SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 3 December 2025 **Venue:** The High Horse, Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Mike Butler, Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby

Apologies: Kevin Bushell and Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes**	
	▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions**	
	▪ Gordon had received no response from WBC to his emails regarding the leisure cycle route leaflets. It was agreed to drop this for the time-being.	
	▪ It was agreed to ask members to nominate sites where overhanging vegetation is an issue in the next newsletter.	**GO**
	▪ Gordon confirmed that a mailshot had been sent to the wider membership inviting their thoughts on adding extra rides next year.	
	▪ William had contacted Volunteer Centre about future first aid courses and was waiting to hear back.	**WP**
	▪ William confirmed that he had paid the Spokes contribution for Newbury Glow Ride.	
	▪ William had contacted WBC regarding Spokes' concerns about the Lower Way and A4 Western Avenue proposals. It was agreed that William should raise these concerns at the Cycle Forum and request site meetings to discuss these further. Rob to send William some thoughts on the schemes.	**WP** **RB**
	▪ William confirmed that British Cycling would not offer a refund on the social affiliation.	
	▪ The link to the WWCT webinar had been circulated to the committee.	
	▪ Gordon reported that he had solved the problem with Spokes emails being marked as spam.	
3.	**Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ Clive's updates were noted.	
	▪ It was agreed that Spokes should respond to the consultation on proposed waiting restrictions for the Andover Road cycle lane, and that all Spokes Committee members should be encouraged to respond individually.	**WP** **All**

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4.	**Planning Applications** ▪ No updates provided.	
5.	**Cycle Counts** ▪ Rob had done some analysis of the cycle counts over the last 5 years. ▪ There were clear seasonal variations, the highest flows in June and the lowest in February. ▪ There had been steady growth, but recently this had levelled off and started to decline, although there were some sites where flows were still increasing. ▪ Hungerford and Battery End were consistently the quietest sites. ▪ Pupils cycling to school were mostly male and most wore normal clothes. ▪ School pupils were the most likely to cycle on the footway. ▪ Cyclists in sportswear were more likely to wear a helmet than those in normal clothes, while school pupils were least likely to wear a helmet. ▪ The following names were selected at random from the list of count volunteers who had helped on the last three cycle counts: Alan Langley, Ed Cooper, and Dave Jennings. Each won a £25 Banjo Cycles voucher.	
6.	**Website** ▪ Josh was keen to step back from the website, but was keen to help Kevin with commenting on planning applications. ▪ William and Gordon to cover the website until a replacement website editor could be found.	**WP/GO**
7.	**Comms** ▪ Suggested news items were the Eling Way and Mike's trip to Majorca.	**GO/MB**
8.	**Spokes Going Forward** ▪ It was recognised that Spokes was struggling to attract people to take on committee roles, which was putting pressure on a small number of active members. ▪ This reflected the national trend, with the number of volunteers declining and ageing. ▪ There were question marks about the long-term sustainability of Spokes. ▪ There was some discussion about what our niche should be within the context of other cycling groups (e.g., cycle counts, responding to cycle counts, and progressing the Eling Way scheme). ▪ The social rides had small numbers of participants, which was unsurprising given the number of other rides organised by local clubs and Banjo Cycles.	

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	▪ It was suggested that Spokes could become more strongly affiliated to Newbury Velo and / or Newbury Road Club (e.g., some sort of federation).	
	▪ As a minimum, Spokes would need to retain its website and newsletter to communicate with its members.	
	▪ William agreed to prepare a SWOT analysis and suggest some next steps.	**WP**
9.	**Spokes Strapline**	
	▪ The preferred Spokes strapline was 'Connecting communities by bike'.	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 7 January @7.30pm**
Venue:	**TBC**