

# Minutes – Cyclox meeting – 3 March 04

## East Oxford Community Centre

The main Cyclox meeting of 3 March 04 was supposed to have been dedicated to two important sessions that Cyclox has been putting off for too long: Richard Mann's presentation on the Twin Cycle Network, and James Styring's city-centre cycle-parking project. But the meeting decided instead to deal with Cyclox's Cowley Road Safety Improvement Scheme submission because this is an important issue affecting so many cyclists and at a meeting with the County that morning, Cyclox delegates had been asked for feedback on the County's initial drawings for the scheme.

We agreed that this would be the last time that we'd let Cowley Road hijack a main Cyclox meeting – all future East Oxford issues will be dealt with by a separate East Oxford Cyclox group. (Would volunteers for co-ordinating an East Oxford Cyclox group please email [co-ordinator@cyclox.org](mailto:co-ordinator@cyclox.org).)

### **1 Cyclox's response to the County's proposals (3 March 04) for Cowley Rd**

A Cyclox delegation (Richard Mann, Simon Banks, Dom Scholfield, James Styring) met two Oxfordshire County Council Transport Planning Officers (Samantha Tharme and Celia Jones), and a Safety Officer (Anthony Kirkwood) for two hours on the morning of 3 March to discuss the County's initial proposals for the Cowley Road Safety Improvement Scheme. There were features that we liked, especially three areas (including outside Tesco) where the roadway was raised to the same height as that of the pavements, creating a slowing, pedestrianised feel to those sections of the road. But we were all surprised that the road that Halcrow was proposing was so wide, and that there were no cycle lanes at all. We felt that the generous width of the traffic lanes would allow vehicles to travel faster than the County's target maximum speed of 20 mph, and that the design of the road meant that cyclists were in effect being used to slow the traffic, an idea that the Cyclox meeting in Feb 04 considered but decided not to recommend.

Richard Mann explained to the main Cyclox meeting (evening of 3 March 04) what the issues were as we saw them. The group debated the pros and cons of the original Cyclox proposal vs the County's preferred option. The main difference of opinion was that Cyclox had asked for

continuous cycle lanes on Cowley Road in both directions whereas the County was looking for a solution that slowed traffic but that did not include cycle lanes. There was less parking in the Cyclox proposal and the parking was all made safe from the point of view of cyclists by setting it in recessed bays.

Given a 10m road width:

- Cyclox recommended a road layout that broadly corresponds to what we have today on Abingdon Road: 1.3m cycle lanes in both directions and 2.5m running lanes for traffic in both directions, with a median strip of 0.4m incorporating pedestrian refuges for crossing and turning and 2m for car parking on one side of the road or the other (alternating but never on both sides of the road).
- The County's initial plans are the same more or less as what we currently have on Hythe Bridge St: 1.8 m for parking on both sides with 3.2m running lanes for traffic in both directions. No cycle lanes and only one pedestrian refuge remaining along the entire length of the scheme.

Worries expressed at the meeting included:

- the County's plan looks like an open road
- cyclists won't slow traffic down at night (which is when most of the accidents occur)
- tailgating might occur which would be as much a perceived as a real risk
- cyclists will be forced to cycle too closely to parked cars (the idea of car-parking along the centre of the road was again mooted, as well as cycle lanes between parked cars and the pavement)
- parking on both sides of the road effectively doubles the hazard to cyclists
- it's harder for pedestrians to cross if there are no pedestrian refuges

A substantial majority agreed that Oxford cyclists would want what the original Cyclox proposal demanded. The meeting put the options to a vote: **85% voted in favour of having cycle lanes in both directions** marked separately from narrower main traffic lanes. **See the full text of the Cyclox response to the County's proposal of 3 March 04 elsewhere in the Archive section of the Cyclox website.**

## **2 Re-Cycle / Bikes to Africa**

**Simon Banks explained briefly the Re-Cycle / Bikes to Africa project** and sought volunteers for help with running a pilot scheme in West Oxford. There will be a report on how this project went later this month.

*Look for this in the News and/or Events sections of the Cyclox website soon.*

## **3 Cyclox's Twin Cycle Network**

**Richard Mann spent 5 minutes outlining Cyclox's Twin Cycle Network**, but there was nowhere near enough time to do justice to this important project, so **it was agreed to have a full discussion of this at the next Cyclox meeting: 7pm Weds 7 April.**

**We will also be discussing in the next Cyclox meeting – 7pm Weds 7 April**

East Oxford Community Centre:

- **city-centre cycle-parking** (well overdue)
- **what would most benefit cyclists in the City Council's redesign of Bonn Square**

Come along! See you there – bring a friend or two!

James Styring

*co-ordinator@cyclox.org*

*23 March 04*