

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 3 January 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Ed Cooper, William Pitt, Clive Tombs, Mike Butler, Alan Langley
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 to talk to Cheryl Evans about covering the cost of new Bikeability instructors' time while shadowing existing instructors. EC -> MB – Josh to create a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers. JK ▪ Eling Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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. CT, EC 	
2.	Couch to 50k	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised approach, so clear 0-5k, 5-15k, 15k-50k. WP ▪ Caroline may require additional certification to teach under 18s. However, target audience are adults. William to revise his draft and send across to Caroline to see if interested ▪ 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). ▪ Riders have been surveyed [23 responses to date previous best 8.] Saturday and 25-35 miles seems to be most popular still. A few outliers. [Will create something for the website/newsletter as one did response did include not knowing what to expect.] WP ▪ Suggestion from Mike B, can we get a young "influencer" to help promote 	
3.	Volunteering	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong possibility Kevin to take on Sustrans Ranger duties for Clive. 	

Ref	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William to register for a Sustrans course. 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire West and Chester Council had used volunteers to help cut back vegetation around cycle routes. Clive has discussed with WBC; response awaited from Highways Maintenance team. 	CT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	WP
4.	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 (planapps@westberks.gov.uk) 	WP -> MB
5.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike B happy to help on rides – William to send date 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan Langley to send info to Rob on cycle count 	AL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike B to provide article for next Newsletter for Mortimer <-> Burghfield path 	MB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newbury Wharf and Aldermaston no scope to provide cantilevered deck off A340 bridge for structural reasons, and no desire from community to see A340 widened, per previous note 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion from Alan L, if big Cycle festival extravaganza is going to be too hard/difficult to pull off – simply make it smaller! 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cycle parking provided at the football ground in Faraday Road. 	
Next meeting:	Wednesday 7 February @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	