

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL UPDATE FOR SUSCOM – 19 JANUARY 2017

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

New SGC Business Engagement team member

SGC has appointed an additional business engagement team member (Kate Scott-Gatty) starting 18 January, they will be supporting the business engagement manager and taking ownership of developing and administering the cycle champions network, continuing to promote employer grants, assisting with launching this year's travel to work survey and signing-up businesses plus ad hoc support as required.

Employer grants

50% match funded grants are still available, there is a budget of approx. £12k left to spend this financial year. Grants can be for any project that promotes an alternative to single occupancy vehicle trips for the commute or for work-related journeys. We can tap into the Go Ultra Low West pot of money for electric vehicle charge points, also 50% match funded.

Cycle Champions

Launched just before Christmas, the take up has been good despite the winter weather conditions. We have champions on board from SGC, Rolls-Royce, Aviva and UWE and we are looking to expand further.

We have run our first bike maintenance session for staff at SGC and will be planning more over the next few months, Dr Bike sessions can also be booked along with led rides. The intention of the Cycle Champions network is to facilitate employees in promoting cycling amongst colleagues with the above activities being the main draw, however we are open to suggestions for any other support. The cycle champions network is also intended to bolster the SGC cycle forum and many champions are interested in attending and joining the email forum.

We are planning an event in March to celebrate and help further promote the network, this will be either some kind of bike ride event or a cycle cinema event.

Walking promotion

The first led walk has taken place at UWE and was a huge success. Over 60 people took part and there was a real buzz of excitement about it. There are led walks planned at a number of other organisations too.

Although we have now planned in all of the walking support to be offered under TW Transitions, we intend to continue to offer support for promoting walking in the work place beyond the end of the project subject to additional funding being secured

Winter safety campaign

We have developed a winter safety flyer that is designed to be attached to bikes and carries some useful message and tips for safer cycling and also sign posts people to the online maps showing the cycle routes that are now regularly gritted.

Please contact the business engagement team if you would like a stock of these to attach to bikes parked at your premises.

Personalised travel planning

Our PTP offering has successfully supported ALD Automotive, Sword-Apak, Boeing Defence and MoD Abbey Wood South. These organisations have had varying levels of support from a full survey and preparation of travel packs at ALD Automotive to preparation of information on sustainable travel options for new starter inductions at the MoD.

Again, we have planned in all the support on offer under TW Transitions but hope to continue this from April onwards subject to additional funding being secured

Travel to work survey 2017

The survey will take place this year in w/c 13th March and we will begin the process of registering businesses for this year's survey imminently. It is a great opportunity for organisations to gain a greater insight into employee travel habits and identify areas for improvement to ensure their staff travel sustainably and do their bit to reduce congestion and environmental impact of staff travel. It is also an opportunity for employees to provide feedback (positive and negative) to the local authority and service providers such as bus companies and train operators.

Contacts for Business Engagement:

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ACCESS FUND BID TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

The 'Access Fund' is a competitive bid process inviting Local Authorities to bid for revenue funding for sustainable travel initiatives over a 3-year period (April 2017 – March 2020) with a focus on walking and cycling. It is the follow-up to 'Sustainable Travel Transition Year' (STTY) and 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund' (LSTF) competitions.

The 4 West of England (WoE) Authorities (South Glos, Bristol, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset) submitted a joint bid to the Department for Transport for £6.9M of funding, in September 2016.

SusCom provided input to the business-related schemes included within the bid, aimed at supporting employees to travel more sustainably. A big thank you to SusCom and SusCom members for providing letters of support which have proved key in securing funding for past bids.

Many of the popular schemes from STTY and LSTF formed part of the Access Fund bid, including (but not limited to):

- Match-funded SusCom membership
- Match-funded employer grants
- Business cycle-champions
- Personalised Travel Planning for moving and expanding businesses
- Wheels to Work

We await an official announcement from the DfT regarding the bid outcome. The announcement will occur in January/February 2017.

JOINT TRANSPORT PLAN / JOINT SPATIAL STRATEGY

The four West of England councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire – are working towards preparing a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS), which sets out a prospectus for sustainable growth that will help the area meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent 6 week consultation on the Joint Spatial Plan and Joint transport Study and if you took part in any of the engagement events held during the consultation period. The consultation ended on 19th December. We have had over 1,300 separate responses to both the JSP and JTS and we are now starting to process them.

The results of the consultation will be reported to council members at a Joint West of England Planning, Housing and Communities Board and Joint Transport Executive Committee on 17th March. The results will then be taken into account in the final JTS report, due in spring/early summer 2017 and fed into the next stage of the JSP.

CYCLING UPDATE

Cycle Scheme Updates – Jan 17

1) Yate Spur

We currently out to public consultation the following sections of route, which are due to be constructed later this year:

- Construction of the off road Kidney Hill section, completing the link between Westerleigh Road and Broad Lane.
- Improvements to the Nibley lane/ Westerleigh Road junction.

Details can be found here: <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/YateSpur2016>

Consultation on a link under the Shire Way viaduct near Yate will follow later this year.

2) Holiday Inn Access road –A4174

We are also currently consulting on a possible scheme to improve the Holiday Inn access road crossing point on the ring road cycle path, the consultation closes on 20th January, please see link below:

<https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/holidayinn>

3) New A4174 Walking & Cycling bridge near Lyde Green

Comments are currently being invited on the recently received planning application for the proposed new bridge over the A4174 between the new Lyde Green development and the Emersons Green Retail Park. The planning application reference number is PK16/6500/F and comments can be made via the South Gloucestershire website (link below):

<http://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=OH7M8AOKISZ00>

If you have any questions about the scheme, or want to discuss it before submitting comments, you can contact the South Glos Council's Structures Manager Mike Johnson by email at mike.johnson@southglos.gov.uk.

South Glos Cycle Strategy

Maps of the Strategic cycle network contained within the Cycle Strategy - <http://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/cyclestrategy> - have recently been updated to improve their accuracy and to include the local connecting routes.

M4 JUNCTION 18A STUDY

The M4 J18a Link Study was approved in ECS Cttee in Nov'16 and CH2M has been appointed to undertake it. The Study is steered jointly by SGC and Highways England. We are currently preparing briefings for key stakeholders (including business reps from SUSCOM (Ann) and Business West), Members, town/parish councils and the MP; the focus of these briefings is to explain what the study entails (and what it doesn't), identify problems, issues and objectives.

The next stage of the study will see the development of scheme options, which will be presented to key stakeholders and elected representatives from May 2017, prior to public consultation in the summer. The Study will complete and report by the end of March 2018.

AZTEC WEST SCHEME

For the Aztec West A38 road widening scheme – in order to minimise congestion, the central reserve has been removed narrow lanes installed to preserve the same number of traffic lanes as before. There is however the occasional unavoidable lane closure required for works in the road. An example of this is the planned gas diversion 12 – 15 January 2017.

In terms of progress, all the highway works on the A38 northbound and Park Avenue are substantially complete, with the signals installation and final surfacing to follow.

There are some large gas and telecoms diversions currently progressing in the A38 southbound footway which should be completed by the end of February.

Construction of the remainder of the utility works and the main carriageway widening will be progressed. This is currently programmed as shown below subject to any unexpected delays or bad weather.

July 2017 - Completion of the main civils widening works.

August/September 2017 - Installation of traffic signals equipment and finished surfacing.

There is approximately 1 month of surfacing works to be completed with night-time road closures.

High friction surfacing will also need to be applied after the surfacing but this is very much dependant on weather conditions at the time.

METROBUS – NORTH FRINGE TO HENGROVE PACKAGE

Work is on course and services are due to start in the Autumn 2017. The operators have ordered the new buses and we expect to announce who the operators are in mid-February 2017.

East Fringe

Work on the east fringe of the ring road is pretty much complete and awaiting the MetroBus shelters to be delivered. The new bus lane remain coned off for landscaping. Work will start soon on Emersons Way to build the new westbound MetroBus stop. The work will take six weeks and involve lane closures between Sainsburys and the ring road. There is also some anti-skid surfacing to be done and this will involve occasional off-peak lane closures.

M32

Narrow lanes are in place between junctions 2 & 3 in both directions to extend the bus lane to the railway bridge just south of junction 2. Average Speed Cameras will restrict speed to an average of 30 mph during the works. This is 10 mph slower than the normal speed restriction to protect workers. The narrow lanes will be in place until the work completes in March 2017.

The narrow lanes and speed restrictions around the new Bus Only Junction have now been lifted. The Bus Only Junction has been cordoned off with cones for safety reasons. The hard shoulders are now clear in both directions. Signage and road marking needs to be finished and the junction will be completed at the end of March.

North Fringe to Stoke Lane.

Work is coming to an end to widen the nearside lane of Bradley Stoke Way heading towards the Aztec West Roundabout to accommodate a new bus lane. Work on Woodland Lane & Orchard Gate signals have started and surfacing work starts 11th January for 3-4 weeks. This will involve daytime working with lane closures and some night working with full closures. Diversions will be via Pear Tree Road and Woodlands Lane. During this period there will be a full weekend closure of Patchway Brook roundabout. All major work at Aztec West should be completed mid-late February, weather permitting. The approach to Patchway Brook roundabout is reduced to one lane to protect pedestrians and cyclists using the zebra crossing.

Work is about to commence to build the MetroBus stop and bus lane on A38 south of Aztec West roundabout. This should be completed by the end of February, weather permitting.

The surfacing is now complete between Patchway Brook and Savage Wood (Tesco) roundabout except for a section near Patchway Brook roundabout that will be done during the weekend closure.

Work will start at the Great Stoke roundabout end of Bradley Stoke Way in mid-February to form a new bus lane and tie in with the new Stoke Gifford Transport Link work is expected to take around 12 weeks.

A one way system is in place on Stoke Lane with traffic flowing northward towards UWE Frenchay Campus. While the one-way system is in place, the 2+ Lane restrictions on the A4174 ring road between the M32 and Coldharbour Lane junction will be temporarily lifted. The shared footpath for cyclists and pedestrians on Stoke Lane will remain open. As from the beginning of February, Stoke Lane will revert to two-way traffic with occasional short length, short term traffic lights for specific pieces of work. The work on Stoke Lane/Coldharbour Lane is expected to finish in September 2017

Plan your journeys

The Travelwest website contains up to date travel information about road works in the West of England region: <https://travelwest.info/travelupdates> - including disruption from MetroBus works.

Highways England also provides live traffic information for the motorway network via their website at www.highways.gov.uk/traffic or from a phone or mobile device at m.highways.gov.uk

CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION (CPME)

The agreed CPME route will operate between Bristol Parkway Station and The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gipsy Patch Lane, through the former Rolls Royce East Works site, along North Way, and through the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood.

Officers are continuing to progress detailed design work for the CPME, including further survey work and investigating the potential for some minor changes to some parts of the route to address concerns raised by local people during the previous public consultation. A revised programme for the scheme has been published at www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension - which is the link to follow for all ongoing updates.

A4174 CHALLENGE FUND

To follow – SGC are awaiting an announcement from DfT.

RAIL

Work on 'Four Tracking' of Filton Bank south of Filton Abbey Wood station is in progress accessed via Wallscourt Road. Staff from MOD have been asked to try avoid parking in this area due to heavy vehicles and parking restrictions in Wallscourt Road. Later this year, users of Filton Abbey Wood will see temporary changes to parking and access to the station with information being prepared to enable passengers to plan their journeys.

Parkway station will be the focus of intensive work this year which will include the installation of the new platform new track, embankment works and eventually electrification. A number of closures of the station are being planned towards the end of the year and information is being prepared to allow passengers to plan their journeys.

A new ramp and footbridge is being proposed by Network Rail for Patchway station and NR have been asked to arrange a number of stakeholder events to share the design.

MetroWest phase 1 updates are available through the Joint Transport Board website (see the Jan 2017 meeting Agenda, Papers and Presentations) - <http://www.westofenglandlep.co.uk/meetings/joint-transport-board>

Electrification work of the line connecting London to South Wales is proceeding and recent piling work around Parkway station over Christmas prompted only 1 complaint.

BUS

Work is in progress to allow buses to make use of the Cheswick Village / Romney Avenue bus link and this will be complete by the end of March. Bus operators are being kept up to date in order that services can be registered to operate as soon as possible.

For full details of changes to public transport provision, visit <http://ow.ly/Xy6XC>

SGC has published a new bus route map for South Gloucestershire. Copies can be ordered by e-mailing. The map can also be viewed on the SGC website – www.southglos.gov.uk

Regards,

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