Rossendale Cycle Forum

Rawstenstall Station Cafe

20th October 2012

**Present**

Colin Hubbard (Whitworth )

Mark Stapleton (Rossendale Pennine Adventure)

Craig Robertson (Ride On)

Seamus Kelly (CTC)

Martin Howlett (Waterfoot Forward)

Councillor Jim Pilling (Waterfoot Forward, Rossendale Borough Council)

Harry Law (Rossendale Road Club)

Adrian Watts (Rossendale Road Club)

Liz Hinchliffe (Proffitts Community Interest Company)

Tamzin Percival (Rossendale Borough Council – Communities Team)

James Dalgleish (Rossendale Borough Council – Planning)

Tony Lund (Lancashire County Council – Environmental Projects)

Alasdair Simpson (Lancashire County Council – Sustainable Transport)

**Apologies**

Councillor Peter Evans

Karen Carter, CTC (North Manager)

William Brady, Pennine Bridleway Ranger

Colin Williamson, Bacup and Rawstenstall Grammar School

The Station cafe had been chosen as a venue as the East Lancashire Railway carried bikes on their trains and was a way that cyclists could get to Rossendale

1. **Terms of reference**

Amended terms of reference attached

**2. Cycling on road**

The following were discussed

* Surfacing: Well maintained. road surfaces was important to experienced road cyclists
* Pro and cons of on road cycle lanes: Cycle lanes were felt to be not much benefit if they were parked upon, narrow and. not swept eg. By gaps by bollards on cycle lanes in Haslingden
* Traffic: Fear of traffic was seen as the main reason for people not cycling
* Driver education: Making drivers more aware of problems faced by cyclists
* 20 mph speeds were being introduced on all residential areas over 3 years which should help cyclists

**3 Cycle paths**

Old railways were felt to have the greatest potential for increasing cycle use and offered wider benefits

* Short sections of cycle paths had been developed on old railways at Helmshore, Stubbins and Rawstenstall but they did not link up and so offered little benefit
* The Whitworth Cycleway linked Britannia with Rochdale, though the surface of the cycle path declined as it entered Rochdale. When towpath works are complete later this year, it would be possible to continue into Manchester
* A new cycle path had recently been opened serving Alder Grange School

**3.1 Current schemes** included

* Completion of Whitworth Cycleway from Barlow Bottoms to Cown Parkway. This was dependent on land owner agreement. £20,000 had been allocated to the scheme in LCC's capital programme for 2012 -13, though the scheme would need match funding as well
* Stackstead Riverside Park – A bid for Community Spaces Lottery Funding had got through to the second stage.
* Lumb Greenway Though design of the scheme was well advanced, there was no funding to the build it following the demise of the NWDA and the REMADE project . See <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?REMADE/22499> for plans

**3.2 Rawstenstall to Bacup**

Members of the Forum were keen to take forward this scheme.

Problems to overcome included

* The tunnels: There were cycle paths elsewhere with tunnels. The tunnels would also be a tourist attraction
* In places the old railway had been built on and there was a need to find alternatives
* Funding: The likely cost was £1.5 m which would be difficult to find at present

There was a need for a document demonstrating that the route was feasible and to sell the project

**3.3 Actions**

* Waterfoot Forward to produce an initial document outlining proposed route.
* Tony Lund to see if any LCC funding to pay for a survey. RBC also had funding to help community groups develop ideas
* Colin Hubbard to see if John Grimshaw (ex Chief Executive Sustrans) could help
* .Investigate carrying out survey of tunnels

4. **Mountain Biking**

Mountain Bike areas had been developed at Lee and Cragg Quarries. There was a linking route between the two with links to the Pennine Bridleways

The quarries gave Rossendale a unique selling position compared to other mountain bike areas, which were largely in forests. There was a large catchment within 1 hours travel time. The quarries had been used for major mountain biking events and for training by the national team. There was evidence that people were coming up from the South East for mountain bike events. There was need to encourage mountain bikers to spend more money in Rossendale, for example by linking trails to main centres, improving base facilities, improving accomodation and encouraging overnight stays.

4.1 **Future plans**

* Develop Facit quarry
* Promote a series of rides using quarries and area's bridleway network to offer an extended day out or routes that could be done over a weekend
* Opening a base facility at Futures Park for the mountain bike area
* Promote a link to Gisburn Forest via Pennine Bridleway

**4.2 BMX**

Members of the forum felt there was a need for BMX area to get kids into cycling

**5. Transport Policy**

Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon was the national document on Sustainable Transport <http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/sustainabletransport/>

Local Transport Plan was the County Council's transport document <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=5489&pageid=29612>

**6. Funding**

Funding sources included

* Lancashire County Council Local Transport Plan programme (The available funding was very limited)
* Lottery (for example Heritage Lottery funding was being sought by Mid Pennine Art for an arts trail based on the Whitworth Cycleway. The aims of the Heritage Lottery were to converse heritage and enable people to learn about their heritage and take ownership of it)
* Landfill (Lancashire Environmental Fund)
* Developer contributions (including those from Windfarms)

**7. Promotion**

Current promotion included

* Mountain bike events
* Articles in mountain biking press
* Cycle map of Rossendale
* Websites
* School travel plans

The County Council was also trialling adult cycle training in the county with 40 places available in each district.

In 2012 Lancashire County Council planned to bring out a cycle map of the county and a mountain bike guide.

**8. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17th January 2012 at 6pm

Pennine Adventure Limited

Ye Olde Boot and Shoe

Millar Barn Lane

Waterfoot

Rossendale

BB4 7AU

Possible topics: Pennine Cycling Study carried out on behalf of PLACE(Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives) and Lancashire Sports Partnership, Update on Rawstenstall to Bacup.