

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 6 March 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Josh Kerry, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Apologies: Mike Butler, Ed Cooper, William Pitt

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Progress on actions was noted – many remained outstanding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– It was noted that Pankhurst Cycles had recently closed.– 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– Rob had bought the prize draw vouchers for the cycle count volunteers. Rob to be reimbursed. EC– Mike had provided an article on the Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route for the next newsletter.– William to contact British Cycling / Cycling UK for advice about 'Couch to 50K'. WP– William to confirm that the ride insurance had been paid for the coming year. WP– William to book on the Sustrans volunteering course. WP– Spokes to keep pushing for the Eling Way scheme at the Cycle Forum and Alan to follow up with ward members and Exec Portfolio Holder. WP AL	
2.	Cycle Count	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rob had analysed the count data for the last three years. There was lots of variation between the sites, but when all of the sites were considered as a whole, the following trends were observed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– June consistently had the highest number of observed cyclists followed by October, with February having the lowest.– The overall number of cyclists had grown by 10%, which was considered to be significant.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male cyclists significantly outnumbered female cyclists. - Sites near schools had significant numbers of children / young people cycling. - There were just a couple of sites that had 'high' cycling flows, with most in the mid-range and Hungerford was at the bottom with very low flows. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan was out to public consultation. This was proposing a number of pedestrian / cycling routes, but several did not appear to be suitable for cycling. Spokes to draft a response. 	PR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was suggested that the cycle count sites should be reviewed and new sites considered. Clive to discuss with WBC Transport Policy. 	CT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prize draw was held for the February count – Ed Cooper was the winner. 	
3.	<p>Eling Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The drainage design for Phase 1 of the southern extension was awaited. ▪ One landowner had indicated that they were not interested in formalising the existing permissive route across their land. ▪ Currently, it was only possible to take the route as far as Yattendon Road. ▪ It was suggested that the Parish Council be asked to provide support. ▪ Options for subsequent phases were being considered by consultees and would be considered by the Active Travel Board on 13 March. ▪ Clarity was needed as to whether the scheme would continue to be progressed by WBC or handed over to Sustrans. ▪ William to push for commitment to the scheme at the Cycle Forum. ▪ It was noted that the existing route had suffered damage in a number of places near M4 and on the overbridge. WBC Public Rights of Way were aware. It was agreed that the need for maintenance of the existing route should be flagged at the Cycle Forum. ▪ It was confirmed that the dropped kerb at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall had been approved by Village Hall Committee, and the scheme would be combined with some cycle parking. 	WP
5.	<p>Cycle Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clive provided an update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stockcross Path – line painting remained outstanding on Phase 1. A water leak was being fixed by Thames Water. 	WP

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A4 / Crown Mead, Thatcham – Active Travel England had approved on-carriageway cycle lanes and a single stage toucan crossing. This would be constructed in the autumn. - Newbury Manor Hotel – This was with WBC Legal to arrange the land transfers. - Old Bath Road, Pangbourne to Purley – Schemes were in development. - Western Avenue Stage 2 – Options were being considered and it was hoped to secure buy-in from Project Board. - Active Travel 4 Scheme – Concepts were being worked up for Stockcross Stage 2 to Speen Lane. This would widen the southern footway. The existing bridge parapet was too low, so mitigation measures were needed. Also, Highways England agreement was needed. Spokes highlighted concerns about cyclists’ safety at the roundabouts. - Theale to Calcot Bridge Replacement – A feasibility study had been completed. This would be very costly. However, it was hoped that the scheme could progress to outline design. - Wash Water Development – The developer had agreed to a 1.8km pedestrian / cycle route up Andover Road past Park House School. There would be challenges with the drainage swales. 	
6.	<p data-bbox="331 1254 406 1288">NCN4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greenham Trust had allocated £12K to Sustrans for Project Management of the NCN Upgrade within Newbury (Northcroft to the Football Club). This would address subsidence issues outside Camp Hopson Furniture Store. Funding for the works remained outstanding. ▪ Engagement was ongoing with Greenham Trust regarding a much larger proposal for towpath upgrades over the longer-term. ▪ Sustrans had been due to undertake improvements work in the vicinity of the Cunning Man PH at Burghfield, but had been forced off-site by the floods. Works were now expected to be completed by April. ▪ It was noted that there had been serious flooding east of Ham Bridge. ▪ The Canal and River Trust had appointed a new Enterprise Manager. 	
7.	<p data-bbox="331 1870 638 1904">Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ William had provided some further articles for the website on the Spain trip. ▪ Mike had provided an article on the Burghfield to Mortimer Cycle Route. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that articles should be written up for the rides and the cycle counts. ▪ The next newsletter was due by the end of the month. 	GO
8.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of locations were highlighted as needing cycle parking, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Almond Avenue shops – Gaywood Drive shops – Monument Close shops – Kiln Road convenience store – Shaw Road convenience store ▪ WBC to consider the above suggestions. ▪ It was also suggested that the cycle parking on Station Road outside St Nicolas School should be relocated. ▪ It was noted that the electric delivery bikes purchased by WBC were all out on loan. It was suggested that this could form the basis of a newsletter article. 	CT
		GO/CT
Next meeting:	Wednesday 3 April @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	