



THE ASSOCIATION OF BIKEABILITY SCHEMES

[www.tabs-uk.org.uk](http://www.tabs-uk.org.uk)

## TABS MEMBERS UPDATE – AUGUST 2013

### 1. DfT funding announcement 12<sup>th</sup> August re. Bikeability

On 12<sup>th</sup> August the DfT announced funding for Bikeability until 2016, but was not explicit about the budget – [further details here](#), plus a map showing [distribution of funds here](#). It also launched a National Schools Travel scheme for walking and cycling, which the Bicycle Association (BA) will fund further details about BA [involvement here](#). TABS has been told that we will be invited to discussions on how it might work.

Stories about [Bikeability in the media](#) will be posted on the website and TABS forum. Add your thoughts too!

The government also announced, on 14<sup>th</sup> August, funding for physical activity initiatives – [further details here](#).

### 2. Survey about Bikeability materials – update

Thank you very much to the 41 TABS members that completed the on-survey, and also the 8 TABS members who were interviewed by telephone during July/August. A full report of the findings has now been submitted to SDG. TABS will keep members updated on the outcomes.

### 3. Bids / projects – update

**Outcomes survey work** - 2 revised proposals were submitted this month to the DfT and TfL. These now includes 2 survey waves in six areas around England (60 schools) and 4 London boroughs (40 schools) in London about the outcomes of Bikeability training. This is proposed to take place during the 2013/14 year with reports scheduled for March and September 2014. TABS will be meeting with DfT and TfL this month to get decisions on taking the work forward.

**Bid to the Bicycle Association** – TABS is meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail on 20<sup>th</sup> August, before submitting the final document.

**Quality Assurance training** – earlier this month David Dansky, TABS Board member, held a training course for Quality Assurers. The immediate feedback was very positive and TABS will be following up with the participants to find out what impact the training has. As a result of this first session, TABS has now submitted a proposal, at SDG's request, to hold a further 3 1/day training sessions - 1 in London, 2 elsewhere in England – tbc.

**Don't forget:** TABS forum has a place for you to discuss issues around [Quality Assurance](#)

#### 4. Campaigning – update

**Cycle Training** - following TABS call to get cycle training on the National Curriculum there was a PQ in the Lords re. cycle training at the end of July which received the following response: <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2013-07-19a.158.0&s=%28cycling%29+2013-07-01..2013-07-22+section%3Auk+speaker%3A13572#g158.1>.

**URGENT ACTION REQUIRED:** Since then TABS has co-ordinated a call to all TABS members to invite their MP to experience a Bikeability session, and also issued a [press release](#), which has been circulated to trade and national media outlets. The intention is to encourage MP's to attend and talk with authority, based on direct experience, about the value of cycle training on 2 September 2013 in the House of Commons, when there will be an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) debate about the cycling inquiry report '[Get Britain Cycling](#)'.

If you haven't already contacted your MP TABS strongly encourage you to do so ASAP. It is worthwhile as can be seen from the [press release](#) issued by Julian Huppert MP after he had a cycle training session with Outspoken Training, in Cambridge. Further details are [available here](#). Download a [template letter here](#).

[Train your MP](#) – click here for link to the TABS discussion to add your views.

**PLEASE DO LET US KNOW** if you manage to get your MP out on a bike, and also ideally send us some photos/any other useful information about the experience, so we can collate a central file of all the activity generated. The DfT has specifically asked to be kept updated on which MPs receive training, and from which scheme. Any information to: [isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk](mailto:isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk)

A couple of associated news articles:

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Health/WalkRunCycle/Cycle/As-easy-as-riding-a-bike-20130723060036.htm>

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/News/Blogs/House-Points/The-benefits-of-cycling-20130805112026.htm>

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Health/WalkRunCycle/Cycle/As-easy-as-riding-a-bike-20130723060036.htm>

#### 5. Membership - update

**TABS needs more members!** We still only represent about 20% of all the Bikeability schemes in England. We are now offering reduced membership fees for the rest of the year, post-conference.

Rates are as follows: £35 (small schemes), £70 (medium schemes), £150 (large schemes). TABS is calling on all existing members to help us recruit more Bikeability schemes to join. If you would like to help and can think of schemes that you'd be happy to approach directly please contact: Isobel Stoddart: [isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk](mailto:isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk) / 07952 786621

## 6. Board - update

The first elected board meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August. At that meeting it was agreed that the following people would be invited to attend Board meetings, but would not have voting rights: Phillip Darnton (Chair), Jenny Hotchkiss (representing British Cycling), Colin Savage from Devon County Council (advisor), Paul Robison (advisor). Other key issues discussed included TABS procedures, finances, business development and marketing/PR strategies.

The next Board meeting is taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> September at which a growth strategy for TABS for the next 2-4 years will be discussed, as well as a review of membership fees/services.

## 7. PR/Marketing

Last Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, Kirsti Grayson (TABS board member) did an interview for BBC Newsround whilst coaching some children with Cycle Sport Pendle at the Ride with Brad Sportif. Both her children also were interviewed and put forward a strong case for Bikeability. It is scheduled for broadcast on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August – a link will be uploaded onto the TABS website when available.

## 8. AOB / dates for diary

- The next Experts (ITO) Group meeting will be held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** (11am – 2pm) at BikeRight! offices in Birmingham. Joe Finlay from the DfT will attend to give an update. It will be followed by a TABS board meeting (2-4.30pm).
- We encourage you to use the TABS forum to raise any issues you have, discuss ideas, upload case studies etc. Please email [isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk](mailto:isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk) if there any particular issues you would like to raise, or otherwise add them directly to the forum.
- Don't forget to use Twitter to share your thoughts : **@TABSbikeability**
- If you have any items you would like included in the September members update please contact: [isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk](mailto:isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk) **by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

And, of course, any comments or queries please do get in touch!

Thank you,  
Isobel Stoddart (*Development Manager, TABS*)