**Leeds Emergency Active Travel Group**

**19 August 2020**

Attended: Paul Chatterton, Ruth Gelletlie, Cllr Peter Carlill, Claire Booth, Paul Foster, Gill Keddie, Martin Stanley, Mark Gladstone, David Mihell

**Update**

* LCC have taken on board the need for dedicated community engagement role(s) to support Active Travel Neighbourhoods and are discussing within council departments how to bring this together.
* They also took on board need for good monitoring and evaluation
* Bid was submitted to WYCA, expected decision date TBC
* LCC believe what they have submitted is in line with the guidance and are hoping to get the full amount requested
* They are in the process of reporting progress so far back to WYCA/DfT
* Ruth attended DfT Place-Based Workshop and spoke out in the workshop about the importance of community engagement and monitoring and evaluation
* News today—Clean Air Zone being reviewed in Leeds. Government are saying that they may not provide support for the CAZ because we may no longer have illegal levels of pollution.

**What support is needed around Active Travel schemes?**

* Messaging to reassure people that this is what they have asked for—roads are being blocked off because they asked for reduced traffic and traffic speeds in their neighbourhoods
* Needs a “wide reaching vision that everyone can grab hold of”
* Promote benefits of Active Travel Neighbourhoods to counteract any backlash that may arise

**Active Leeds Team (what they do and how they can support ATNs)**

* Focus on 1-10% most deprived areas, women and girls, BAME community and LGBTQI+
* Focus on long term relationships, understanding, learning and behaviour change
* They work to make being active an easy choice for people
* Ability to be physically active is dependent on local environment
* They have teams of officers and cycling projects in Cross Flatts—starting to talk about how this complements Active Travel Neighbourhoods—working on a mapping exercise
* Similar resources in Beeston and Chapeltown but don’t yet have the same network in Hyde Park area
* Strong resource in Holbeck and Lincoln Green
* Seeking clear steer on communication and engagement plan—who is leading and how do they complement the work
* Physical Activity Board pushing to have it in place by end of year (chaired by Cllr Blake)
* Alistair Brownlee is keen to assist and just waiting to find out what is needed from him

**Comments on messaging**

* Leeds needs to settle on a narrative at the City Region level and with key business leaders
* Everyone from top to bottom needs to have bought into the idea
* Mixed messaging from the top is problematic. You can’t have some Councillors doing one thing (like saying driving an SUV is fine) and the other half attempting to promote active travel
* There is some concern about the publicity around the new low traffic neighbourhoods in London
* Should we focus on general quality of life improvements rather than the active lifestyle angle which might put off those who don’t see themselves becoming cyclists?
* Ruth has heard that there are resources available to help support the School Streets schemes especially in the first few weeks—how can we help?
  + There is a need to capture the positives around the School Streets schemes to help residents see the benefits
* We need clear leadership around this--on the front page of the Yorkshire Post and on TV and radio saying *this is what we’re doing and this is why it’s important*.
* Pre-pandemic there was a plan to have a big conversation with citizens on transport which would have provided a way to say *this is what the people asked for*
* Importance of promoting public transport: BBC is in Leeds broadcasting from station today—they will take the angle of how unnecessary it is to invest in rail in the North because no one is taking the train
* Leadership needs to come from communities and business community—engage early and deeply and help people feel that they came up with the solution
* Mass transit would be a game changer for encouraging active travel
* Redraft of transport strategy includes these 6 items:
  + Decarbonising transport
  + Creating healthy streets
  + Transforming city centre
  + Developing the bus system
  + Delivering mass transit
  + Embracing innovation
* There are several community groups focused on environmental issues around Hyde Park. Create relationships with those groups to support that area, where Active Leeds has less resource
* **Action Ruth/Paul:** take part in next Physical Activity Board steering group meeting
* **Action Gill**: provide invite and details

**How will journey begin for engaging community in ATNs?**

* Active Leads plan for Cross Flatts
  + Team will have a look at the area and a walk around
  + Will have conversations around engagement plan to find out who is leading
  + Use existing relationships with key anchor organisations and leaders in area to put the message out and start conversations in the community
  + Work with South Leeds Lakers, running group in South Leeds who are interested in leading the walking and cycling agenda in the area
  + Talking to community, pop up cycling activity, community walks
  + Active Leeds is ready to take action but they need a steer from LCC as to how much ownership they have over the community engagement strategy. Are there other groups planning to do this work as well?
* LCC Plan
  + Have been working with ward members so far, before implementation they will send letters to residents in the neighbourhood and signpost to online proposals and opportunities to comment
  + Also preparing legal orders
  + Ensure that they have enough staff on site as measures go in to answer questions and explain what’s happening so that the workers putting in the barriers aren’t the only presence
  + Providing a platform for groups to make use of the space and make it seem interesting to the extent that Covid restrictions will allow
  + Communicate with people about any concerns so that they can help find solutions
  + Plan for maintenance after initial trial and look for funding to make changes permanent
* **Action** **Cllr Carlill/Gill**: Have a conversation to clarify who is doing what and who is leading
* What is the plan for engaging with local businesses?
  + They will need to plan to do more on that especially in Hyde Park
  + Share [Living Streets report on Pedestrian Pound](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/3890/pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf)
  + Other places have had success engaging local business community by giving businesses control of space in front of their shop to use for things like outdoor seating, displays etc
  + It falls to senior leadership to support these things and show how important it is—the Climate Emergency is an impending crisis that we must address
  + Messaging should come from the top and should not include apologies
* Need to make sure ATNs have links out so that they aren’t just little islands
  + Connecting those areas to the city opens up employment opportunities
  + There is not enough transport choice in Leeds which makes it hard for Active Travel to take off.

**Timings for Active Travel Neighbourhood Implementation**

* Beeston/Cross Flatts will be first
* Traffic regulation orders have been drafted
* Work should start in a few weeks
* Cross Flatts ATN will be quickly followed by Hyde Park and Chapeltown
* A660 and Roseville Rd scheme should go in soon
* Kirkstall Road scheme was paused so that they can look at creating Kirkstall Active Travel Neighbourhood and create corridor as part of that
  + Need to let people know what’s happening with that
* **Action Gill** speak to Paul’s team about shaping plan for engagement
* **Action Gill** speak to Martin Farrington
* **Action Cllr Carlill** speak to other councillors about supporting School Streets programme especially in their own wards

**Road space Reallocation and Work in Leeds City Centre**

* Where can an experiment with road space reallocation happen (i.e. taking road space away from cars for active travel routes)
  + It would be challenging to do that at the moment because the transformation of the city centre is already causing a lot of disruption for motorists and buses.
  + The current work in the city centre represents the largest amount of road space reallocation the council has ever done
  + Work on Regent Street flyover is also causing a lot of issues with traffic flow (affecting buses as well as cars)
  + Victoria Gate bridge to get a bus gate
  + Plans are ready for changes around Corn Exchange
  + They want to avoid repeating the amount of disruption to bus services caused by the work on the Headrow last Autumn
* Paul Chatterton would like to be involved with thinking around changes to city centre, and using things like workplace parking levy, and the relationship with large private car parks in the city centre
  + Currently the focus is on removing through traffic as a first step rather than discouraging those driving to the city centre
* There is a need to look at what changes are going to happen in terms of people traveling to city centre for work or if lots of people will continue to work from home. Currently the peak is down about 30% but how long it will stay that way is unclear
  + **Action Mark** Present data on future working patterns at next meeting
* Good opportunity to work with listed companies whose investors will be asking about green actions they are taking.

**Next meeting 9th Sept**

Agenda items:

* Mark to present data on how business community expects working patterns to change
* Re-establish focus of group moving forward now that application has gone in.