

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 3 April 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Mike Butler, Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt
Apologies: Josh Kerry, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Progress on actions was noted:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Gordon to meet Vicky Trentham re Greenfest. GO– 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– Mike had provided an article on the Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route for the newsletter.– William had contacted British Cycling and Cycling UK for advice about 'Couch to 50K', but he was struggling to make progress. Next step will be to approach local Bikeability instructors. WP– Ride insurance had been sorted for the coming year.– William to book on the Sustrans volunteering course. WP– Eling Way had been discussed at the Cycle Forum – the Phase 1 extension will require a planning application. Alan to follow up with local ward Members to secure their support. AL– Gordon to submit a response on behalf of Spokes to the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan. GO– Clive to report back on the review of the cycle count sites. CT– Clive had provided further information on the latest business to hire the electric cargo bike.	
2.	Eling Way <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The route was being assessed for planning constraints.▪ The Tree Officer and Public Rights of Way Team were being consulted as part of pre-planning advice.	
3.	Cycle Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clive confirmed that the update was as per the Cycle Forum.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Market Street development, it was noted that cyclist dismount signs had gone up on the route to / from the rail stations. Council officers had confirmed that the developer had sought a non-material amendment to withdraw the cycle route through the site. The Planning Department was not obliged to consult on this. Also, sub-standard cycle parking had been installed at the Sterling Cables site. It was agreed that Spokes should write to the Planning Department to express their frustration and to ask that we are consulted on any future requests to remove / alter provision for cyclists in new developments. 	WP
4.	<p>Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ed reported that Spokes had £12,997 in its account, and over the last year there had been £2,287.50 of income from the Cycle Counts and £2,267.40 of expenditure, resulting in a net income of £20.10. There was some discussion about potential use of funds. The Festival of Cycling was discussed again. It was proposed that Spokes could fund someone to run / project manage it. A funding bid could potentially be submitted to Greenham Trust. It was important to consider the detail of what would be involved - who, what, why, when and how. It was agreed that it should involve Banjo Cycles, Newbury Velo and Newbury Road Club. 	
5.	<p>Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon had circulated the draft newsletter, which just needed a final article to complete it. 	GO
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spokes had been approached by a coalition of local cycling groups who were lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner candidates to understand if they would be prepared to prioritise enforcement against speeding, and reckless / dangerous driving, and to improve road safety for cyclists. It was agreed that Spokes should respond positively and lend their weight to the campaign. William reported that the first few bike rides had not been well attended, due to the poor weather but numbers looked better for future rides. 	GO

Next meeting: **Wednesday 1 May @7.30pm**

Venue: **The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common**
