

Raising Cycling in Ryedale

Notes from Meeting 16th July 2012, North York Moors National Park HQ, Helmsley

Present:- Helen Gundry, Eden Blyth, (Kirkbymoorside Environment Group)
Rupert Douglas (Sustrans), Paul Hepworth (CTC and York Cycle Show),
Catriona McLees and Karl Gerhardsen (NYM National Park Authority)
Keith Buck (Ryedale & Scarborough CTC), Craig Nattress (RDC Tourism)

Apologies:- Colin Clark (CTC), Paul Roberts (NYCC Highways),
Franchesca Pirt (Howardian Hills AONB), David Bealey (Big Bear Bikes)

- 1. Howardian Hills Bike Ride Guides** are being distributed by Rupert, Craig and Franchesca. Got some good coverage in the local Gazette and Herald. Trans-Pennine Express will help to fund re-print.
- 2. Pickering Tourist Information Centre have a cycling info display.** Rupert has suggested to them that free information cycling should be added to it.
- 3. Cycling page on RDC website is being updated regularly with many events.** discovernororthyorkshire.co.uk also has cycling information. Craig is working on an updated version of the Yorkshire Coast and North York Moors leaflet. Yorkshire.com also has cycling information. The North York Moors National Park Authority website is about to be re-launched, after which Catriona will be able to update cycling content.
- 4. A local routes leaflet is needed for Kirkbymoorside and Pickering.** Suggested content is needed for this. If routes to Bransdale are included, then the National Trust could be approached for a financial contribution towards printing.
- 5. Liz Bassingdale will soon produce some mountain biking information leaflets for Howardian Hills AONB.**
- 6. A separate Moors to Sea Cycle Route group is meeting.** There is a proposed extension to the route via Rosedale Abbey. Signs for the new section will be installed after current NYCC have completed consultation of Parish Councils. Some parts of the route are still very rough with boulders and ditches.
- 7. York Cycle Show went ahead despite bad weather.** Attendance was down to about 1/3 of the usual. Paul Hepworth said that quite a few visitors used the show as part of a longer stay in the area. Info on the www.yorkcycleshow.co.uk includes help with travel plans, such as routes to cycle through Hull from the P&O ferry, and how to use Eurostar and connecting trains.
- 8. A Tea-shop and pub struggled to cope with large cycling groups recently.** A number of different groups arrived from different clubs at the same time. Big ride organisers could help local businesses by letting them know in advance. For big events, village halls can be asked if they want to do catering as a useful fundraiser. CTC have maps which local businesses can put themselves on to get more trade.

9. Cycle Shows in Amsterdam and in Belgium. Stands at these shows have been organised to promote “The Way of the Roses” and other regional routes and attracted much interest in February 2012. Some funding has been provided by “Visit Hull and East Yorkshire” for 2013. Rupert will send details of the plan, background and type of market to Craig at RDC and Catriona at NYM National Park. Approaches are being made to Hull City Council and the port authority to improve the signs and routes for cyclists arriving in Hull, which are inferior to the standard at Europort (Netherlands) and quite a “culture shock” for arriving cyclists.

10. Malton to Pickering cycle route. Agreement in writing is being sought from the farmer at Lendales Farm for the National Cycle Network to be signed through his farmyard. This is the 2nd-choice alternative because Flamingoland management are not willing to allow the suggested short-cut across their land that would enable cyclists to miss out the busy road approaching Flamingoland, and which would also enable the cycle route to by-pass the potential hazards of a working farmyard. If a Flamingoland could be persuaded that there would be a commercial advantage, they would probably change their mind. RDC have put the need to improve this section on their list for the new Community Infrastructure Levy, but they couldn't be persuaded to use section 106 powers when recently giving planning permission for new Flamingoland developments.

11. Tesco have agreed to fund a new cycle-footpath in Kirkbymoorside. They have recently got planning permission for a new store at the Kirkbymoorside roundabout. The new track will upgrade an existing footpath on the North side of the A170 from the new store to the Primary School, on the Western edge of the town. There is also a possibility that Gladman, who have just put in for planning permission for a housing development behind the primary school, might be persuaded to fund a further extension of this A170 road-side cycle/footpath all the way to the beginning of the Kirkdale road. This would provide a safe route from Kirkbymoorside onto minor road networks leading both North and South. Communication is needed with RDC Planning a.s.a.p to support this idea from Kirkbymoorside Environment Group, Sustrans, and the National Park Authority.

12. Signage for cyclists leaving Scarborough needs to be improved, as does the surface for parts of the Scarborough – Whitby cinder-track, which was further damaged by recent torrential rain. Funding is being sought for these improvements. If large-scale potash mining starts, as planned, in this coastal region, then the associated York Potash Fund could be approached.

13. Internet promotion of cycling and of possible new cycle routes is being planned by Helen and Rupert with Gareth Jenkins, who runs the Sustainable North York Moors website, and also 3 separate websites for Kirkbymoorside, Pickering and Helmsley.

14. Catriona will check out the possibilities for funding cycling projects from the next round of Leader funding. There is a list of priorities for the next round of grants in October, but some are already over-subscribed As well as bigger grants, there is also a small-scale enhancement fund for grants of up to £5000.

15. **The recent National Cycling Championships attracted** around 5000 visitors to the area and two top commentators. Unfortunately the planned helicopter was grounded in London, so live coverage of the cycling was not as planned. But there was still some good ITV coverage.

16. **The “Back-le-bid” campaigning is still going on**, hoping to bring some of the Tour-de-France to Yorkshire.

17. **Forthcoming events:-** Evans Cycles’ mass ride, Sutton Bank, September; Ryedale Rumble on 2nd September for 450-500 riders on three routes; Olympic Week 5 short CTC rides, organised by Keith, Colin and Carol, plus their standard runs list. Their events with the longer mileage tend to attract more cyclists than shorter rides.

18. **The York Festival of Cycling will be on 8th and 9th September 2012,**

19. **North York Moors National Park Authority aim to increase visitor numbers to the park.** This is in their new business plan. Catriona is hoping to use leader funding and more contact with local businesses to boost the cyclist visitor numbers. Cycle Hire facilities may be possible in Bilsdale and at Sutton Bank. Pickering Tourist Information Centre have a cycle-hire leaflet. NYMNPA would like cars to park in their Thornton-le-dale car park and cycle from there. There was discussion about how the route could be improved from Thornton-le-Dale to Dalby Forest via Paper-mill Farm, and further discussion on this is needed with Forest Enterprise staff to check out the suggested alternative route west of the farm, and to investigate funding to improve either route so that it can be used by road-bikes.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2012,

1.30pm, Forest Enterprise Offices, Outgang Road, Pickering YO18 7AL