



## **Portishead – Bristol signing update including re-alignment of NCN 26 through Portishead.**

On hold until issues around the change of ownership of the nature reserve have been resolved.

### **FGW grant application**

CCTV is now being installed at Nailsea & Backwell Station to cover all three cycle shelters. The NSC shelters have also been cleaned.

## **4. Consultations**

### **Active Travel Strategy**

Work has progressed slowly, but has considered all schemes so far suggested by the Forum. Continued informal input is welcome. The final draft document will be formally consulted upon in June. Peter Bailey referred to the Yatton Neighbourhood Plan which is highlighting the potential for a network of local quiet lanes with dedicated signing.

BS

## **5. Winter weather – salt gritting of cycle paths**

The response from Phil Bush has been that with a 25% cut to already stretched budgets it is very difficult for him to treat cycle paths. He said all treatment would be based on the new 'risk-based approach' guidance. The Sustainable Travel & Road Safety Team could potentially fund a small hopper for use on paths but staff time and materials would still need to be found.

KD has been researching ways to better inform cyclists if icy conditions are likely. Standard weather forecasts are often inaccurate for this as temperatures quoted are air rather than ground based (ground can be quite a bit colder and lead to unexpected ice – this can vary greatly even within a local area). The Met Office produce this data but as a commercial product. Highways England access it and may be persuaded to share it, as does Highways Scotland. Action for Kevin to write a letter on behalf of the Forum, to HE.

KD

Provision of grit bins were discussed with volunteers to spread grit ('like snow wardens'). BS to ask Phil if can be provided.

BS

Automatic ice warning signs discussed, as used by APCOA for their car parks – again check with Phil can we use? Kevin to investigate availability?

KD

Post meeting note: Kevin has suggested members look at the gritting priority routes on the NSC website with a view to perhaps seek justification for less obvious routes. FFI here:

All

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/roads/winterroads/salting-the-roads/>

## **6. Coastal Towns Route update**

### **The Brean Down Way**

Work has just been completed at Wayacre Drove, South of Uphill to upgrade a 700m stretch of bridleway to ensure it meets the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians. It was North Somerset Council's first use of the Tarmac product 'Ultitrec' (formally called Toptreck) – a 100% recycled product using road planning and various binders to form a smooth hard wearing surface which blends into the natural landscape more readily than black top Tarmac, while also being sufficiently durable for light farm use.

This is an essential link of the Weston-super-Mare to Brean section of North Somerset's flagship Coastal Towns walking and cycling route. The complete route is expected to be open (all the way from Uphill to the end of Brean Down) by June 2017.

The charity Greenways and Cycleways has been organising the Somerset side of the route (together with NSC) and have raised £250K in grant funding to cover this. The charity has also organised a workcamp to complete some of the work the last week of April, with hopefully an unofficial opening ride on May 1<sup>st</sup> – email Caroline Levett for further details: [caroline.levett@googlemail.com](mailto:caroline.levett@googlemail.com).

### **Tutshill Sluice (Weston – Clevedon)**

To re-cap, the Environment Agency's flood management work was less advantageous to this project than was first envisaged. This makes use of the existing sluices less practical with the landowners. Bridge options were investigated (and widening the approaches to the sluices) but both options would cost well over £500,000, perhaps approaching £1,000,000. Given the cost, the bridge option is favoured but funding is uncertain. NSC aim to re-negotiate with the landowners to see if a simple approach using the existing infrastructure can be agreed. Additionally we are speaking to Highways England about a funding scheme which overcomes barriers created by the Strategic Road Network to sustainable travel, as the Tutshill route avoids the need to cross the M5 / circuitous routes for many journeys.

BS

## **7. Other route updates**

### **Strawberry Line**

The planned closure of Shute Shelve Tunnel for a water main has been postponed until after Easter and is likely to be closed until the summer. In mitigation new lighting is being provided in the tunnel. Keep up to date using the Bristol Water links on this page:

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/parks-countryside/open-spaces/the-strawberry-line/>

Regarding the extension from Yatton to Clevedon, all relevant landowners have been written to. Their views now need to be considered before a decision is taken about the Bridleway Order. Highways England have confirmed they will fund an investigation into use of the culvert under the M5 as part of the route. This should be completed by Autumn.

BS

### **Update on Festival Way connection to Tyntesfield**

BS has summarised plans for improvements to be carried out Sept 2017 as discussed and agreed with Anna Russell (who has moved on to another post within the NT) and forwarded to new management (Michael O'Connell and Sarah Merryman). This has been acknowledged but no further info received at present.

BS

### **Link between Festival Way and P&R site / Metrobus route**

The link over the accommodation bridge to the SBL was discussed. BS and FM have a meeting with the scheme engineer's and senior management to find a solution to the poor surface and awkward gates. The current situation was a result of any better solution not being found with the tenant farmer who uses this crossing.

BS

## **8. NCN 33 – litter bins around Hutton Moor section**

HS described how Sustrans Rangers pick up a large amount of dropped rubbish in this area (16 bags in 1h), which is collected by NSC. However NSC is planning to remove bins to save money emptying them. Some of the litter is from McDonalds and it was

suggested they could take greater responsibility. HS to approach local McDonalds manager Tim Lan. An approach to Weston Town Council was also suggested – **who to approach?**

HS

### **9. Super-mare-Cycles preview**

Work has been progressing on the launch of Super-Mare-Cycles – a street-based dock-less cycle hire scheme. Bikes will be booked, paid for and unlocked using a smart phone app and smart lock. It is expected to be ready sometime over the summer (dependant on delivery of the locks and testing).

BS

### **10. AOB items**

Winterstoke Rd: Howard raised issue of poor signing. BS stated a signing plan, including improved white-lining and drop kerbs is currently with the engineers for implementation

BS

LT left a leaflet about In2gear ([www.in2gear.biz](http://www.in2gear.biz)) – a not for profit organisation in Weston which hires, sells and repairs a range of conventional and inclusive cycles. In addition associate project In2biking in Worle offers inclusive cycling try-out sessions.

### **Date/s and venue/s of next meetings**

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> July – Castlewood. AGM**

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> November – TBC – Nailsea if free venue can be found?**

BS

BS

BS

**BS**