

# Spokes Monthly Meeting



**Date:** 7 March 2018      **Venue:** The Lion, Newbury

**Present:** Ron Brown, Ed Cooper, Josh Kerry, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Clive Tombs, Tony Vickers

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Ref	Item	Action
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**1. K&A Canal Towpath**

- At the last meeting, it has been agreed that the Canal and River Trust (CRT) will use the developer contributions from the racecourse development to upgrade the section of the towpath from Newbury Football Club to the bridge at the back of Poundstretcher as the first priority. The next priority will be from the bridge to Hambridge Lane.
- The exact spec has yet to be agreed, but it will be a bound surface, which will be much more hard-wearing than the crushed aggregate surface that has previously been used.
- It is likely that the developer contributions will need to be topped up with council funds.
- The CRT has agreed to look at repairing sections east of Marsh Benham as a matter of urgency where erosion is posing a risk to cycle safety.
- The CRT is assigning a project manager to the works in West Berkshire.
- In order to help cyclists cross Hambridge Road, TV suggested a scheme where cyclists could cross the canal on the west side and loop round to pass under the bridge on a cantilevered structure fixed to the bridge. TV to discuss with the CRT.

TV

**2. A4 Newbury to Thatcham (National Cycle Network Route 422)**

- JK explained that site investigations had found that the utilities were much closer to the surface than expected in some places. To mitigate this, it is proposed to construct a hybrid or stepped cycle route rather than an on-carriageway cycle route. This design features a small level difference between footway and cycleway and between cycleway and carriageway. This design is used in Oxford. Cyclists would still have priority over motor vehicles at junctions.
- Sections affected include:
  - East of Faraday Road
  - Martingale Chase to Skylings
  - The eastbound approach to Hambridge Road

Ref	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This proposal was endorsed by those present.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>City Park</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Works are underway to widen the public footpath through City Park between Andover Road and Rectory Close to enable it to be used by cyclists. There has been a delay due to the weather but works should be completed in March.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Greenham Common Link</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Ardagh-Walter will send a letter to Greenham Business Park on behalf of the Cycle Forum requesting that the link between the Common and the Business Park be improved, so it is usable by cyclists.</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Hamptead Norreys to Hermitage Cycle Route</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction work should be starting in August.</li> <li>▪ JK flagged the need for Spokes to articulate a long-term vision for the final route through to Newbury.</li> <li>▪ It was suggested that Sustrans should review the work undertaken to date and turn this into a formal feasibility study report. JK to action.</li> </ul>	JK
6.	<b>Bike Maintenance Training</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JK struggling to agree dates between the three people who would like to do the training.</li> <li>▪ RB and CT expressed an interest in doing the course. JK to coordinate and book.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that Spokes would book Ace Space for 14 April to run a local maintenance class. WP to book.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that JK could have a display at the class to get feedback on the Colthrop to Theale section of NCN422.</li> <li>▪ GO had received a request to run a bike maintenance session with a local cub pack. GO &amp; WP happy to run this. GO to agree a date.</li> </ul>	JK
		WP
		GO
7.	<b>Jerseys</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previously quoted prices were ex-VAT. The correct price is £1,195 for 35 jerseys. It was agreed that Josh could place the order.</li> </ul>	JK
8.	<b>Membership Communications</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RB, GO &amp; WP to be set up with Mailchimp access.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that Spokes should try to achieve at least a quarterly</li> </ul>	

Ref	Item	Action
	newsletter to members. Suggested articles include:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member survey results - GO to prepare</li> <li>- Invitation to Ace Space event – WP to prepare</li> <li>- Towpath update – CT to prepare</li> <li>- NCN 422 update – JK to prepare</li> <li>- Jerseys – JK to prepare</li> </ul>	<p>GO</p> <p>WP</p> <p>CT</p> <p>JK</p> <p>JK</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All to action and send to RB by <u>end of March</u>.</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>Cycle Count</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All sites completed – thanks to everyone who helped out.</li> <li>▪ It was noted that numbers are likely to be down due to the bad weather.</li> </ul>	
10.	<b>Rides</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unfortunately, the first ride of 2018 had to be cancelled due to the snow.</li> <li>▪ The next ride will be on 17 March – participants to book on <a href="http://letsride.co.uk">letsride.co.uk</a>.</li> <li>▪ It was noted that most of those booked on the next ride were not members: GO / WP to bring membership forms.</li> <li>▪ It was asked whether those present on the ride were covered by insurance as well as the ride leaders. GO to check.</li> </ul>	GO
<b>Next meeting:</b>	<b>04 April 2018 @ 7.00pm</b>	
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Two Watermills, Newtown Road, Newbury, RG14 7HB</b>	