



Minutes of the meeting of the SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM held on THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1999 at 7 pm

Present: Councillor O'Sullivan (Chair)

Officers: John Inman (Head of Transport), J Harper (Transport Policy Manager), T Kirk (Passenger Transport Manager), T Dove (Traffic and Transport Manager), J Shaw (Senior Committee Manager) and J Marshall (Committee Manager)

Forum

Representatives:	R Gibbard	–	Beanhill Parish Council
	T Mernagh	–	Woburn Sands Town Council
	J Hughes	–	West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council
	P Hughes	–	West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council
	B Moore	–	Hanslope Parish Council
	R Cousins	–	Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users Association
	P Waterman	–	Stony Stratford
	I Fraser	–	Campbell Park Parish Council
	T Fraser	–	Fishermead and Oldbrook Residents Association
	H Gilbert	–	Haversham Town Council
	L Hay	–	North Bucks Motorcycle Action Group
	P Callen	–	North Bucks Motorcycle Action Group
	N Perry	–	North Bucks Motorcycle Action Group
	G Borton	–	Milton Keynes Cycle Users Group
	D Stabler	–	Neath Hill Residents Association
	K Jory	–	Transport 2000
	A Francis	–	Stantonbury Parish Council
	A Irwin	–	Newport Pagnell Town Council
	J Sidebottom	–	Newport Pagnell Town Council

1.0 WARD MATTERS

(a) Beanhill Residents Association

(i) Keeping Redways clear of travellers

The Forum considered the issue of Redways being closed by the Council as a means of preventing traveller settlements emerging.

RESOLVED –

That Officers investigate this matter further.

(ii) Enforcement of Disabled Parking

The Forum considered the difficulties of parking for disabled members of the community after 5.00pm when Disabled Parking spaces were not enforced. Officers responded that this matter had been looked into by the Council and the current problem was due to old style markings designating Disabled spaces. This will shortly be resolved when updated markings are put in place, making the spaces legally enforceable by the police.

(b) West Bletchley Neighbourhood Council

(i) Community Bus Service

The Forum considered the proposals from representatives of West Bletchley to introduce a looping bus system in their area in order to allow easier access to buses for the elderly.

(ii) Green Corridors in West Bletchley

The Forum considered a proposal from representatives of West Bletchley to initiate a Redway system in Bletchley, which they believed could be linked with the redevelopment of Bletchley Park.

Officers responded that this may be feasible but that plans for Bletchley Park would have to be finalised before this could be taken further.

(iii) The Wayfarer System

The Forum considered views from representatives of West Bletchley that the current system for deciding whether to provide a bus service in an area, which entails measuring passenger usage, only works negatively. Residents questioned why this Wayfarer system was not used in areas with no bus service to determine whether one should be put in place, making it also a positive system.

RESOLVED –

That the Wayfarer system be evaluated by the Passenger Transport Section.

(c) Woburn Sands Town Council

(i) Extension of existing footpath

The Forum considered a proposal from Woburn Sands Town Council to extend an existing footpath which ran beside the recreation ground in Woburn Sands, in order that it could reach the entrance to the ground. Representatives suggested that this

could be jointly funded by Milton Keynes Council and Woburn Sands Town Council.

RESOLVED -

That officers evaluate the proposal on receipt of a map of the area of the recreation ground, detailing proposed changes to the existing footpath.

(ii) Proposed separation of footpath and bridleway

The Forum considered a presentation from representatives on the topic of the low quality of the existing footpath between Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill. It was felt that the close proximity of a bridleway was detrimental to the surface of the footpath, and it was proposed that a new footpath be sited on the opposite side of the road. The possibility of incorporating a cycleway into this was also considered. Officers replied that there was a proposal in the local plan to extend the Redway from Woburn Sands.

RESOLVED –

That consideration of this matter be deferred until later in the year when budget implications would be more visible.

(d) Hanslope Parish Council

The Forum received a presentation from a representative of Hanslope Parish Council on the dangers to school children within the Parish from traffic. A representative highlighted the problem that a particular roundabout situated near a school in Ki Hees Close was causing more traffic and so it was felt that a school crossing patrols person was required. It was also emphasised that since the Council carried out a traffic survey of the area the numbers of pupils attending the school had increased.

Officers replied that the situation had been assessed and it had been determined that there was insufficient risk to require a crossing patrols person. The Forum was informed that traffic calming measures were being investigated, which may alleviate the need for a roundabout and if this was removed, risk would be reduced.

(e) Emberton Parish Council

In the absence of representatives of the Parish Council, this item be deferred.

(f) Stantonbury Parish Council

(i) Secure Parking

The Forum received a presentation from a representative of Stantonbury Parish Council on the issue of parking spaces which are not overlooked by houses, which causes greater risk of vandalism and burglary, as well as leading to residents parking in inappropriate places such as on the grass verges.

(ii) Hail and Ride

The Forum was addressed on the topic of Hail and Ride bus services which the representative from Stantonbury perceived to be badly advertised, and also felt would better service the community if bus shelters were introduced.

Officers responded that bus shelters were inconsistent with the principle of Hail and Ride which relied on residents hailing the bus from wherever was convenient along the route.

RESOLVED –

That the possibility of putting signs along the side of the road to make the Hail and Ride bus routes clear be considered, as well as the possibility of displaying bus timetables in local shop windows.

(iii) Cycling on Pavements

A representative from Stantonbury asked the forum to clarify whether it was illegal for cyclists to cycle on pavements in Milton Keynes.

The suitability of Redways and subways in Central Milton Keynes for cycling was considered. Generally it was thought that better interaction between the Redways, roads and footpaths was needed.

Officers replied that since legislation in August it had been clear that cycling on pavements was illegal.

RESOLVED –

That clarification on the issues raised about the classification of Redways as suitable for cycling be sought from the Home Office and the issue of enforcement be raised with Thames Valley Police.

(g) Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users Association

A representative of the Bletchley to Bedford Rail Users Association reported that platform 6 at Bletchley station, which services travellers from Bedford, was hard to access for disabled and elderly passengers as there is no lift. The existing staircase is uncovered and becomes very slippery in the Winter. Although this issue had been raised with both Railtrack and Silverlink no action had yet been taken.

The Forum noted that it was essential that those using a major rail service were able to get assistance with access to platforms.

RESOLVED -

That Officers look into the issues involved in covering the staircase leading from the ticket office to platform 6 of Bletchley station.

2.0

DE-CRIMINALISING PARKING IN MILTON KEYNES

The Forum considered the findings of a report commissioned into the feasibility of implementing decriminalised parking in Milton Keynes. A process which would entail the Council taking over responsibility for legally enforcing all parking spaces in Milton Keynes, from Thames Valley Police.

Concerns were raised by the North Bucks Motorcycle Action Group that there were not parking facilities for motorbikes in Milton Keynes and it was queried how de-criminalisation would affect this.

RESOLVED -

That the proposal to implement de-criminalised parking in Milton Keynes to be considered by the Transport Committee on 1 December 1999 be noted, subject to the removal of clause 6.5 in the Financial Implications of the report.

That the Cycling Officer, meet with the North Bucks Motor Cycle Action Group to discuss the issue of Motorcycle parking in Milton Keynes, with a view to incorporating a review of motorcycle parking into the forthcoming review of pedal cycle parking.

3.0

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED -

That the next meeting of this Forum be held on 23 March 2000.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.55 PM