

Cycle Advisory and Liaison Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 7th October 2024

Attendees:	INITIALS	STATUS
Moor, Nigel;	NM	Chair
Smith, Roger;	RS	Forum rep
Taylor, Malcom;	MT	Forum rep
Gray, Cllr David;	DG	Member
Cody, Cllr Cate;	CC	Member
Bullock, Alan;	AB	Officer
Williams, Sarah;	SW	Officer
Chick, Danielle;	DC	Officer
Humm, Jason;	JH	Officer
Hazel, Ollie;	OH	Officer
David-Summers, Cameron;	CDS	Officer
Williams, Phillip;	PW	Officer
Rivers-Coles, Callum;	CRC	Officer
Salvin, Peter;	PS	Consultant
Smith, Jonathan;	JS	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Vestey, Robert;	RV	Gloucestershire Constabulary

Apologies

Morris, Cllr Dominic;	DM	Member
Bloxsom, Cllr John;	JB	Member
Willingham, Cllr David;	DW	Member
Chick, Colin;	CCh	Officer
Marshall, Tracy	TM	Officer
Haworth, Kathryn;	KH	Officer
Senft-Hayward, Luisa;	LSH	Officer
Atkins, Jo;	JA	Officer
Davis, Nathan;	ND	Officer
Haworth, Alex;	AH	Officer
Davies, Petula;	PD	Officer
Excell, Simon;	SE	Officer
Ward, Christopher;	CW	Observer
Payne, Jack;		

1.0 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read apologies.

2.0 Actions and minutes of 1st July 2024

Minutes agreed. Previous actions:

Action: SW to provide LCWIP review when available

- PS discussed under item 5.

Action: SW to ask someone from Atkins to join next CAG meeting.

- In attendance

Action: SW to organise cycle ride from Gloucester to Cheltenham September 23rd at 1pm.
SW to book bikes and discuss seat adjustments with OH.

- Cancelled due to poor weather, to be rearranged in the new year.

3.0 Summary of current projects

Initiative/ Scheme	Update
Major Projects	
B4063 Gloucester to Cheltenham Cycle Scheme	Design - Junction modelling at Estcourt Road Roundabout verified the preferred option as a Dutch Style Roundabout. Consultation - Consultation for all phases between Oxstalls Lane and Arle Court Roundabout are complete and all feedback has been published online. - Consultation for Estcourt Road Roundabout is likely to be carried out this financial year Construction - Elmbridge Court Rbt to Golf Course Access – Works complete - Golf Completed Course Access to M5 Overbridge – Works complete - Elmbridge Court Roundabout to Oxstalls Lane Junction - Works commenced in early 2024 and due to complete in Spring 2025
Gloucester City Cycle Spine	Consultation - Public consultation was undertaken in Summer 2023 and findings have been published online Construction - Spa Road to Kimbrose and Northgate Street. Construction is planned for early 2025.
B4008 Standish Multi User Path	Project is being delivered in two phases 1.Horsemarling Roundabout to Crocumpill Cottage. - Design nearing completion. - Consultation event on 12th Sept 2024 - Construction to commence in early 2025 2. Crocumpill Cottage to Blackbridge access track - Presence of an uncharted and defective culvert has delayed progress of design. - Programme to be confirmed.
Gloucester to Stroud	1. Project is to be delivered in multiple phases. 2. Phase 1 - Bristol Road to Cole Avenue is developed to Preliminary Design and Public Consultation is planned for 2025.
Highway Improvement Projects	
Minor Improvements	• Cam and Dursley Green Way – We are reviewing the Atkins feasibility study. • Spine Road Crossing – We are waiting for Atkins to complete survey work.

Secure Cycle Storage Update	• Stroud Merrywalks – Cycle storage issue has been raised with landowner, an agreement for a third-party provider on the land is to be drawn up. • The procurement process for the secure bike storage contract is underway. It is anticipated that a contracted will be award by the end of the calendar year.
ThinkTravel	
Cycling/ Bikeability	E-Bike Scheme for Organisations - Now entering its second year. The scheme aims to change commuting behaviour by allowing staff to borrow an e-bike for up to two weeks. - Participating Organisations (since June 2023): - o Cheltenham Borough Council - o University of Gloucestershire - o NHS Gloucester - o Berkeley Place Surgery, Prestbury - o Cirencester Health Group - o Underwood Surgery, Cheltenham - Upcoming Bookings: - o Tewkesbury Borough Council: Mid October 2024 to Mid January 2025 - o GE Aviation: Mid January 2025 to Mid March 2025 Pool Bikes - Three new Pool E-Bikes for GCC staff to use during the workday for meetings and site visits. - A new integrated booking system will launch shortly. - Email ThinkTravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk to book a bike or arrange a practice ride with a team member. Bikeability - Target: Achieving 80% of children in the county completing Level 2 Bikeability by the end of primary school. This includes young people in SEN settings at Key Stages 3 or 4. - Partnered with the Fire Service at Skillzone to host school holiday Bikeability courses. - o Summer Courses: 48 children and young people participated. - o Instructor CPD: A CPD session for Bikeability instructors took place at Skillzone in early October. - Bike Hub Schools: 13 schools received six bikes and bike storage to boost Bikeability participation. - o Schools: ▪ Hesters Way, Cheltenham ▪ Gardners Lane, Cheltenham ▪ Rowanfield Juniors, Cheltenham ▪ Linden, Gloucester ▪ Grange, Gloucester ▪ Widden, Gloucester ▪ Brockworth ▪ Tetbury St Mary's ▪ Park Juniors, Stonehouse

	▪ Cam Woodfield Juniors ▪ Tewkesbury C of E ▪ Chesterton, Cirencester ▪ Severnbanks, Lydney - Additional instructors recruited in the Forest of Dean, enabling Bikeability for all children in the district. - Five new schools have signed up for Bikeability since September. - Thinktravel are presenting the benefits of Bikeability to PE Leads and Headteachers at the Move More Active Travel Conference on 24th October. - Plans to roll out the cycle bus initiative. This new project involves planning routes near schools to improve access. We are training parents and volunteers to sustain the project. Launch events are scheduled for spring next year. Community E-Bike Scheme - The first 20 e-bikes delivered to partners (Transition Stroud and Gloucestershire Bike Project). Gloucestershire Bike Project launching this week. Cycle Spine Launch - Planning soft launch events for the Cheltenham to Gloucester cycle route in spring. Suggestions for activities are welcome.
Strategic Planning	
Funding Updates	- Steadings to Cirencester Link and Spine Road Crossing: Secured CIL from CDC. Design work progressing for both projects. - Rodborough Missing Link Bid (Stroud): Bid complete. Meeting with councillors next week to discuss securing CIL or potentially bidding into Stroud Cycling & Walking budget.
LCWIP development update	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/lcwip - PS provided an update under agenda item 5. Engaging with developers to assess feasibility for garden communities as they develop.
Gloucester	- Cycle Spine Corridor progressing as planned.
Cheltenham	- Cheltenham Rail Station to A40: Additional £300k secured. GWR has stepped back, GCC to deliver - possibly requiring a cabinet decision. Design needs to meet LTN 1/20 guidance and be accessible for all mobilities.
Cotswold	- Steadings to Cirencester Link and Spine Road Crossing: Secured CIL from CDC. Design work progressing for both projects.
Forest of Dean	- Hartpury to Gloucester Corridor: Progressing well with widespread support except for one section in probate. Discussions ongoing with the Environment Agency regarding access over the sluice gate. Feasibility work funded by University, with contributions from Sustrans. Solar farm infrastructure secured. Housing development has protected land and agreed to maintain it for future cycleway.
Stroud	- Dudbridge Steps: Report completed, but solutions not feasible currently. Cycling down Dudbridge Hill is possible. - Rodborough Missing Link Bid (Stroud): Bid complete. Meeting with councillors next week to discuss securing CIL or potentially bidding into Stroud LCWIP budget.
Tewkesbury	- Revised LCWIP awaiting sign off for publication.

MT mentioned that Estcourt Road to Elmbridge still has a long way to go. AB noted that this section is included in the Gloucester cycle spine project, with a completion target for Spring 2025. PW highlighted several issues along that route related to broadband, which are prolonging the construction process. DG raised concerns about problems with trees on the Cheltenham section and whether falling trees or storms have had an impact. AB responded that it doesn't appear to be an issue.

MT discussed the Rodborough missing link and the connections under the railway bridge. SW proposed a switchback to reduce the gradient, noting a small gap in the network. AB mentioned that it is a technically complex project due to environmental considerations. MT inquired if the Hartpury to Gloucester route is the bridleway, to which SW confirmed it stays to the west of Maisemore and that options are being explored.

Action: OH to follow up on the legal issue with Tewkesbury Council regarding the borrowing of bikes, ensuring they are fully serviced and delivered next week.

AB provided an update regarding the Estcourt Road junction, noting that various modelling options have been explored, taking into account the 94 bus route that runs through the area. Initially, two options were considered: a Dutch-style roundabout or a signalised Cyclops junction. The Cyclops option encountered significant congestion issues.

MT mentioned that a previous experiment to reduce lanes was unsuccessful. AB clarified that this was due to temporary infrastructure like cones. DG emphasised the need for solid infrastructure to change the culture and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. A name change was proposed. PW added that the experiment coincided with nearby roadworks, allowing cyclists to join the roundabout at a normal speed, but highlighted that there have been many casualties at that junction.

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5.0 Revised LCWIP/Garden Communities Presentation

PS delivered an update on the LCWIP, noting that the original report included links to Ashchurch and broadly connected to garden community projects. With the garden community progressing, planning applications for significant housing growth are now forthcoming. The LCWIP will be updated to facilitate contributions for the necessary work. Additional routes have been incorporated into the revised report, with aspirations set for routes through these developments.

Priority routes for scheme development have been selected based on forthcoming developments, and feasibility studies have been conducted for these routes. A concept design for the A46 is part of the J9 works, although the M5 bridge presents a constraint. SW remarked that developers are claiming the identified corridor isn't feasible, and justifications have been requested. Development can be refused if there is inadequate access for pedestrians and cyclists, requiring evidence for any statements made. The A46 working group is functioning well, and the borough has produced a charter. SW has a site visit scheduled at a development to the east. DG emphasised the importance of designing developments positively to attract residents.

CC raised concerns about the difficulties of cycling to Northway Station and requested potential improvements. He also mentioned that the Bredon Road junction is problematic and frequently floods. SW acknowledged the challenges of adhering to LTN 1/20 guidance and highlighted issues with protected species along that corridor. Discussions about reducing speeds are ongoing.

CC expressed frustration over the inability to install speed cameras in town due to high speeds, referencing Cinderford's rubber speed bumps as a possible solution. AB noted that while these have been used in the county before, there are pros and cons to all types of infrastructure. PW indicated that Stuart Bullen should have contacted CC regarding concerns about cameras. There are issues with thresholds for the number of people receiving letters, with the current threshold set too high; GCC aims to support a reduction in this threshold in the future. RV suggested that addressing this should not take long among staff members, and CC confirmed that they would provide the camera initially promised.

CC expressed disappointment over missed opportunities in some developments. PS explained that the consented site is to the south, where connections are challenging, and contributions may have been made in other ways. NM asked if someone from planning should attend the next CAG meeting, and CC agreed to provide the best contact.

CC mentioned that the M5 bridge is unsafe for cyclists, forcing many to use the pavement due to dangerous conditions. AB stated that officers are collaborating with Tewkesbury to explore further assistance with the missing bridge to the north. PW raised concerns about crossing Ashchurch Road and the north/south linkages, noting that the road is too narrow for refuge islands but suggested considering more suitable crossings for cyclists. PW also mentioned efforts to recruit additional development control officers who will need access to a local wish list map and LCWIP aspirations, emphasising the opportunity in Gloucester to secure developer contributions. SW concluded that there is a renewed focus on corridor work to advance these efforts, while PS confirmed that the map is being updated.

Action: RV to engage with staff to address the speed camera issue and ensure timely follow-up on concerns raised by CC.

Action: CC to invite someone from Tewkesbury Planning to attend next CAG meeting.

6.0 Updates on Operation Close Paths

RV advised that dash cam footage is being submitted, highlighting issues it causes for cyclists when supplying evidence of incidents (being passed at less than 1.5m). He noted that the offence alone is insufficient for enforcement unless additional evidence is available. The police plan to send out advisory letters to educate drivers about these issues and will prosecute where there is sufficient evidence, aiming to enhance driver awareness.

SW inquired about the outcomes of advisory letters regarding speeding. The police responded that a second letter is sent out, which has led to a reduction in speeding issues. Only 20% of drivers who receive a first letter end up getting a second one.

SW suggested that the police attend the cycling forum and bring a copy of the advisory letter for discussion.

Action: SW to coordinate with the police to arrange their attendance at the cycling forum and facilitate a discussion regarding the advisory letter and its implications for cyclist safety.

7.0 Maintenance Responsibility Issues

AB provided an update on behalf of the team, reporting that 10 days of sweeping and maintenance work have been conducted on the spine this year, which will become a regular practice. The team is currently working with the NHS to borrow their sweeper for trial purposes, and a meeting has been scheduled to develop a maintenance policy. GCC intends to procure its own sweeper for future maintenance, which will have additional capabilities such as weed spraying. Trials will first be conducted on the cycle spine before extending to the rest of the cycle network.

RS mentioned difficulties in reporting debris on FixMyStreet, which is currently not functioning. AB will inquire about the issue and see if it can be included on the website. General maintenance responsibilities revert to the borough, and users are advised to report obstructions using free text.

8.0 AOB

AB received a detailed response following recent meetings with Councillor DW and NH over the past two months regarding Elmbridge. NH provided an update on lighting upgrades, with hopes to progress soon, although nothing is confirmed yet. Vegetation work has been addressed, and the team will review the actions taken by NH in this area.

CC provided feedback that the green loop surface on the cycle spine is not suitable for road bikes. AB noted that the majority of the route uses the same product specification. PW explained that concerns regarding tyre performance primarily relate to users with high-performance tyres. The entire road has been resurfaced as an alternative solution. JH suggested that this issue should be kept under review and that specific locations could be identified. AB confirmed that comments regarding motorist abuse have been relayed to the communications team.

Date of next meeting: 2025 dates TBC

Date of next forum: Monday 18th November 3-5pm

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Tewkesbury planning to attend next meeting re application of CIL in addition to s106

- Estcourt road update
- What ideas can we come up with for advertising/encouraging e-bikes?

Action: SW to set up dates for 2025.