

Gloucestershire Cycling Forum

Thursday 20th November 2025

Attendees

Cllr Whyborn	Chair
Sarah Williams	Coordinator
Danielle Chick	Coordinator
Malcolm Taylor	Cycle Forum Representative
Roger Smith	Cycle Forum Representative
Cllr Challis	Reform Party
Cllr Davies	Conservative Party
Cllr Cody	Green Party
Cllr Patient	Green Party
Cllr McFarling	Green Party
Cllr Jones	Chairman - Maisemore Parish Council
Cllr Burton	Active Travel Champion – Forest of Dean
Jo Atkins	ThinkTravel Manager
Alan Bullock	Highways Programme and Major Projects Manager
Mishael Gbejewoh	Active Travel Officer
Susan Green	ThinkTravel Schools and Active Travel Coordinator
Jason Humm	Director of Transport and Highways
Jwan Kamala	Road Safety Manager
Craig Schofield	Traffic Engineering Manager
Luisa Senft-Hayward	Transport Planning Team Manager
Phillip Hackett	British Horse Society Warwickshire
Hillary Macdonald	British Horse Society Warwickshire
James Jeffery	Atlas Sports
Tish Rickard	Newent Cycling Group
Paul Morrish	Bikeability Instructor
Marcus Perrin	Forest of Dean District Council
Georgia Spooner	Stroud District Council
Satchel Szkrybieniec	Caseworker for Dr Simon Opher MP
Maddy Thacker	Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (previously known as Sustrans)
Chris Duggan	C&D Greenway Group
Phil Butcher	C&D Greenway Group
Patricia Edeam	Living Streets
Members of the public	

Apologies

Simon Excel	Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Development
Alex Haworth	GCC Major Projects Project Manager
Ollie Hazel	Cycling Co-Ordinator
Harrison Bowley	Cotswold District Council
Allan Keller	Cotswold District Council
Bill Oliver	Cheltenham and County Cycling Club

1 Welcome & Introductions

Cllr Roger Whyborn welcomed attendees

Sarah Williams explained that elected representatives of the Forum sit on the ATAG to ensure issues raised at the forum are being discussed, and to act as a conduit for any concerns raised by the Forum attendees to be brought to ATAG.

An email was circulated requesting people send in a short, written piece, to be circulated to all attendees for a vote. Details will be circulated again via email and votes requested.

2 Cycling Walking & wheeling initiatives and campaigns

- Jo Atkins

Discussion Points:

Active Travel and Behaviour Change Initiatives

- Jo Atkins provided an overview of current programmes under the ThinkTravel team.
- Walking and wheeling initiatives are ongoing, governed by Active Travel England (ATE) funding pots.
- Bikeability training is a major focus, with targets to increase participation by 50%.
- Ambition to increase the percentage of Bikeability training to primary school aged children to 80% (20% increase on current delivery).
- Training includes Learn to Ride, Balanceability, Levels 1 & 2 (primary) and Level 3 (secondary and above).
- Modeshift STARS accreditation continues to be funded.
- Living Streets partnership supports walking initiatives - currently working with 10 schools, aiming to expand further.
- Links to climate change targets and diversification of school travel modes.
- Development of policy for park-and-stride schemes and walking buses for primary and secondary schools.
- Love to Ride cycling programme partnered with sustainability teams to reach more organisations.
- Gloucestershire Active Business Group is active, focusing on inspiring behaviour change and safer roads.
- Overview of current campaigns shared in slides.

Points Raised:

Phillip Hackett raised the Consideration of horse riding in active travel plans. Jo Atkins noted horses are not currently included but could be considered in rural areas depending on school context.

Cate Cody raised an interest in Active Business Group; requested a map of participating businesses to approach others. Sarah Williams noted that the Business Group currently focused on the spine area. Cate Cody would like Tewkesbury to be signed up.

David Regwell raised the need to incorporate wheeling routes and facilities for disabled people; integrate with rail stations and corridors. Paul Morrish noted growth areas include aging population and e-bike use. Jeff Baldwin noted that he felt public transport integration with active travel had not been considered for this group. Cllr Whybourn advocated linking pedestrians along A40 to Cheltenham Spa rail station. Alan Bullock highlighted development of larger-scale schemes are linked to transport hubs.

Actions:

- Jo Atkins to provide slides shown in meeting
- Cameron David-Summers to provide Cate Cody with a map of participating businesses in the Active Business Group

3 Newent to Gloucester Cycle Route

Sarah Williams provided an overview of the Newent to Gloucester cycle route concept design development.

1. NCG would like to know where we are in the process of establishing a Gloucester - Hartpury active travel corridor, with Newent in its sights possibly at a later stage.

We have a concept design and await final confirmation on the viability of the route. This depends on a survey of the slice gate. We are then dependant on opportunities for funding but are in a good position to apply.

2. How can Newent Cycling Group, a voluntary campaigning active travel group, contribute to its realisation? We would appreciate any advice from Forum attendees.

Continue lobbying for the corridor. You could try to apply for external funding like lottery funding. GCC would be happy to facilitate a meeting with the LHM for quietway proposals from Hartpury to Newent.

Points Raised:

Roger emphasised the recent focus on the cycle spine and suggested exploring more local routes rather than concentrating solely on large-scale projects.

Cllr Jones noted that no progress has been seen locally. Sarah Williams confirmed that feasibility work has been completed, and results of the survey are awaited. Cllr Jones expressed interest in being a key contact for future updates.

Sarah Williams highlighted the importance of accessibility for mobility users and ensuring plans are inclusive. She noted that while the cycle spine has absorbed significant funding, the quality of existing infrastructure should not be downgraded.

Marcus Perrin reported ongoing work on the Active Travel Strategy, prioritising towns and investing effort into the Lydney Park End route.

Richard Burton raised the issue of funding for the Newent cycle route and suggested involving the local MP to strengthen support. Tish Faith commented on the difficulty of navigating the political landscape surrounding these projects.

Actions:

- Sarah Williams add Cllr Jones to cycling forum contact list.

4 Maintenance

- Alan Bullock

The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) policy sets out inspection frequency, maintenance schedules, and corrective actions. Various thresholds exist for defects and interventions.

FixMyStreet serves as the single point of contact for reporting issues, averaging around 1,400 reports per week. In the last month, 5,575 defects have been corrected.

Maintenance activities are split into:

- **Keeping cycleways clear** – generally managed by districts unless safety concerns arise.
- **Vegetation maintenance** – overhanging vegetation outside public highway limits requires cooperation with landowners. Local teams currently work reactively, with planned activity on the cycle spine to manage vegetation proactively.
- **Drainage** – all assets have been mapped and added to a maintenance programme.
- **Winter maintenance** – trials continue this year, including use of a small tractor on the cycle spine ahead of snow events.

Alan noted that area teams are currently addressing cold weather issues.

Points Raised:

Phillip Hackett proposed considering flexipave surfaces to reduce slips in icy conditions. Alan Bullock responded that all design options will be explored but emphasised the need for effective drainage and debris management. Jason Humm added that water will still freeze on flexipave and noted that cycle spine work is funded through separate bids.

5 | Community 20s and safer routes progress update

- Craig Schofield

Craig Schofield provided an update on the Communities 20 initiative, which focuses on smaller schemes and safer roads. Letters were sent to parishes earlier in the year to discuss participation. The safer roads element targets higher-speed strategic routes with higher collision rates.

Out of 160 parishes contacted, 158 expressed interest, with only two declining. Non-parish areas were represented by local councillors. A prioritisation and ranking exercise is currently underway, after which resources will be allocated and initial engagement with communities will begin.

Funding is available for initial feasibility work but not beyond that at present. Districts will receive updates by Cabinet in March, with top-ranked parishes expected to progress first. The aim is to deliver the programme over four years, subject to funding. Cllr Whybourn noted that some pre-agreed schemes outside this initiative will start in the current financial year.

Points Raised:

Cate Cody raised concerns about cycle storage maintenance at Tewkesbury Library; Sarah Williams confirmed reports have been escalated to Cyclehoop. Cate Cody requested direct contact details for Cyclehoop.

Hilary Macdonad asked about coordination of footpath and cycleway maintenance between counties; Alan confirmed local highway managers will engage with neighbouring counties. Jason Humm advised reporting issues to all counties via FixMyStreet. Cllr Whybourn emphasised need for consistent maintenance approach across districts.

Discussion on whether to adopt a blanket 20mph limit similar to Wales; Cllr Whybourn noted political and legislative constraints. Stephen Davis stressed setting realistic timescales for signage installation. Phillip Hackett suggested limiting active travel speeds to 15mph; Alan Bullock confirmed speed limits are reviewed as part of major active travel schemes.

Cate Cody raised concerns about non-functional speed cameras; Jason Humm agreed to follow up. Richard Burton suggested using cardboard cut-outs of police officers as deterrents.

Jeff Baldwin highlighted growing concerns about e-bikes and road safety. Maintenance challenges raised regarding Sustrans routes; Sarah Williams clarified Sustrans does not own the network, making responsibilities complex. Community involvement in minor maintenance welcomed.

Actions:

- Craig Schofield to complete prioritisation and share ranked list of parishes.

- Sarah Williams to follow up with Cyclehoop and provide contact details to Cate Cody.
- Jason Humm to investigate non-functional speed camera and report back.
- Alan Bullock to ensure consistent maintenance approach across districts and liaise with neighbouring counties.

5 Date of next forum & AOB

Post meeting questions and answers:

<p>Here in the Cotswolds the difficulties are tourism/vehicle overload, and the difficulty of getting to and from tourist centre (e.g. Bourton/Stow/Moreton) to place (e.g. Cheltenham) on a bike without using A roads. Does GCC have any power in requesting the bus companies to allow unused space in the buses (there is often unused space) to be used to carry non-folding bikes. They might need to take out 2-4 seats, but it shouldn't be impossible. Overseas bikes and skis can be carried on buses, so why not here?</p>	<p>Removing seats is unfeasible as this limits the vehicle's capacity and use and is not palatable to operators. Any vehicle with an internal or external rack for carrying bikes would have to be recertified. Fitting a rack to the front of the bus would compromise road safety as the fronts are now designed with pedestrian safety in mind and the rear of the bus is usually the engine bay and not structural.</p>
<p>My question concerns how to prioritise the smaller links along or crossing busy roads to join together footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways to provide safer Active Travel for all.</p>	<p>The council prioritises safe walking routes to key destinations like hospitals, schools, and the town centre. Routes identified through public engagement in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) are given priority. In some cases, developer or councillor funding may allow earlier progress.</p> <p>Smaller links can be prioritised through neighbourhood plans if they are not already covered in our LCWIP networks. You can view these on our digital cycle map by selecting 'LCWIP network Map': GCC WebMaps</p> <p>Local funding is also available from Councillor's Highway budgets Highways Local Highways</p>
<p>Cannot the people that live on the roads/lanes that are considering 20mph be able to vote on whether they want the scheme or not? And the vote be the decision?</p>	<p>Town and Parish Councils should carry out informal engagement with residents to see if there is support for 20mph zones before submitting a request to GCC. If GCC support the request, then a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) will be required to implement it.</p> <p>The TRO process is a legal process and will include robust consultation with residents, businesses, statutory consultees and all members of the public.</p>

	<p>It is not a vote, it is a platform for all members of the public to air their views whether for or against a proposal. GCC, as the Highway/Traffic Authority, makes the final decision. The number of objections versus the number of supporters is a factor that will be considered when making the decision.</p>
<p>The cycle spine is important. But we need to link it to places where people live or work, otherwise people won't be able to use it. (I appreciate these are different pots of money.) Otherwise, it's like building a big motorway, and not adding link roads to the local towns.</p>	<p>We are reviewing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to look at needs in the vicinity of the spine. Our plans include networks across the whole area, you can view these on our digital cycle map by selecting 'LCWIP network Map': GCC WebMaps</p>
<p>Would the Active Travel fund you sent round Sarah be suitable?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the Active Travel Innovation fund closed on 14th November.</p>
<p>Just wondering if there are initiatives on integration with bus/train public transport.</p>	<p>We are delivering some improvements to our network to deliver 'Interchange Hubs' with cycle parking at bus stops and bus and cycle facilities at rail stations – where possible.</p>
<p>Can you confirm that you are not looking for any Equestrian representative's?</p>	<p>Please feel free to put yourself forward as a possible representative of the Forum, it is up to the group to vote.</p>

Themes for Next Forum:

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Date of Next Forum:

Thursday 19th March 10-12pm or Wednesday 22nd April 2-4pm

Thursday 12th November 10-12pm or Tuesday 17th November 2-4pm