



28 July 2009

Matt Winfield
Sustrans
70 Cowcross Street
EC1M 6EJ

Dear Matt

Support for Sustrans Greenways Prospectus

I am writing on behalf of the London Disability Cycling Forum in relation to our support for Sustrans' Greenways prospectus. My apologies for the delay.

We are glad that you have invited the Forum to make comments on this document and trust you will find our input useful.

Members of the Forum are broadly in support of the Prospectus, but we thought you could strengthen it in a number of ways to reflect better the additional needs of disabled people. More specifically:

- under "Users of Greenways" you mention people who want to experience cycling in largely traffic free environments. You could also include here people who lack road safety awareness such as some people with learning difficulties or some people with mental illness.
- One of your objectives is to create environments that encourage new and less confident cyclists to cycle. This objective could be extended to include people who can't cycle on the road, whether due to lack of road safety awareness, lack of money to buy a cycle (3 and 4 wheelers can be considerably more expensive than basic 2 wheelers) or lack of storage facilities (even more space is needed than for 2 wheelers). This will include a range of disabled people, whether with physical or visual impairments, learning difficulties or mental illness.
- Could you also put a greater emphasis on linking up the disabled community, especially disabled cycling groups and schools in order to increase inclusion?
- In "selecting schemes" could you include consideration of whether there is a cycling project for disabled people in the borough, and if there isn't,

make sure that consideration is given to the needs of such a project.
Some of the things needed include:

- space for storage of cycles (whether 2,3 or 4 wheeled)
- close access to disabled toilets
- convenient parking, especially for people who are arriving by minibus or who are Blue Badge holders
- making sure that Disabled Bays are enforced in parks (in some boroughs, Parks' car parks are not covered by the Highways authority but Parks' staff do not enforce disabled parking bays).
- a large flat area for cycling. Athletics tracks can be ideal but secluded and sheltered areas in parks are also good, and offer more scope for varied routes
- ideally access to electricity so tea and coffee can be made, especially useful in the colder months. This helps to make cycling a more social activity. Meeting new people whilst cycling can be difficult and new friends are usually made whilst chatting.

If there is a cycling scheme for disabled people, then hopefully you would consult with the people running it to find out what they would like from any improved Greenways routes.

This would also help "make open spaces places for us all to enjoy" (part of your objectives).

In future, we would like to put our relationship on a more professional footing, recognising the value of being able to access over 35 people in London who are interested in cycling and disability- related issues, usually a difficult group of people to get to. Recognising the voluntary nature of the Forum, and the lack of resources we can easily access, and the cost incurred in usually trying to access such expertise, we would like to be remunerated for our input to your consultations. I trust this sounds reasonable and I hope to discuss this with you in future.

The Forum is pleased that Greenways are now being taken seriously as places to provide transport routes as well as leisure opportunities and looks forward to working with you in future developments.

Yours sincerely

Janet Paske
Chair, London Disability Cycling Forum

Manager,
Wheels for Wellbeing
336 Brixton Road
SW9 7AA

020 7346 8482