## **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

Gordon had not heard back from Sustrans re volunteering.

[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.

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.

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.

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.]

Rob to circulate the details of the cycle counts when available.

RB

JK

- Josh to contact Pankhurst Cycles to see if they would be willing to promote
   Spokes.
- Gordon had emailed Laura Farris, but had heard nothing back despite a conversation with her on Bridge Street. Will follow up.
- Gordon had contacted Rachael Elliott re the Cycling Festival but had heard nothing back.
- Ed had yet to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest.

  EC

| <ul> <li>Gordon had met with Josh to arrange the handover of the web editor rol</li> <li>Ed, Gordon and William had yet to meet to discuss St John's roundabout.</li> <li>William had booked the Christmas meal for 13 December @ The Newbur</li> <li>Spokes Workshop</li> <li>William provided a summary:         <ul> <li>The event had gone well and 14 people had attended.</li> <li>Rides - There was a need to cover shorter distances than 30 mile William to explore what Newbury Velo already provided.</li> <li>Consider starting shorter and working up to 30 miles (Couch to 5)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>EC, GO, WP</b> y. |
|--|----------------------|
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|  | Ok)                  |
| or do a slow loop followed by a faster loop.   |                      |
| <ul> <li>The rides were not well promoted – Let's Ride was useful, but so<br/>media was key to reaching new people.</li> </ul>   | cial                 |
| <ul> <li>Encourage existing riders to introduce a friend.</li> </ul>   |                      |
| <ul> <li>Need to find out why some people did not return.</li> </ul>   |                      |
| <ul> <li>Bikeability – Potential for Spokes to cover the cost of instructors time while they were shadowing existing instructors. Ed to talk to Cheryl again.</li> </ul>   |                      |
| <ul> <li>Comms – Spokes needs to improve comms with members and no<br/>members via website, social media and email newsletters.</li> </ul>   | n-                   |
| <ul> <li>Josh needs to be fed articles by other members. William to prepare articles on the workshop, social rides and the Spain / France trip.</li> <li>Gordon to prepare articles on the Eagle Quarter and ROWIP consultation.</li> </ul>  | GO WP                |
| <ul> <li>Ed to talk to his son about taking on social media management.</li> </ul>   | EC                   |
| <ul> <li>Priorities - A number of priorities had been identified at the<br/>workshop, which should be reviewed / addressed at the monthly<br/>meetings:</li> </ul>   |                      |
| 1. Comms   |                      |
| 2. Address demographic issues on committee   |                      |
| 3. Campaign / highlight deficiencies / route clearing  |                      |
| <ul> <li>Focus on key infrastructure (e.g. towpath, Eling Way)</li> </ul>  |                      |
| 4. Cycle Charter   |                      |
| 5. Cycling Festival  |                      |

| Ref | Item   | Action |
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| 3.  | Consultations  ROWIP consultation:   |        |
|     | <ul> <li>It was suggested that long-distance cycle routes should be better<br/>promoted and that Newbury needed a campsite.</li> </ul>   |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Gordon had circulated a draft response via WhatsApp – comments<br/>by 4 November.</li> </ul>  | All    |
|     | <ul> <li>Gordon to submit response.</li> </ul>   | GO     |
|     | Eagle Quarter planning application:  |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Proposed two-way on Bartholomew Street between Market Street<br/>and the car park entrance would be good for cyclist permeability.</li> </ul>                                       |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Unlikely to be able to achieve formal two-way between the car park<br/>access and Bridge Street due to the traffic signals and loading bays.</li> </ul>                             |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Cycle parking proposed within the development in nine locations –<br/>some issues with the proposed locations and the need for cyclists to<br/>negotiate multiple doors.</li> </ul> |        |
|     | <ul> <li>It was agreed that Spokes should just comment on the cycling<br/>aspects and not express support / opposition.</li> </ul>   |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Gordon had circulated a draft response via WhatsApp – comments<br/>by 4 November.</li> </ul>  | All    |
|     | <ul> <li>William to submit comments.</li> </ul>  | WP     |
| 4.  | <ul> <li>Cycle Count</li> <li>Rob confirmed that all sites had been counted, but he had had to cover multiple sites.</li> </ul>  |        |
|     | Ed to send Rob count data for his sites.   | EC     |
|     | <ul> <li>Rob to submit invoice to WBC.</li> </ul>  | RB     |
|     | <ul> <li>It had been highlighted at the workshop that some members had not been<br/>contacted about the counts. However, previous all-member emails had been<br/>ineffective.</li> </ul>     |        |
|     | It was suggested that newsletters be used to promote dates in advance.   | GO     |
|     | <ul> <li>It was suggested that phone calls might be effective in drumming up<br/>additional volunteers, but Rob was not keen.</li> </ul>   |        |
|     | It was suggested that counts could be reduced to 1 hour.   |        |

| Ref | Item  | Action |
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|     | <ul> <li>Another suggestion was to have a signup form on the website and to<br/>promote it as an event on the website.</li> </ul> | JK     |
|     | It was agreed that counts could be promoted through the Spokes WhatsApp group.  |        |
|     | <ul> <li>Rob to bring names of count volunteers to the next meeting for the prize<br/>draw.</li> </ul>                            | GO     |

## 5. Cycle Schemes

- Clive had provided an update in advance of the meeting:
  - 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:
  - 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. AOB

- 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