SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date:	7 February 2024 Venue: The Bowler's Arms, Newbury	POKFS
Present:	Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, Alan Langley, William Pitt, Clive Tombs	DR PEOPLE. FOR BIKES.
Apologies:	Rob Borthwick, Paul Rumsby	
Ref	Item	Action
1.	 Actions Arising from Previous Meetings The following actions remained outstanding: 	
	 Contact Pankhurst Cycles to see if they would be willing to promote Spokes – William to progress. 	WP
	 Ed to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest. 	EC
	 Mike to talk to Cheryl Evans about covering the cost of new Bikeability instructors' time while shadowing existing instructors. 	MB
	 Josh to create a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers. 	JK
	 William to liaise with Rob re the prize draw vouchers. 	RB / WP
	 Mike to provide an article on the Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route for the next newsletter. 	MB
2.	Couch to 50k	
	 William had approached Carolne Lane. Unfortunately, she did not have the right qualification to run this, but offered to provide some contacts for other instructors. 	
	 Newbury Velo had also been approached, but they are concentrating on other things. 	
	 William to contact British Cycling and Cycling UK for advice. 	WP
	This may need to slip to next year due to the above issues.	
3.	Volunteering	
	 It was agreed to pay for the rides insurance for the coming year. 	WP
	 William had still to book the Sustrans course. 	WP
	 Clive had broached the idea of using volunteers to help cut back vegetation on WBC cycle routes and was awaiting a formal response. 	
	 William had contacted Martha about the Trinity pupil who was interested in volunteering, but had heard nothing back. 	

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	 William had met with Helen Fisher of Sustrans. There was no issue with Spokes doing minor maintenance, but this should be hand tools only and a maximum of 6 people per party. 	
	 Need to identify sections of concern and contact landowners. 	
	 It was suggested that Spokes should do a blitz of overhanging branches around late March / early April. 	
4.	Eling Way	
	 A preferred route from Hermitage to Newbury was being firmed up. The disused railway had been discounted in the short to medium term. 	
	 The proposal for northern section was with senior WBC colleagues for comment. 	
	 The route would make use of existing public rights of way, but this was challenging to progress due to funding and land ownership issues. 	
	 It was agreed that Spokes should keep pushing the scheme at the Cycle Forum. Alan Langley to contact Jon Winstanley after the March meeting 	WP / AL
	 Hermitage Parish Council was supportive of the scheme, but recognised the challenges. 	
	 The route was still within the Berkshire Strategic Transport Forum's list of schemes. 	
	 The British Horse Society and Ramblers Association were both aware of the scheme through the Local Access Forum. 	
	 It was suggested that a 'celebration event' could be organised with a mass cycle ride with WBC local ward members and the Executive Portfolio Holder invited. This could be organised in Bike Week (10-16 June 2024). 	
	 Alan Langley to write to the ward members and Exec Portfolio Holder. 	AL
5.	Cycle Schemes	
	 Clive provided an update: 	
	 Stockcross Path – Stage 1 was largely complete, with just hedge cutting and line painting outstanding. Discussions were needed with National Highways regarding Stage 2. 	
	 Theale to Calcot Bridge – A feasibility study had been completed and a replacement bridge had been costed at £10.7 million. 	
	 Linkway Signage – This was being rolled out as funding permitted. 	
	 Western Avenue Phase 2 – A concept design was progressing for a scheme between Waitrose and Robin Hood roundabout. 	

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6.	NCN4	
	 WBC was working with Sustrans and CRT to identify improvement schemes. 	
	The next section to be completed would be Dewe Lane to the Cunning Man	
	Pub.	
7.	Comms and Engagement	
	 William had provided some articles for the website on the Spain trip. 	
8.	AOB	
	 Following Ed, Gordon and William's review of the St John's roundabout, 	
	Clive had flagged their concerns with Highways colleagues who were looking	
	at options.	
Next meeting:	Wednesday 6 March @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	