

# SPOKES Monthly Meeting



**Date:** 10 May 2023      **Venue:** The Castle, Donnington

**Present:** Rob Borthwick, Ed Cooper, Josh Kerry, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, and Clive Tombs

**Apologies:** Caroline Lane and Alan Langley

Ref	Item	Action
1.	<b>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>William confirmed that he had contacted David regarding the website. David had taken on an additional parish council's website, but was happy to continue to provide support as required.</li><li>Gordon had contacted Cycling UK. They had confirmed that they were using the old PO Box address. Following the call, they had updated the address and had sent copies of the last two magazines. However, the address appeared to have been amalgamated with that of another cycling group. William to get this corrected.</li></ul>	WP
2.	<b>Eling Way</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding secured for the Phase 1 extension within Hermitage village, including a link from the village hall to the new development behind Co-op, and onwards to Station Road. It was hoped that landowner and drainage issues could be resolved.</li><li>For the section between Hermitage and Newbury, landowner issues meant that the preferred route could not be achieved, so an interim option being explored to upgrade the bridleway to the west of the B4009. The Public Rights of Way Team was supportive. The Local Access Forum was due to be briefed.</li><li>For the section north of Hampstead Norreys it is hoped that the future route might run alongside a proposed flood defence scheme.</li></ul>	
3.	<b>NCN4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Canal and River Trust (CRT) had been contacted by West Berkshire Council regarding the potential to upgrade the Thatcham to Cranwells Swingbridge section. A meeting between the Council, CRT and Sustrans was planned for June.</li><li>Paul had met with the Sustrans Volunteer Co-ordinator to discuss the Marsh Benham to Great Bedwyn section.</li></ul>	

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4.	<p data-bbox="188 264 1358 297"><b>West Berkshire Council Cycle Schemes</b></p> <ul data-bbox="188 297 1358 884" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="188 297 1358 526">Clive reported that the concept design for A4 Western Avenue Phase 2 was underway, with the aim of linking Phase 1 through to Dolman Road and Chestnut Crescent, potentially linking in with future Active Travel improvements at Robin Hood Roundabout, subject to further design work and funding for construction.</li> <li data-bbox="188 526 1358 638">There was some discussion about the design standards used for the A4 scheme.</li> <li data-bbox="188 638 1358 750">It was suggested that there may be an issue with negative public perceptions about the scheme.</li> <li data-bbox="188 750 1358 884">The Council was seeking feedback regarding people’s experience of using the scheme. They survey would remain open until 30 June: <a href="https://westberks.gov.uk/westernavenue-stage-one">https://westberks.gov.uk/westernavenue-stage-one</a></li> </ul>	
5.	<p data-bbox="188 907 1358 940"><b>Cycle Count</b></p> <ul data-bbox="188 940 1358 1680" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="188 940 1358 996">Spokes had struggled to find enough people to complete all the counts.</li> <li data-bbox="188 996 1358 1366">There was some discussion about the use of automatic cycle counters – these were being considered for a number of sites. Initially, a small number would be deployed at established count sites to augment volunteer enumerators, and reduce the call on Spokes volunteers, particularly in the east. Additional counters would be deployed at new sites where it is felt that there are likely to be significant numbers of cyclists. A trial was being organised to demonstrate proof of concept. Rob to review the initial proposals for automatic counters.</li> <li data-bbox="188 1366 1358 1478">Manual counts were still considered to be worth doing, since they could provide additional information (e.g., helmet use and gender).</li> <li data-bbox="188 1478 1358 1590">William to discuss the potential to source additional count volunteers with Garry Poulson.</li> <li data-bbox="188 1590 1358 1680">Josh to approach Pankhurst Cycles about displaying Spokes promotional material to raise our profile in the east of the district.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1358 907 1495 1366"><b>RB</b></p> <p data-bbox="1358 1366 1495 1590"><b>WP</b></p> <p data-bbox="1358 1590 1495 1680"><b>JK</b></p>
6.	<p data-bbox="188 1702 1358 1736"><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul data-bbox="188 1736 1358 2036" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="188 1736 1358 1780">Ed confirmed that Spokes had £12,224 in the bank.</li> <li data-bbox="188 1780 1358 1892">Clive suggested a possible cycle hub in Newbury Town Centre, with a bike maintenance service and loan cycles.</li> <li data-bbox="188 1892 1358 2036">It was confirmed that Cheryl Evans was looking for new instructors. Spokes had previously funded training for Bikeability instructors,. Clive to put Ed in touch with Cheryl.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1358 1702 1495 2036"><b>CT</b></p>

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>AGM</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was provisionally agreed that this would take place at 3pm on 10 June. Ed to look at booking the Waterside Centre, with the Canoe Club as a fall-back option.</li> <li>▪ It was noted that Caroline would be standing down as Chairman.</li> </ul>	<b>EC</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bike stands had been provided by WBC in Yattendon, Hungerford and near to City Arts, Newbury..</li> <li>▪ Due to ped/cycle conflicts on the east side footway alongside A339 (beside Sainsbury's and extending over the railway bridge to rear of Burger King), additional measures are planned to make it clear this is a footway only and not for cycling..</li> </ul>	
<b>Next meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday 7 June @7.30pm</b>	
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Castle, Donnington</b>	