

Minutes of a Meeting of: West Berkshire Cycle Forum

held on: 4 April 2019

Present: Cllr Stephen Ardagh-Walter (SAW) - Chair
 Josh Kerry (JK) - WBC Highways Officer (minutes of meeting)
 Elaine Cox (EC) - WBC Rights Of Way Officer
 Caroline Lane – SPOKES Chair and WBC Cycling Co-ordinator
 Gordon Oliver – SPOKES
 Matthew Stagg - Externiture Ltd (Thatcham resident and local cyclist)
 Neil Taylor – Newbury Road Club

Apologies: Cllr Adrian Edwards - Council Member for Falkland
 Cllr Jeanette Clifford (JC) - WBC Executive Member for Transport
 Clive Tombs –SPOKES Secretary
 Cheryl Evans – WBC Traffic and Road Safety
 Paul Hendry – WBC Countryside Manager

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Interactive map</p> <p>EC explained that Stuart Powling from west Berkshire IT has digitalised the first one of five rural routes. Many thanks to Stu. More photos required especially Landscape photos showing the scenery.</p> <p>Neil – knows someone who can take photos. Better the photos better encouragement for participation and cycle the route.</p> <p>EC asked whether safety information is to be included? However the forum voted unanimously to omit just to keep it simple.</p> <p>Request for overall map showing all 5 routes within West Berks.</p> <p>SAW – launch publicly ready for summer, add something of interest to the WBC website.</p> <p>MS – Additional routes? E.g. SAW suggested towpath. Categorise the routes showing gradient / MTB off-road or hybrid etc</p>	<p>NT / all</p>
<p>2. Cycle Count Locations</p> <p>JK introduced topic for discussion. Cycle count locations have been the same since 2010 and it was been suggested that a review might be worthwhile, esp as a few locations consistently yield very low numbers and housing developments in the area.</p>	

	<u>Action</u>
<p>I.e. London Rd NCN422 where we have invested significantly in a new route or for example somewhere nearer to the Town Centre which is presumably a destination for a lot of journeys. Or MS suggested new developments i.e. racecourse / Tull Way?</p> <p>GO – W&M approach to cordon off the town centre and capture cycling activity routes into and out of town.</p> <p>GO asked whether developers install cycle counters. JG – JK – CS to follow up.</p> <p>MS suggested data sharing devices such as Bluetooth. MS to look into how this could be used and its potential for cycle count data in West Berks.</p> <p>CL suggested counting in and around schools. Or asking Schools to perform counts themselves. For example Falkland School have made very good progress recently. Could count before and after Bikeability to review success. SAW asked about incentives. i.e. Francis Bailey / Parsons Down (historically with car-driving and traffic problems) to be targeted?</p>	
<p>3. Towpath / Canal Corridor</p> <p>SAW made contact with the new director of CRT. He aims to establish regular contact between CRT and cycle forum. SAW to send invite to next meeting.</p> <p>JK gave a funding update for SPOKES and Sustrans and the Colthrop bid. Need to inform K&A Trust of the proposal.</p> <p>CT passed on message that he has had a response from CRT re the section west of Newbury to Marsh Benham. GO spoke of frustration over CRT inaction and lack of communication.</p> <p>SAW reported evidence of some light maintenance on the section east of Thatcham.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>MS</p> <p>SAW</p> <p>JK</p>
<p>4. NCN422 Update</p> <p>Planning application withdrawn for retail units on former Narrowboat PH site, London Road in Newbury. Therefore the scheme has been setback approx. 6 months until new application is likely to be submitted and additional land secured. JK made contact with Manor Hotel enquiring about land at rear of footway and gave them a proposal.</p> <p>Meanwhile work to resume in Thatcham in April (new financial year). Cycle Lanes and Parking Restrictions imminent.</p>	

MS – asked about mandatory cycle lanes. JK explained that enforcement and maintenance reasons why not to be implemented in West Berks. Unfortunately the Road Safety Auditor rejected the installation of Orcas (light segregation) due to carriageway widths.

MS suggested the use of more “leftfield” options i.e. twitter account in Seattle. Use catseyes? Textured lines?

5. Close Pass

SAW explained that Close Pass is unavailable this year due to lack of police resources.

CL – shame as she has (finally) received approval from WBC budget holders to host.

CL – past focus has been on educating cyclists on good behaviour instead focus needs to be on educating drivers.

MS – a lot is due to cyclists – less issue if you are more confident, can read the road and therefore are aware of when to change between secondary and primary road position as per situation.

SAW read out an update from the police – there has been 6 cycle thefts in 30 days. Police now have new Voodoo hybrid bikes for their duties.

6. Cycle to Work

This year Thursday 8th August 2019.

CL reports of apathy to past years initiatives and so suggested instead to have it in Bike Week (8th to 16th June) – possibly create an incentive for schools i.e. scooter pod or bike shelter for most new scooter or cyclists or highest percentage of cyclists?

Focus on schoolchildren, not local businesses / employers.
CL to speak to public health to get them on board.

GO – “Love to Ride” (Local authorities incentive)
CL – “Get Berkshire Active” (competition)

CL to speak to JG. SAW said that to be a success would need buy-in from schools and parents and the PTA might be a good place to start.

CL

CL

7. AOB

MS brought up issue of some signalised pedestrian crossings i.e. Piper’s Way, Thatcham, and Pinchington Lane, Newbury having

unnecessarily long delay.
JK to speak to NS to see if any particular reason.

Housing development in Tilehurst – led to some discussion about
S106 funding to renew M4 pedestrian bridge at Theale

Next Meeting: 06 June 2019

Action
JK

DV