

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 6 November 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs
Apologies: Alan Langley

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">It was agreed that the action to develop a cycle count sign-up form for the website should be deleted.William had missed the Cycle Forum, so had not been able to highlight the Festival and ask how Bikeability can be promoted.	
2.	Festival of Cycling <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gordon had been in touch with Outspoken Cycles. They could provide a range of bikes for the try-out session, including tandems and pedal powered carts as well as more conventional bikes. Ideally this would be in the tennis courts.They could also provide pedal powered Scalextric, smoothie maker, jukebox, and bubble machine as part of a package.They would need access and parking for a Luton van.It was agreed that Velospeed should be approached about providing electric bikes for people to try.Gordon to get a quote from Outspoken Cycles, and liaise with Newbury Town Council and Velospeed. Need to check regarding public liability insurance, gazebos and whether they charge for smoothies.A balance bike session was also proposed. William to liaise with Carlyne regarding suitable contacts.It was agreed that it would be good to have a bike repair service (e.g. Jim the Bike Guy or Meadvale-Bays).It was suggested that the Festival could include a screening of a cycling film (e.g. Three Wheel Drive). Gordon to talk to Shaw House about use of their outdoor screen.The Committee recognised that the event would need volunteer support. Roles to be clarified once plans are firmed up.	<p>GO</p> <p>WP</p> <p>GO</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The event will need to be promoted widely. Gordon to liaise with NRC and Newbury Velo at the planning session on 19th November. ■ It was suggested that Sustrans and CRT could be invited to have stalls to promote the 'Reimagining the Kennet and Avon Canal' project. ■ It was noted that Newbury Town Council had committed £3K to the Festival and it was suggested that Spokes could contribute around £2K. Ed to do a reconciliation to provide an indication of the funds available. 	<p>GO</p> <p>EC</p>
3.	<p>Stockcross Cycle Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ William had been contacted by a Spokes member who was concerned about the layout at the western end of the route. ■ Clive confirmed that cyclists had to give way to pedestrians at the crossing point in Stockcross village. This aspect of the scheme had been discussed at length with Active Travel England. All parties had agreed that the layout was not ideal, but there were lots of different user groups who had to be accommodated at this point and it was not possible to achieve a perfect layout. 	
4.	<p>WBC Cycle Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clive reported that the A4 Crown Mead scheme in Thatcham was underway and would take another 10 days or so to complete. A consultation on parking restrictions would take place in the New Year. ■ The Highways Maintenance Team had agreed to refresh the road markings at St John's roundabout in Newbury. ■ Further investigations were underway regarding the proposed Toucan Crossing on Hambridge Road where NCN4 crossed the road at the canal bridge. It was anticipated that utilities would be a major issue – searches were underway to establish what lay under the footways. 	
5.	<p>NCN4 and Other Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A contribution of £25K had been secured from the Syder Foundation. ■ Paul had promoted the fundraising page to Kintbury Parish Council. ■ Potential Community Infrastructure Levy contributions were being investigated. ■ A bid was being submitted seeking £700K for the section of the towpath between Victoria Park and Northbrook Street, where there had been significant erosion behind the sheet piling. ■ It was suggested that Greenham Trust could have a stand at the Festival of Cycling to raise awareness of the fundraising page. 	

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6.	<p>Eling Way (and Other Routes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal input was awaited for Eling Way Stage 1. ▪ Automatic counters had been deployed on the route. ▪ The dropped kerb at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall was in design. ▪ An expression of interest was being submitted to the Nature Towns and Cities scheme for West Reading to Sulham Woods. Ed to share details of a suitable evaluation tool. 	
7.	<p>Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gordon to fix the web links in the newsletter and reissue it. ▪ Possible article on the Festival of cycling. 	GO
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Cycling UK membership was up for renewal. It was noted that Spokes Members no longer benefitted from discounted associated membership and Spokes now had insurance through British Cycling. William to write to them and ask, 'what's in it for us?' ▪ William reported that Newbury Road Club were interested in the Couch to 50K idea. Newbury Velo had asked if there was demand and what additional collaboration would be required. They had indicated that they already ran rides aimed at beginners. ▪ It was noted that Spokes rides had dwindling numbers and needed to be reinvigorated. 	WP
Next meeting:	Wednesday 4 December @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	