## **SPOKES Monthly Meeting**



Date:	7 February 2024 Venue: The Bowler's Arms, Newbury	<b>POKFS</b>
Present:	Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, Alan Langley, William Pitt, Clive Tombs	DR PEOPLE. FOR BIKES.
Apologies:	Rob Borthwick, Paul Rumsby	
Ref	Item	Action
1.	<ul> <li>Actions Arising from Previous Meetings</li> <li>The following actions remained outstanding:</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Contact Pankhurst Cycles to see if they would be willing to promote</li> <li>Spokes – William to progress.</li> </ul>	WP
	<ul> <li>Ed to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest.</li> </ul>	EC
	<ul> <li>Mike to talk to Cheryl Evans about covering the cost of new</li> <li>Bikeability instructors' time while shadowing existing instructors.</li> </ul>	MB
	<ul> <li>Josh to create a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers.</li> </ul>	JK
	<ul> <li>William to liaise with Rob re the prize draw vouchers.</li> </ul>	RB / WP
	<ul> <li>Mike to provide an article on the Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route for the next newsletter.</li> </ul>	MB
2.	Couch to 50k	
	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Newbury Velo had also been approached, but they are concentrating on other things.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>William to contact British Cycling and Cycling UK for advice.</li> </ul>	WP
	This may need to slip to next year due to the above issues.	
3.	Volunteering	
	<ul> <li>It was agreed to pay for the rides insurance for the coming year.</li> </ul>	WP
	<ul> <li>William had still to book the Sustrans course.</li> </ul>	WP
	<ul> <li>Clive had broached the idea of using volunteers to help cut back vegetation on WBC cycle routes and was awaiting a formal response.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>William had contacted Martha about the Trinity pupil who was interested in volunteering, but had heard nothing back.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Need to identify sections of concern and contact landowners.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>It was suggested that Spokes should do a blitz of overhanging branches around late March / early April.</li> </ul>	
4.	Eling Way	
	<ul> <li>A preferred route from Hermitage to Newbury was being firmed up. The disused railway had been discounted in the short to medium term.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The proposal for northern section was with senior WBC colleagues for comment.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The route would make use of existing public rights of way, but this was challenging to progress due to funding and land ownership issues.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>It was agreed that Spokes should keep pushing the scheme at the Cycle</li> <li>Forum. Alan Langley to contact Jon Winstanley after the March meeting</li> </ul>	WP / AL
	<ul> <li>Hermitage Parish Council was supportive of the scheme, but recognised the challenges.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The route was still within the Berkshire Strategic Transport Forum's list of schemes.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The British Horse Society and Ramblers Association were both aware of the scheme through the Local Access Forum.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>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).</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Alan Langley to write to the ward members and Exec Portfolio Holder.</li> </ul>	AL
5.	Cycle Schemes	
	<ul> <li>Clive provided an update:</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Stockcross Path – Stage 1 was largely complete, with just hedge cutting and line painting outstanding. Discussions were needed with National Highways regarding Stage 2.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Theale to Calcot Bridge – A feasibility study had been completed and a replacement bridge had been costed at £10.7 million.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Linkway Signage – This was being rolled out as funding permitted.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Western Avenue Phase 2 – A concept design was progressing for a scheme between Waitrose and Robin Hood roundabout.</li> </ul>	

Ref	Item	Action
6.	NCN4	
	<ul> <li>WBC was working with Sustrans and CRT to identify improvement schemes.</li> </ul>	
	The next section to be completed would be Dewe Lane to the Cunning Man	
	Pub.	
7.	Comms and Engagement	
	<ul> <li>William had provided some articles for the website on the Spain trip.</li> </ul>	
8.	AOB	
	<ul> <li>Following Ed, Gordon and William's review of the St John's roundabout,</li> </ul>	
	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	