

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 6 December 2023 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs
Apologies: None

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ All actions completed with the exception of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Josh to contact Pankhurst Cycles to see if they would be willing to promote Spokes. JK– Ed to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest. EC– Ed, Gordon and William to meet to discuss St John's roundabout. EC, GO, WP– Ed to talk to Cheryl Evans about covering the cost of new Bikeability instructors' time while shadowing existing instructors. EC– Josh to create a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers. JK– Rob and William to organise the prize draw for cycle count volunteers. RB, WP■ There had been no response from the follow-up email to Laura Farris regarding the towpath.■ Ed reported that his son was not interested in helping with Spokes' social media.■ There has been no response from Newbury Velo regarding beginner cyclist sessions.	
2.	Couch to 50k	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ William outlined his thoughts on a proposal to work with new cyclists and get them to a standard where they could cycle 50km / 30miles. This included a programme of led rides starting from 11 miles and gradually increasing the distance, with a café stop on each route. These would be in addition to the existing rides.■ Spokes would need to promote the rides to attract new people. It was suggested that this could be through the newsletter, website, WBC Public Health Team, and WBC Road Safety Team.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that the first session should be a taster to do safety checks and get people used to riding together. This should probably be off-road (e.g., Greenham Common). It was suggested that Caroline Lane should be commissioned to help with the initial stages. William to contact her. William to survey the existing riders (including those who had left) to get feedback on the 2023 ride programme. 	<p>WP</p> <p>WP</p>
3.	Volunteering	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive indicated that he was stepping down as a Sustrans Ranger. He covered the section of NCN4 between Marsh Benham and Thatcham Station. Work was mostly cutting back branches and replacing signs. William and Kevin were interested in volunteering. William to register for a Sustrans course. Cheshire West and Chester Council had used volunteers to help cut back vegetation around cycle routes. Clive to discuss a similar scheme with WBC Highways. Martha Vickers had indicated that a Trinity School pupil had expressed an interest in volunteering to promote cycling. William to suggest meeting him to discuss options. It was suggested that he could be trained as a ride leader or bike mechanic for Dr Bike. 	<p>WP</p> <p>CT</p> <p>WP</p>
4.	Eling Way	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive reported that plans for the Phase 1 extension were progressing from the Village Hall to Station Road. Pre-application planning advice was being sought. Options were being explored for a route between Hermitage, Curridge and Long Lane. Clive outlined potential options for the northern extension between Hampstead Norreys and Compton. Ed suggested that water-based biodiversity schemes were in short supply and there may be potential for a scheme to the north of Hampstead-Norreys, which could tie in with the cycle route. Clive and Ed to discuss. 	<p>CT, EC</p>
5.	Cycle Schemes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive provided an update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockcross Path – Stage 1 was progressing well and should be complete by February 2024. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Concept designs had been drafted for Stage 2 across the bridge over the A34 to Speen Lane. However, funding had yet to be identified to progress beyond the concept design phase. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old Bath Road – The scheme was at the outline design phase. This would improve access to Goldwell Park and would have on-carriageway markings for the section between Goldwell Park and the A4. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that WBC was struggling to progress traffic regulations orders, including those for the Old Bath Road scheme and the double yellow lines on the Andover Road. It was agreed that Spokes should raise concerns through the Cycle Forum. 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Western Avenue Phase 2 – A concept design was being developed for a scheme with a combination of segregated cycle route and shared use path, including a signal-controlled crossing of the A4. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial modelling of the Robin Hood Roundabout suggested that surface level crossings may be possible. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Streets – A scheme had been introduced at Francis Baily Primary School in Thatcham. A driver awareness campaign was underway. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A339 – Signs and tactile paving had been installed between the Halfords roundabout and the Sainsbury’s roundabout to clarify that the west side was not a cycle route. Also, cycle route direction signs had been installed on the east side. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cycle Parking – Six new stands had been provided at Faraday Road. 	
6.	NCN4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spokes had made a £2K contribution via the Good Exchange to the Canal and River Trust scheme to the east of Ham Bridge. 	
7.	Mortimer to Burghfield	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WBC Planners had made some comments back to the Parish Council regarding the proposed scheme. There were concerns about some elements, particularly in the vicinity of the double mini-roundabout. The comments were with the planning agent for a response. 	
8.	Comms and Engagement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ William to talk to Rob regarding the prize draw for the vouchers, so an announcement could go in the newsletter. 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gordon to put the newsletter on the website and put a link in the email. 	GO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that Spokes had dropped off the distribution list for planning applications. William to contact WBC Planning. 	WP

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9.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Paul reported that Kintbury Parish Council was looking at a Hungerford to Kintbury cycle route.■ Paul was also personally supporting Bikeability training in Kintbury.	
Next meeting:	Wednesday 3 January @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	
