now responsible for the magazine. Julie has joined the membership team.

- *New information leaflets*

The LCC have produced new colour versions of their 12 information leaflets which cost 85p each. People at the meeting were allowed to take away one copy of each of the 12 but Sarah is keen that where possible, people are asked for a donation. The LCC All Ability Guide has not yet been re-published and it is not certain when this will happen. There have been a number of discussions about this including what format should it be made available in eg DVD.

- *Action*

Veena to ask Adrian if he could resolve the CCFL blockage at TfL's end.

7. News from round the table

JP reported that there is a training course "On Ya Bike" in Bolton in September 19th for paediatric physios but all people who work in cycling for people with learning difficulties are welcome to attend. It is being run by Sue Booth who is a physiotherapist, and will have Ian Tierney from Cycling Projects starting the day. It costs £120 for non-members, starts at 8.30 am and finishes at 5pm. Veena said that TfL could potentially fund people to attend. JP says that she does not have electronic versions of the papers so if people want the course information please would they contact Sue Booth on 01204 304 230. Sarah offered to make a joint application for people and pass it to Veena for funding consideration.

JB reported being very busy.

TH reported that she is in the process of setting up a project group to take forward the creation of a cycling project in Sutton. There is buy in from various Council departments eg parks.

RT reported the start up of a new cycling club in Haringey called Breakthru.

8. AOB

Liz Mincer told people that she had seen the Home Office guidelines, which are not generally publicly available, which allow discretion in relation to pavement cyclists and she wanted more people to know about them. There were reservations around the table about promoting pavement cycling and no decision was taken about whether to raise this as an important issue. Liz has provided the guidelines so you can read them if you wish.

9. Next meeting

October 3rd 1830-2030 at Transport for London offices, 3rd Floor, Parnell House, 25
Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1LW