

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign Royston meeting: Further progress on the A10, challenges for the A505 roundabout

The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign held its first meeting of 2014 in Royston last night, at the Coombes Community Centre.

The meeting room was filled to capacity with standing room only, and supported by residents from Royston, Meldreth, Melbourn, Barrington, Foxton, Fowlmere and Shepreth.

New members continue to join on a regular basis and once again there were new faces, all of whom raised their hands to volunteer for various tasks.

In attendance were Sustrans officers Rohan Wilson and Nigel Brigham, Hertfordshire councillors Fiona Hill and Tony Hunter, and Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire County Council Officers. The meeting was chaired by Melbourn County Councillor Susan van de Ven.

Less than a year since it was launched, the campaign has seen remarkable success by tapping into Cambridgeshire's central government Cycling Ambition Grant at just the right time. The new path connecting Foxton and Shepreth, which is designed to enhance cycle links toward Foxton Station, will be completed in about four weeks' time.

It was reported that the Shepreth-Foxton project is coming in at below cost, and therefore it will be possible to extend the project in some ways. It was agreed that solar studs on the new path would establish an important standard. The second priority was to commence an extension of the path from Barrington slip road toward Harston. That stretch has now had vegetation cleared back but it ultimately the aspiration is to upgrade it to a 2.5 metre wide path.

A new crossing point over the A10, connecting the new path to Melbourn, will be positioned to join in with the old Dunsbridge Turnpike near the Weavers Shed, encouraging people to avoid crossing at the Frog End junction.

Volunteers from the campaign group will be helping out to ensure that the verges around the new path are reseeded to the best possible standard, with specialist advice and support from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Tackling the Melbourn-Royston path, and crucially the A505 roundabout, comprised the main discussion. It is hoped that if the Cambridge City Deal comes through this will allow a high quality off-road path to be constructed up to the Hertfordshire border – and indeed the whole length of the A10 between Trumpington and Royston. The purpose of a City Deal would be to create the necessary transport infrastructure to accommodate the huge housing growth expected in the Greater Cambridge, in line with exploiting the area's economic growth potential.

There would be an emphasis upon sustainable transport networks that would alleviate

car congestion, and the A10 corridor is seen as ideal for a modal shift to cycling. While the Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire county border creates administrative headaches, the campaign is determined to help tackle these challenges as the demand for travel across that border is self-evident.

Hertfordshire County Council representatives announced that a feasibility study will shortly be carried out for cycle and pedestrian links over the A505, not only at the A10 but at other points as well including the A1198 and Littleington crossings. It was agreed by everyone that the roundabouts presents life-threatening barriers anyone not in motor vehicle. An update on the feasibility study will be requested at the campaign's next meeting on 31 March.

A date for the group's annual awareness ride will shortly be set.