

# Gloucestershire Cycling Forum

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Attendees

Nigel Moor	Chair
Sarah Williams	Coordinator
Alban Luffman	Sustrans Project Manager
Polly Gannaway Pitts	Creative Sustainability
James Beecher	Access Bike
Merry & Kai	Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group
Malcolm Taylor	Forum representative
Roger Smith	Forum Representative
Cllr Gray	Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning
Cllr Hoyland	Green Party
Cllr Drew	Labour Party
Ollie Hazel	GCC Bikeability Coordinator
Jo Atkins	GCC Thinktravel Manager
Alan Bullock	GCC Major Projects Team Leader
Alex Haworth	GCC Major Projects Project Manager
Colin Chick	GCC Director of Environment, Economy & Infrastructure
Jason Humm	GCC Director for Traffic & Transport
Gloucester City Council	
Stroud District Council	
Atkins	
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Cycle Campaign	
Newent Cycle Group	
Gloucester City Cycle Club	
Members of the public	

### Apologies

Cllr Willingham	Liberal Democrats
Cllr Cody	Green Party
Cllr Bloxsom	Labour Party

### 1 **Welcome & Introductions**

Nigel Moor welcomed attendees.

### 2 **Cycling Forum representatives**

Malcolm Taylor introduced himself as the new forum representative. Please feel free to contact Malcolm or Roger Smith with any items you would like brought to the attention of the Forum or the Cycling Advisory Group.

Malcolm Taylor - [taylormalcolm@hotmail.com](mailto:taylormalcolm@hotmail.com);  
Roger Smith - [corrective@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:corrective@blueyonder.co.uk);

For more information on the respective groups please see our [Strategic Meeting & Forum proposed format \(PDF, 90 KB\)](#) and Cycling Advisory Group [Terms of Reference \(PDF, 246.7 KB\)](#) available at: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/caq](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/caq)

Roger fed back on sweeping of cycle lanes, this issue was raised at the last Cycle Advisory Group meeting. Highways have purchased a sweeper that will clear cycle paths and are asking that cyclists highlight areas where debris builds up so that they can prioritise problem spots for clearing. You can download the Fix My Street app or report issues on our website at:

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

### **3 Access Bike and Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group presentation**

Polly Ganaway Pitts introduced Creative Sustainability, a social enterprise that works with communities to promote creative and sustainable solutions for social inclusion and wellbeing.

One of the programmes Creative Sustainability oversee, is the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group. Merry and Kai, two students from the Climate Group, presented some of the issues young people face when trying to travel sustainably in Gloucestershire and discussed their pulls to the county. Merry lives in Gloucestershire and is studying here, Kai has relocated to attend the university in Gloucestershire.

James Beecher then presented another programme overseen by Creative Sustainability; the Access Bike programme. This is a community bike workshop in Stroud, who sell refurbished bikes, run mentor schemes, upcycle bike parts and provide a space for Stroud's young people to make friends and learn new skills.

There was much interest in how the Access Bike scheme can be expanded, James hopes to advise others on how they can run the equivalent programme in their own locality. Polly advised that The Friendship Café in Gloucester is interested in delivering the scheme.

**Please see attached slides.**

Links:

- Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group <https://cscic.org/programmes/gycg/>
- Sign up for the GYCG mailing list - <https://cscic.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=85cc748d3a0ae7d6d27b0f37e&id=9b519dab43>
- Access bike webpage - <https://www.accessbike.org/>

### **4 Data: population trends and casualty statistics**

Subsequent to a presentation by the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Forum requested population statistics as a topic for discussion.

- Overall, between 2011-2020, an average of 10,247 (9.8%) 15-29 year olds left the county each year
- 2019 saw the greatest loss of its 15-29 population with 11.7% leaving
- An average of 9,997 15-29 year olds move into the county each year

- 2019 also saw the greatest gain of 15-29 years olds at 11.5%
- However, On average 250 more 15-29 year olds leave the county than move into it each year

In 2020 Gloucestershire has a similar proportion of its 15-29 year olds leaving the county as its geographic and statistical neighbours, it is not an outlier.

The top 5 county and unitary authorities for Gloucestershire 15-29 year olds were: Bristol, Oxfordshire, Cardiff, Worcestershire and South Gloucestershire, this was followed by Devon, Birmingham, and Wiltshire, BANES and Hampshire. London does not feature in the top 10 because it is split into separate boroughs, however if you combined all London boroughs this would be the biggest destination with around 1188 moves.

The 15-29 year old age group is the only age group that sees the county losing more people than it gains. Amongst all other age groups we have more people moving into the area than leaving. In general, the age group to experience the highest net inflow of migrants each year has been the 30-44 group whereas, the 65+ age group has had the lowest net positive inflow of migrants.

Despite this we do need to recognise Gloucestershire has an older population than the national average, with those aged 65+ accounting for 21.7% of the population, higher than the national average of 18.7%. Projections also suggest this trend will continue with Gloucestershire's working-age population projected to decrease from 60.7% in 2018 to 55.7% in 2043. This changing population structure has implications for Gloucestershire's economy. Gloucestershire's dependency ratio (which is the ratio of people aged 0-16 and 65+ to the working age population) is projected to increase, by 2043 for every 100 people of working age, there will be 80 people reliant on them this compares to 65 in 2018, placing greater pressure on the working age population.

The changing population structure may have implications for the workforce and recruitment, **by 2035** the number of jobs in the county is projected to exceed the number of working age people posing a challenge for delivering future growth.

**Please see attached slides.**

Due to a technical problem, casualty statistics could not be shared. However, slides are attached and can be discussed at the next forum.

## 5 Sustrans – quietways presentation

Alban Luffman, Sustrans Project Manager for Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

Quietways are walking and cycling routes that have been identified where traffic is generally quieter, primarily using 'lightly trafficked back streets', through parks and alongside waterways and are designed to appeal particularly to new and inexperienced cyclists.

Alban talked through some of the quietways across the UK, how they support an increase in longer journeys from rural areas to reduce carbon emissions, and the types of measures and requirements that are needed.

The need for self-enforcing traffic calming was discussed.

## **6 Topics for discussion at the next forum**

- Casualty statistics
- Bikeability
- Maintenance

Topics carried over from last forum:

- Promotion of the highway Code
- Pop up stands to update on projects
- Cycling policy (once LTP guidance received)
- 20 mph case study (what does success look like?)

## **7 Date of next forum & AOB**

Aggression against cyclists was raised again. AB advised that contractors are sympathetic and installing additional signage. JH highlighted that engineering can only manage behaviour to a point, and incidents needs to be reported to the police. It is hoped that cycle groups in the county can help achieve a broader culture change by sharing issues with club members and disseminating messaging.

Dates of next forums

- 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 12:00-14:00
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 15:00-17:00