

Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group Meeting

Thursday 30th September 2021, Quaker Meeting Room, Devizes

Notes:

Present: Cllr Tamara Reay (Chair), Andrew Jack, Paul Millard (Wiltshire Council); Philippa Morgan (Trust for Devizes); Catherine Read (Cycle Friendly Devizes); Jasper Selwyn; Jeremy Cross; John Schofield (Sustainable Devizes); Eric Clark (Bishops Cannings PC); Cllr Ted East (Devizes TC)

Item	Notes	Action
1. Apologies	Martin Reed, (Sustainable Devizes); Martin Aldam, Gary Tomsett (Wiltshire Council)	
2. Notes of last meeting 6 th July 2021	There were no comments about the notes	
3. A cycling strategy for Devizes community area	<p>TR recaps on the work of Sustainable Devizes (SD) and Cycle Friendly Devizes (CFD) and their cycle survey from 2020. Also their invite to area board and town council members ride the routes of their proposed cycle routes: Devizes Wharf to the marina at Lay Wood and Potterne to Devizes and Poulshot to Devizes. TR described working with SD and CFD and is keen to create a cycle strategy for Devizes. Wiltshire Council is committed to a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the whole county and 1 each for Trowbridge, Salisbury and Chippenham. This group can develop a “light” version for Devizes area which will sit within the “family” of Wiltshire LCWIPs. This will form a suite of documents ready for funding. This is at an early stage but using work from CFD. JSc now at a stage to flesh this out.</p> <p>JC mentioned he had done work about cycling on the towpath to the north east of the town, towards the new developments there but said the path is too narrow there for both walkers and cyclists. NCR4 from London to Fishguard passes through Devizes using the towpath. Martin Aldam has said as much work has already taken place on the towpath as can feasibly and economically be done.</p> <p>JSc pointed to LTN 1/20 and central government moving away from shared use paths. If a route is to be shared use, it needs to be at least 3m wide and the towpath is not nearly that width. TE mentioned he is against any potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians and had worries about increased use of e-scooters.</p> <p>PMo wanted to encourage Sustrans to re-route NCR4 from the towpath onto a new off-road route. JSe pointed out there is little scope in Devizes for segregated routes due to its size and cyclists need to compromise and be careful. TR recognised there needs to be change in behaviour.</p> <p>EC felt discounting the towpath would be disappointing. There is a new route through the new developments to the Lay Wood bridge so residents can then access the towpath into town. Part of Lay Wood’s s106 funding was towards improvements to the towpath.</p>	

	<p>PMi said that Wiltshire Council pay the Canal & Rivers Trust to maintain the towpath and has little involvement in that work, so does not have much to comment on.</p> <p>TR felt there is good progress already on routes to the north east of the town.</p>	
4. New cycle parking within Devizes town	<p>TR describes a working group within Devizes TC looking at cycle parking within the town. TE has not been part of that. TR recommended AJ contact Simon Fisher to find out what they are asking of this group in terms of any funding towards new parking. TR said how Devizes TC wish to invest in temporary/portable parking. By the time of a recent meeting, just one quote had been received. Now a second has arrived, from a company based in Urchfont but as well as being late, this was several times higher than the first.</p> <p>CR felt the group would go with the cheaper option as a trial for parking. TE thought there were lots of views but no decisions.</p>	AJ
5. New cycle routes	<p>This covered the potential routes from Potterne and from Poulshot into Devizes. PMi had not had much time to look at the costings or the spec for the most appropriate surface. The Potterne route is byway for most of its length and is used by tractors and 4x4s. To improve the surface to be attractive to cyclists year-round could cost £80k. PMi thought the Poulshot route would be harder and costlier to achieve.</p> <p>TR asked what he needed to continue. PMi thought buying a strip of land on which to create the new route might work. He pointed out there are many downhill sections of the route and cyclists might end up going quite fast, posing a danger of conflict with horse riders or pedestrians. PMi to send to TR and AJ the info he needs from this group.</p> <p>Looking at the Poulshot route, this is mostly bridleway and footpaths, which would need to be upgraded to take cycles. There is also a footbridge that would need upgrading. Also that the current route passes through the middle of a field – if it is to be upgraded, the landowner is likely to want the surfaced path to go round the edge of this field.</p> <p>JSc would prefer the footpath route as the other adds a lot of distance. PMi listed the footpath numbers to be used.</p> <p>TR felt those surfaces are not good enough to attract family and leisure cyclists. She asked PMi to work up the spec to Poulshot via Hartmoor.</p>	<p>PMi</p> <p>PMi</p>
6. New car club for Devizes	<p>AJ described how Martin Aldam had been in negotiations with Enterprise Cars about bringing a commercial car club to Devizes. Under this scheme, residents would join the club by paying a monthly or annual fee then being able to book a range of different size vehicles for short periods of time at little notice, via an app. This flexible access to a vehicle might allow households to give up ownership of a car. Parking space(s) would need to be found in town for these vehicles to park between hires.</p> <p>TR asked AJ to find out how far MA had got with Enterprise.</p> <p>AJ also said that a cooperative company, CoCars had begun operating in the Mere area after receiving funding from that area board. This operates on a similar model to Enterprise but with less of a commercial angle. CoCars had been invited to Mere by the</p>	AJ

	<p>area board and provided funding towards a new electric vehicle (£5k) and EV charging point for the town (£6k).</p> <p>PMo had had conversations with Zelf car hire in Devizes about a car club scheme but that was before Covid and had now stalled. She said that she knew of people within the town thinking of giving up their second vehicle and a car club would be the incentive to do so.</p> <p>JSc felt SD would not have the capacity to run a new community survey to find out or judge the appetite for a car club within the town.</p> <p>TE suggested Fussell Wadham might be interested in sponsoring or supporting a vehicle?</p> <p>TR asked AJ to look at models of different car clubs out there. Also to find out what Co-Cars needed to encourage them to come to Mere.</p>	AJ
7. New bus stop for Lay Wood	<p>EC described the bus stops on Horton Rd that serve the Lay Wood development – the Swindon-bound stop has a full shelter but the Devizes-bound stop only has a small hard standing for passengers. Lay Wood has 230 houses and is fully occupied. Residents use the bus for journeys in both directions. The Devizes-bound stop has a small footprint and does not stop passengers being splashed, etc. Lay Wood had a large s106 contribution.</p> <p>EC had approached AJ about funding towards a new bus shelter and was suggested to come to this meeting. EC explained that the parish council would be prepared to manage a project to install a new shelter for the Devizes-bound stop. He has heard from Gareth Rogers in Highways about increasing the size of the footprint to fit a new shelter. The stop is close to the roundabout and the development and EC felt it would be used even more.</p> <p>TR was supportive of this idea and ask AJ to speak with MA about how to release funding to BCPC for this work and for the decision to be ratified.</p> <p>There was further discussion about how to encourage the town bus service into the development. EC has spoken with Phil Grocock from Passenger Transport Unit about necessary timetable changes but has not got that far.</p>	AJ
8. EV charging points in Devizes	<p>TR said how she is pressing for a solution on EV charging for the town. There is a new policy going to Cabinet on 12th October. This will include options for EV chargers at off-street parking locations (Station Rd), for residents with on-street parking only and for tourist use.</p> <p>She pointed out the technology is evolving fast and the points at Station Rd are obsolete. Fast and rapid charging will be included.</p> <p>JSc pointed out the new health centre at Marshall Rd will have charging points and these will be available not just to staff. TR agreed there is a role for commercial businesses to open their space or charging points to others.</p>	
9. Future of Shane's Castle junction; process to take forward; timescales	Without MA present, this item was skipped.	

10. Update on buses	No-one from Passenger Transport Unit was present to give an update.	
11. Devizes Air Quality data and Wiltshire Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan	Without Gary Tomsett present and without the data, this item was skipped.	
12. Report on S106 finances and CIL finances	Without MA present, this item was skipped.	
13. AOB	TR gave an update on the Devizes Gateway rail station based on the Strategic Outline Business Case and feedback from the DfT.	
Next meetings	Thursday 18 th November at 2.30pm This will be face to face, venue tbc.	