

Minutes of the London Disability Cycling Forum

26 February 2008

Held at Wheels for Wellbeing, Brixton

Present:

Jim Blakemore, Bikeworks

Digger

Shaun Powell, London Sports Forum for Disabled People

Janet Paske, Wheels for Wellbeing (chair)

Sarah Slater, London Cycling Campaign (LCC)

Dr Veena Natarajan, Cycling Centre of Excellence, Transport for London(TfL)

Paul Lowe, cyclinginstructor.com

1. Apologies

Lindsay Wilson, London Sports Forum for Disabled People

David Dansky, CTUK

Oliver Schick

Tracey Hickey, Sutton Mencap

Trevor Lenthall, Sutton Council

Mike Dees, Ecological

Dominic Everitt, RNIB

Jo Roach, Pedalpower

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

§ Digger to follow up with the British Blind Foundation to see if they are interested in being a member of the Forum.

§ Janet to contact Mind, RNID, HandcyclingUK (Barry North on holiday for Feb) and the Douglas Bader Foundation for same reason.

4. Coachability

Shaun Powell of the London Sports Forum updated us on the Coachability project, where LSF is trying to get 150 disabled people qualified as sports coaches over 3 years (2007/8 is year 1). 150 would be qualified to NVQ level 1 (6 hours of training), and 125 qualified to level 2 (8 hours of training), in line with the national governing body.

British Cycling already have some of their training accredited to NVQ levels 1 and 2 so if people wanting to do cycling they would pursue these qualifications. We wondered why Bikeability instructor training is not NVQed. **UPDATE** JP contacted the CTC subsequent to the meeting and Greg Woodford replied that

“The general feedback is that the NVQ process is particularly onerous and generally does not provide sufficient benefits for the amount of work to achieve that status. That decision was made about 3 years ago by the CTRG the curriculum body.

You can write to them, c/o me and suggest it, but you would need to evidence your proposal.”

I wonder whether it might be worth pursuing this again, with the big push on cycling. I suspect there will be more funding available to develop the NVQs now, and it would probably be easier to get more people trained if they are linked into a qualification which is comparable to others nationally?

One of the criticisms of the Coachability scheme is that participants must have a qualification no higher than a GCSE. Shaun has been approaching the funder, the LDA, to see if this condition can be waived as it is resulting in many people being turned away. Shaun said that people who are not eligible for the existing scheme are being recommended for others as appropriate eg with SkillsActive, 66% of costs can be covered.

Shaun also mentioned a mentoring scheme which both disabled people and their carers can participate in. SportscoachUK are doing the training for this.

Shaun is happy to talk to people to encourage them to get on either of the schemes. shaun@londonsportsforum.org.uk Office 020 7717 1699 Mobile: 078 7238 0512.

Paralympics

We also discussed the Paralympian team and how "old" they are. There is a concern that there are insufficient people coming through who would be able to compete in 2012. Handcycling UK are key here, as are British Cycling which has a Paralympian Management Team. Unlike racing for non-disabled people though, there is no route for people to access this team. Paul West paulwest@britishcycling.org.uk 0161 274 2021 is the link for British Cycling on this.

Actions:

- § Sarah to send Shaun info on the Active Spectator Strategy.
- § Sarah / Jim to think about Marshall and whether he might be interested in more competitive cycling.
- § All – do you know of anyone who might be interested in Coachability?

5. TfL's Walking and Cycling conference

At our last meeting we decided to put forward a proposal to TfL for Jim and Janet to do a presentation at the conference and for us to have a stall. We contacted TfL accordingly and have since been informed that we are having "a poster designed for us" but we wouldn't be able to do a presentation or have a stall. Apparently the LCC also can't give a presentation.

More info about the conference can be found <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/businessandpartners/6227.aspx> and you can register now.

Actions

LCC to report back once they have further info from Elizabeth Claridge at TfL about what this means/ what material to we can hand out.

All: think about whether you will be able to spare some time to be at the exhibition hall to talk to punters on the 9th April.

6. Disability cycle training

TfL has provided money for 12 people to go through the national standards cycle training (to be provided by cycleinstructor.com) and to attend a disability module which Bikeworks is putting together.

Janet is doing the admin / advertising. It was agreed that any people taking advantage of this would need to have a letter of support from an organisation which is providing/ planning to provide training for disabled people. Also participants will be expected to commit to provide some training on a voluntary basis. We don't envisage 12 people all attending the same course and expect that the places will be taken up over the year.

Once cycleinstructor.com has come up with some dates (they will be weekends most probably) Janet will put together an application pack and circulate it.

The LCC is holding the money on behalf of TfL.

7. LCC update

Bike maintenance

Sarah's mechanics courses have raised some new issues, including the importance of identifying which cycles are appropriate for working on. Only 3 of 45 were worth using at one class. There were also concerns that perhaps the course was a bit too high level for some of the participants.

Despite this, the next class is from 31 March – 4 April so please contact Sarah for more details sarah@lcc.org.uk. It costs £300 I think.

TfL won't fund maintenance. There is a City and Guilds in bike maintenance and also an AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) also have a qualification.

We discussed the possibility of getting the National Standards Adjustments course developed into a course which would be at a more appropriate level for many community groups.

Community Cycling Fund London (CCFL): 35 applications were received in the first tranche, most of which seem good quality. Don't forget the second tranche if you missed the first. Details on the LCC website. The deadline is the 4th April.

8. TfL update

Veena gave us an update. From the 1 March to the May elections there will be little on policy that TfL can say as they are in election purdah.

Ken's big announcement

Most of you will be familiar with Ken's announcements recently about the increase in investment in cycling over the next 3 years. £62m is committed for walking and cycling in 2008/09 and £63m for 09/10 - £2.8m a year is already allocated specifically for cycle training, and this includes funding for cycle training for adults and children with special needs. The key elements of the additional programme are cycling superhighways, a bike hire scheme and cycling hubs. A policy report is due out in due course. There will also be a stakeholder engagement event in early June.

Obviously we don't know if he will be re-elected and what would happen if he wasn't. The hope is that "mayoral" promises will be kept, whoever the mayor is.

TfL are still keen to support special needs cycling until 2009/10 but Veena is not so sure after that, as it is beyond the planning horizon for that level of detail.

Funding

Routes for accessing TfL funding are currently via the CCFL and via the boroughs through the LIP process. Contact details for Borough cycle training officers are available on the cycling pages of the TfL website

TfL is also piloting a workplace cycle training scheme ie training an instructor at a workplace. If successful, it is expected that this will be expanded. This is being developed by the Workplace Travel Plans team, under Conrad Haigh and Steve Macey.

9. AOB/ updates

Jim reported that his new All Ability Cycle Cycling Club has opened. It's on every other Saturday afternoon in Mile Park. Call Jim on 07968 681 633 for more details or to get some publicity material.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 May starting at 1830, at the LCC offices at 2 Newham's Row, SE1 3UZ . Apologies but this is venue is not wheelchair accessible. Please let Janet Paske know if that creates difficulties for you.