



THE ASSOCIATION OF BIKEABILITY SCHEMES

www.tabs-uk.org.uk

TABS MEMBERS UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2013

1. Update on the Cycling debate – House of Commons, 2nd September

Bikeability was mentioned directly on several occasions at this debate. A full transcript of the debate can be [found here](#). TABS posted a news item with quotes from the MPs that mentioned Bikeability and/or cycle training – [details here](#). TABS encourage Bikeability schemes whose MP's spoke in support of cycling and invite them to have Bikeability training.

Thank you to those of you who have been in touch to say that you managed to get your MP out on a bike, to follow in the footsteps of Julian Huppert (MP, Cambridge). Dianne Abbot (MP Hackney) and Dr. Andrew Murrison (MP, Westbury) will be doing training shortly and Nick Truran (Hertfordshire Council) is involving his local MP in a Level 2 course alongside the children.

I know that many more of you have been in touch with your MPs inviting them to have cycle training. Do continue to build on the momentum that the debate has generated and follow up with your MP / contact them to offer Bikeability if they haven't already. And let us know how you get on - images, quotes, stories all really welcome via isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk !

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

Last year Pedal Ready trained one of their local MPs, Paul Blomfield, (Labour Sheffield Central). Following the session he contributed to a newspaper article about cycling, including the benefits of training.

<http://www.paulblomfield.co.uk/news/news-story/article/investing-in-cycle-training-could-provide-a-real-cycling-legacy-my-article-for-the-yorkshire-post.html>

2. Project work

Bikeability materials – The Bikeability support team was pleased to receive a TABS report presenting members' views on improving the Bikeability booklets. TABS was commissioned to contribute to the design and content of new booklets to be launched alongside new certificates and badges in the new year. The preferred options presented in the report were endorsed by the TABS board in August and accepted by the Bikeability support team in September. Overall, the consultation found TABS members preferred the following options: route 1 designs but with route 2 certificates (including outcomes listed on the front); similar booklets with improved content, including diagrams and descriptions of manoeuvres; and training points to remember at each level based on National Standard outcomes, for trainees and parents/carers. TABS is now working

with the Bikeability support team to finalise new content and designs by the end of September. Thanks to all members who responded to the survey and contributed to the interviews.

Thank you to those who have already responded to our recent appeal for photos to use to generate illustrations for the materials. We've had some great pictures sent in!

Outcomes survey work – A revised bid was submitted to TfL by Michael Frearson and David Dansky. This now includes 2 waves of research into outcomes of Bikeability training, and may also include an additional questionnaire for parents. TfL has just commissioned TABS to carry out this work which will be starting later this month. TABS has put TfL officers in touch with the DfT to ensure that there was shared information / learnings from the two proposed surveys – in and outside of London.

Quality Assurance training – Organisation of the 3 further pilot training sessions, both in London and at other locations in England is underway. Feedback from the first session held last month was very positive. TABS has had discussions with the DfT and SDG about rolling this out further, as a DfT recognised and funded course across Bikeability, should the further sessions be successful.

External Assurance: Review of Good Practice summary report & the ITO audit proposal – TABS ITO (Expert) group was consulted on these documents and discussed the approach for the audit process at the last meeting on 4th September. TABS collated their views and then discussed the feedback with SDG who will shortly be issuing an updated version, with additional clarification on specific elements, to all schemes.

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

3. Campaigning & networking

- TABS is compiling a draft presentation about TABS and Bikeability with a view to presenting at the next APPCC meeting.
- Several representatives from the TABS board have been invited by Norman Baker MP to attend the next Cycling Stakeholder's forum on 30th September
- TABS has been invited to put forward a representative for a working group that will be co-ordinated by DfT/Bicycle Association, to generate a proposal for how the National School Awards scheme would be run.
- Lib Dems and Labour have adopted the targets in the Get Britain Cycling report as part of their manifesto recommendations. It is likely therefore that Bikeability will be therefore part of their manifestos. The DfT will be publishing a delivery plan in response, with more detail on achieving objectives in Get Britain Cycling report - a good opportunity for TABS to raise the profile of cycle training.

4. Membership

- Mailing list – this newsletter should now be received by all the new contacts that were sent in. Any further email nominations to receive the monthly newsletter / other communications – send to isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk
- TABS want to collect interesting Bikeability stories, activities and accompanying good photos to include on our website and profile in the monthly newsletters, as well as promoting through our social media network. If you've any relevant material, links to news articles etc. please do send them in.

- TABS is currently 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. PLEASE do spread the word about TABS membership to other schemes and encourage them to join, or pass their details onto Isobel. All the background information / membership forms are available at: <http://www.tabs-uk.org.uk/membership/>. And if you have any suggestions related to membership recruitment please contact: isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk.

5. TABS Forum

There are some great new features on the TABS forum to make it even simpler and more accessible to use – take a look at: <https://tabs.microco.sm/>. NB - as a unique forum design, being piloted by TABS, feedback on the ‘usability’ of the site is welcome.

Traffic on the forum is steadily increasing but TABS would like to see more debate on-line. Why not have your say, ask for advice, or just take a look at what others are saying. For instance, a recent post below:

Q: *Can you offer compelling examples of instructors working positively with risk to improve training quality and deliver trainee outcomes?*

Please do let all your instructors that the forum is there for them to ask questions, generate debate around Bikeability issues. And if you send Isobel (isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk) their emails we will send them an invite to join along with log-in details.

6. Meetings

The TABS Board met on 4th September at Bike Right! offices in Birmingham. Key issues discussed including: membership recruitment, services and rates; budgets, and on-going work programme priorities.

The ITO (Expert) group also met on 4th September with key issues discussed including: an update from the DfT, the ITO audit proposal, NSI training course structure, child protection policy documentation, and working group/ forum discussions.

7. PR/Marketing

22nd August: Laura Trott tells Newsround that cycle training should be taught in school: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/23782673>

8. AOB / dates for diary

- Provisional 2014 dates:
 - Board/Expert Group meetings: Tuesday 14th January, Thursday 1st May, Tuesday 16th September.
 - TABS annual conference: Thursday 15th May.
- Don't forget to use Twitter to share your thoughts : **@TABSBikeability**
- If you have any items you would like included in the OCTOBER newsletter please contact: isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk **by Monday 7th October**

If you would like to unsubscribe from this mailing list, or would like to suggest other contacts to receive it please contact: isobel@tabs-uk.org.uk And, of course, any comments or queries please do get in touch! Thank you. Isobel Stoddart (*Development Manager, TABS*)