

# Minutes of a Meeting of: West Berkshire Cycle Forum

## held on: 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2018

**Present:** Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter (SAW) - Chair  
 Cllr Jeanette Clifford (JC) - WBC Executive Member for Transport  
 Josh Kerry (JK) - WBC Highways Officer (minutes of meeting)  
 Elaine Cox (EC) - WBC Rights Of Way Officer  
 Angela McMahon (AM) – SPOKES

**Apologies:** Cllr Adrian Edwards - Council Member for Falkland  
 Caroline Lane – SPOKES Chair and WBC Cycling Co-ordinator  
 Clive Tombs –SPOKES  
 Gordon Oliver – SPOKES acting Secretary  
 Matthew Stagg - Externiture Ltd (Thatcham resident and local cyclist)  
 Jon Winstanley – WBC Projects Manager  
 Cheryl Evans – WBC Traffic and Road Safety  
 Paul Hendry – WBC Countryside Manager

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. <b>NCN422</b></p> <p>Josh Kerry (JK) gave update on Phase One progress; new shared footway complete on Benham Hill and new road layout programmed for end of May. London Road improvements to take place hopefully during gap in the Bus Wharf civils by same contractor in mid July.</p> <p>JK explained that consultation results for Phase Two (Thatcham) were very strongly against the new cycle lanes citing parking as main issue. There was a petition from 35 properties against the double yellow lines. Discussion about how to accommodate parking needs whilst also providing safe space on the carriageway. JK said alternative parking provision to be looked at to appease residents, and internal meetings with WBC Parking and Thatcham Town Council to follow. Cllr Ardagh-Walter (SAW) expressed interest in being involved, and would speak to ward members to look at the proposals and offer support if they felt it should go ahead (currently no responses). Discussion resumed about advisory vs mandatory cycle lanes. JK to speak to Wokingham BC about process for installing their on-carriageway lanes.</p> <p>Phase Three to follow the improvements in Thatcham, likely 2019. Angela McMahon (AM) requested that signage be installed on the stretch from Calcot IKEA into Reading BC border sooner to continue route. JK to discuss with Projects managers. JK explained that surveys being carried out for Phase Three now to inform proposals.</p>	<p><b>SAW</b></p> <p><b>JK</b></p> <p><b>JK</b></p>

**Action**

**2. CANAL TOWPATH AND NCN 4**

JK advised that he had met with Suzanne Featherstone from CRT since last Forum and walked the site east of Newbury to Ham Bridge. CRT have not yet spent the initial £50k from Racecourse S106 so this could be put towards any funding shortfall. JK subsequently met with internal WBC departments (Transport Policy, Planning, Development Control, PRoW) and has agreed firm proposal and specification which satisfies the criteria of the S106 agreement. Forum agreed and JK to send to CRT.

**JK**

Elaine Cox (EC) revealed other locations where towpath is in particularly poor condition and requires urgent attention, especially from Monkey Bridge into Newbury. SAW explained the need to keep focus on agreed priorities for repair, but due to reorganisation at CRT has been unable to engage with Mark Evans.

SAW spoken separately to Chris Boulton of Greenham Common Trust about current shortfall and received positive feedback about some funding. SAW to contact Mark Evans to follow up and invite to next Forum meeting.

**SAW**

Sustrans Simon Pratt requested meeting with WBC Capital Projects to discuss current quality of NCN Route 4 and met to talk about scoring the existing level of service through the district (22/05/18). Most of NCN4 is on the K&A towpath and focus of the discussion was on how to improve but given lack of funds no solution.

**3. CYCLE DESIGN STANDARDS**

JK explained that a lot of feedback from the NCN422 route brought in to question WBC policy about either shared or segregated footways. JK asked Forum is there was a preference but AM and SAW instead said it should perhaps continue to be case-by-case and up to Officer discretion. Time running short so it was agreed to be continued in next Forum meeting.

**4. CYCLING INITIATIVES**

Item concerns plans for 'Cycle to Work Day' but to be carried on to next agenda when hopefully Caroline Lane is present to expand in more detail.

**5. AOB:**

**CYCLE HUB – NEWBURY TRAIN STATION**

JK showed plans for the new cycle hub at Newbury train station and asked for preferences. The Forum unanimously agreed that there



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	<u>Action</u>
<p>7. <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – UPDATED 18.06.2018 DV</b> 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 at 18:00, West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, The Roger Croft Room.</p>	<p>DV</p>