



THE ASSOCIATION OF BIKEABILITY SCHEMES

www.tabs-uk.org.uk

TABS MEMBERS UPDATE – MARCH 2013

1. TABS agrees a working relationship with the Department for Transport's Bikeability support team (Steer Davies Gleave)

Francesca Flaxton and David Dansky from TABS Board met with representatives from Department for Transport's agent Steer Davies Gleave to discuss a framework for a working relationship around Bikeability.

The DfT welcomed TABS initiative of incorporating the Instructor Training Organisation (ITO) group within TABS as the expert group for cycle training. TABS will be exploring a mechanism to include other Bikeability scheme people in this expert group.

TABS has been invited to attend regular meeting with the Bikeability support team and input into the maintenance and future development of the scheme. Francesca and David will be attending the initial meeting in April to look at a joint works programme.

Some initial ideas for this joint works programme include:

- Quality Assurance (See below)
- Development of the National Standard for the school's curriculum
- Research around the effect of training on cognitive development in young people
- Revamp of Bikeability materials including the badges

TABS will be looking for additional work recommendations and ideas from TABS members.

2. Quality Assurance update

Liz Clarke and David Dansky attended a meeting of the QA team looking at the initial experiences of the assurers following the first few assurance visits. At the meeting issues around the logistics and administration of the visits were discussed. The assurers also took a quiz which aimed to clarify some issues around Bikeability. The group also heard feedback from schemes. TABS also gave some feedback from TABS members who had an assurance visit. The feedback was mainly positive and scheme managers generally were receptive to the assurer's comments. TABS will be monitoring sampled anonymised QA reports.

We were pleased to hear that the non-sector assurers (from Coach-wise) will be undergoing cycle training. This will give them a better understanding of how training works.

TABS recommended to DfT's agents that the assurers would benefit from taking a course that would help standardise feedback and reporting and ensure that the QA team is up to date on the revisions

of the National Standard. TABS has been invited to put together a proposal about this course to the Bikeability support team with a view to being given the green light to develop and run the course.

We are also pleased to note that the Bikeability support team are putting together a brief for the development of the Internal Quality Assurance toolkit .

3. TABS gives evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group inquiry ' Get Britain cycling'

In January David Dansky, TABS Board member, gave evidence at the second session of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group's (APPCG) *Get Britain Cycling* inquiry. Other organisations present included: British Cycling, CTC, the Transport and Health Study Group, the AA, the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the Freight Transport Association, and the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.

The case for reduced speed limits was made by David who made the point that *"if we share the same space we should share the same speed."*

<http://allpartycycling.org/2013/01/30/justice-needed-for-cyclists-on-the-roads-says-parliamentary-inquiry-press-release/>

TABS submitted additional written evidence at the request of the Members of Parliament which can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0MkAQhrjbb9ZTR6LWFZTHdnTmc/edit?usp=sharing>

4. TABS welcomes Isobel Stoddart as its Development Manager

We welcome Isobel Stoddart who has joined TABS as Development Manager working 2 days a week. Her role will include membership engagement, conference facilitation, and support to the Board. She will also be looking into grants and sponsorship for TABS.

Her email address is isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk.

5. Discussion Forum for TABSmembers

TABS is looking for ways of managing consultation with members around strategy and policy. We have been offered the use of a new design of web forum called Microcosm (See <http://demo.microco.sm/>).

TABS members will be able to use this new software from late April as beta testers.

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- Membership renewal - from **Monday 1st April**
- TABS Board election nominations open on **Monday 8th April**
- Annual Conference - **Thursday 16th May**, in Birmingham