

## **ACCESS WEST**

### **Business Engagement Activities**

Employer grant applications continue to come in, to date we have provided 10 during the course of Access West, totalling just over £21k of grant funding and £33k of match funding from businesses, 5 of these grants have been to SusCom members. There is still plenty left in the pot so please do get in touch with Access West team if you have any sustainable travel related projects you are keen to complete. Remember, once approved you have 6 months in which to deliver the project so you don't necessarily need to wait until all permissions are in place or budgets approved!

We are currently putting the finishing touches to this year's annual travel to work survey which will run from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March. The registration questionnaire will be ready to go out next week and look out for lots of other promotional activities relating to this important event in the coming weeks!

### **Active Travel Champions**

Our 'Cycle Champions' scheme has now been re-branded to encompass 'Walking Champions', and will come under the banner of 'Active Travel Champions' henceforth. We are working closely with the other West of England authorities to try and develop fully joined up programme across the region and will be running joint events and activities in the future.

As a result, we will be running a led walk at Stoke Park (hosted by Steve England), departing from S Block Café at UWE, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February from 12.30-1.15pm. For more details, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lunchtime-led-walk-at-uwe-tickets-42125494488?aff=es2>.

So far we have 40 champions from 26 organisations in the region, but we are still looking to build the network across South Gloucestershire. If you, or any colleagues you know of may be interested in becoming an 'Active Travel Champion' please contact [transport.policy@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:transport.policy@southglos.gov.uk).

## **BHV UPDATE**

The works are progressing well and are on schedule with the removal of the contraflow in spring 2018. Many of the remaining works are weather dependent so we cannot be more specific at this time. The project team will provide an update with an expected completion date as soon as possible.

We will be gathering the traffic count data at the end of the project so we can see what effect there has been on travel options. We won't have pedestrian counts but will have cycling and traffic numbers. Anecdotally there appears to have been an increase in pedestrians.

## **RAIL UPDATE**

Network Rail predict demand will grow between 30-40% over the next few years due to additional capacity, reduced journey times and more frequent services. However, there will be more disruption to rail services in 2018 to complete the four tracking of Filton Bank and re-signalling including the closure of Bristol Temple Meads and Filton Bank affecting regional and long distance services, as a result, Cross country trains and local trains will have quicker journey times. Easter will be the next main period of disruption which will cover the Easter weekend and extend to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

The new platform at Bristol Parkway is now open and available for trains, the waiting room on the new platform will be available in April. The usual entrance at Filton Abbey Wood to be restored at the end of January.

## **METROWEST UPDATE**

### **Phase 1**

A Major Scheme Fund bid has been submitted for combination of stages A and B to meet the new cost estimates, which includes improvement to hourly to services to Severn Beach and additional service to Bath and the re-opening of the Portishead line with an hourly service plus new stations at Portishead and Pill.

The next stages for the MSF will be for a number of technical questions to be posed to the Project team followed up by an assessment through interview with the team. There will be a Decision regarding the MSF bid in April/May 2018.

### **Phase 2**

This phase will bring an hourly service to Henbury with three new stations and an increase to half hourly for service to Yate and Gloucester. Phase 2 GRIP3 / 4 work to be complete spring 2018 followed by an outline business case for approval towards the end of summer 2018. Full Business Case approval is envisaged by May 2020. The three new stations are the main area of risk and focus. There is currently no decision regarding possible arena location in Filton so design of standard station continues at North Filton.

## **CRIBBS PATCHWAY METROBUS EXTENSION**

The agreed CPME route will operate between Bristol Parkway Station and The Mall bus station, via Hatchet Road, Gypsy 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 survey and design work for the CPME and planning applications for the scheme are programmed to be submitted in late February. Further information can be found at [www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension](http://www.travelwest.info/metrobus/extension)

## **CYCLING AND TRANSPORT POLICY UPDATE**

### **LCWIP**

Procurement of a consultant for the development of a West of England Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, is expected to be concluded by the end of the month. The aim is to produce an LCWIP for the whole sub-region, with a focus on unlocking growth and encouraging sustainable development. Outputs will be a proposed future cycling and walking network plan and a prioritised list of infrastructure improvements for each authority.

### **Cycle Forum**

The next cycle forum meeting is scheduled for 6pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Venue still to be confirmed, if anyone would be able to host please email [cycleforum@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:cycleforum@southglos.gov.uk). Thanks to Filton 20 for hosting the November meeting, we are pleased to report that a number of the new SGC cycle champions attended.

### **Air Quality**

Bristol City Council (along with Banes and 22 other authorities) have been mandated by DEFRA to produce a clean air plan that can deliver air quality compliance in the shortest time possible.

Whilst South Gloucestershire Council not required to produce a Clean Air Zone plan, because of the close proximity of our Air Quality Management areas to Bristol, and previous joint work on the feasibility of a clean air zone, representatives from SGC sit on the clean air zone study steering

group, but in an advisory capacity. Bristol are required to undertake the feasibility study by 31 March 2018, and to identify a preferred option (that will achieve compliance by 2021), by the end of 2018.

The existing air Quality Action Plan for the Kingswood and Staple Hill Air Quality Management Areas, will be updated this year to include the recent extension of the Kingswood AQMA to include Warmely. Progress on the current action plan is reported annually, the 2017 report, which has recently been approved by DEFRA, can be viewed on our website: [www.southglos.gov.uk/airquality](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/airquality)