

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 1 November 2023 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Ed Cooper, David Dobson, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby

Apologies: Josh Kerry, Alan Langley, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Gordon had not heard back from Sustrans re volunteering. <i>[Update: Sustrans emailed on 2 Nov. Individual Spokes Members encouraged to take hand tools and do minor cutting back as and when issues were identified – no insurance necessary. Report any significant issues to landowner/ relevant authority.</i> <i>Registered Sustrans volunteers receive training to do temporary signing along the route to improve wayfinding as necessary and are covered by third party liability insurance. Sustrans recommends that volunteers keep in contact and support one another, meeting up in a small group to blitz an area if it needs extra attention.</i> <i>Registered volunteers who have completed Task Leader training can organise task days for four or more volunteers for vegetation management. Requires risk assessment. Task leaders have to get the landowner's permission to do the activity. Volunteers use hand tools for group activities except in special cases. Sustrans has to review the need for power tools and volunteers would have to do certified power tools training and be mentored and observed by qualified Sustrans staff members regularly.</i> <i>Helen Fisher can set up a volunteer vacancy for Paths for Everyone volunteers for Spokes members. If we definitely want to run group tasks, she recommends that we discuss this to find out more on both sides.]</i>■ Rob to circulate the details of the cycle counts when available. RB■ Josh to contact Pankhurst Cycles to see if they would be willing to promote Spokes. JK■ Gordon had emailed Laura Farris, but had heard nothing back despite a conversation with her on Bridge Street. Will follow up. GO■ Gordon had contacted Rachael Elliott re the Cycling Festival but had heard nothing back.■ Ed had yet to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest. EC	

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3.	Consultations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ROWIP consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It was suggested that long-distance cycle routes should be better promoted and that Newbury needed a campsite. – Gordon had circulated a draft response via WhatsApp – comments by 4 November. – Gordon to submit response. ■ Eagle Quarter planning application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proposed two-way on Bartholomew Street between Market Street and the car park entrance would be good for cyclist permeability. – Unlikely to be able to achieve formal two-way between the car park access and Bridge Street due to the traffic signals and loading bays. – Cycle parking proposed within the development in nine locations – some issues with the proposed locations and the need for cyclists to negotiate multiple doors. – It was agreed that Spokes should just comment on the cycling aspects and not express support / opposition. – Gordon had circulated a draft response via WhatsApp – comments by 4 November. – William to submit comments. 	<p>All</p> <p>GO</p> <p>All</p> <p>WP</p>
4.	Cycle Count	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rob confirmed that all sites had been counted, but he had had to cover multiple sites. ■ Ed to send Rob count data for his sites. ■ Rob to submit invoice to WBC. ■ It had been highlighted at the workshop that some members had not been contacted about the counts. However, previous all-member emails had been ineffective. ■ It was suggested that newsletters be used to promote dates in advance. ■ It was suggested that phone calls might be effective in drumming up additional volunteers, but Rob was not keen. ■ It was suggested that counts could be reduced to 1 hour. 	<p>EC</p> <p>RB</p> <p>GO</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Another suggestion was to have a signup form on the website and to promote it as an event on the website. ▪ It was agreed that counts could be promoted through the Spokes WhatsApp group. ▪ Rob to bring names of count volunteers to the next meeting for the prize draw. 	<p>JK</p> <p>GO</p>
5.	<p>Cycle Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive had provided an update in advance of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Eling Way - pre-application for Stage 1 extension is in draft and will go to Planning team shortly in line with recent discussions. Have also been having positive discussions about alignment beyond that, coming south. – NCN4 - WBC, Canal & River Trust and Sustrans had a very positive meeting with Greenham Trust, and a programme of potential projects along the towpath was discussed. Further detail to be sent to Greenham Trust imminently. C&RT leading on this now. – Stockcross Path – Stage 1 is in build beside B4000. Hoping to complete Stage 1 in January. Stage 2 across bridge over A34 is at concept design stage, any further progress depends on some land and sufficient finance. ▪ There was some criticism of the Stockcross scheme in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – cyclists having to cross the road to access the shared path, rather than having a facility on either side of the road; – the lack of protection at the roundabout; and – effective urbanisation of the countryside due to the very wide path. ▪ It was suggested that the Stockcross and Western Avenue schemes had created hostile sentiment amongst non-cyclists due to the scale of the works and low usage. 	
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ David reported that the Hampstead Norreys Neighbourhood Development Plan had been cleared to go to a public referendum. It was supportive of the Eling Way and the extension of the route to Newbury. ▪ Grant funding was being offered through Cycling UK for a the 2023/24 'Big Bike Revival' programme. Bids to be submitted by 15 December. 	

Next meeting: **Wednesday 6 December @7.30pm**

Venue: **The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common**
