SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 7 January 2026 **Venue:** The Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Ed Cooper, Josh Kerry, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Apologies: Mike Butler

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes** ▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions** ▪ Spokes members had been invited to nominate sites where overhanging vegetation was an issue. ▪ William to follow up about first aid courses with VCWB. ▪ Spokes had responded to the consultation regarding the Andover Road waiting restrictions, and individual members of the committee had also responded in a personal capacity. There was some discussion as to what the protocol for future consultations should be and whether to encourage members to respond individually or collectively via a petition. It was noted that the threshold for getting a petition debated at Council was very high. William to reach out to Velo and the Road Club regarding a joint letter. Josh to draft the letter. ▪ William had been given training on editing the website. ▪ An article had been written on the Eling Way. ▪ William had undertaken some additional work to map out the next steps for deciding the future of Spokes.	WP **WP** **JK**
3.	**Cycling Schemes** ▪ **Eling Way** - Stage 1 extension now complete. ▪ **Lower Way, Thatcham** – WBC Projects Team not receptive to the request for cyclists to have priority at side roads. ▪ **East Thatcham** – work scheduled to start imminently, with improvements to the toucan crossing over the A4, footway widening works and removal of some barriers. This will improve access to Francis Baily School. ▪ **Thatcham Station link** – New crossing to be created at Agricola Way. ▪ **Linkway 1** – Signing up Newtown Road to College and on to Tesco.	

Ref	Item	Action
	▪ **Linkway 3** - Signing improvements being implemented in Shaw and on Turnpike Road to Trinity School. Existing signing and lining to be refreshed. ▪ **Newbury Town Centre / Bear Lane** - signing improvements. ▪ **A4 Western Avenue Stage 2A** – Scheme has been 'parked' due to substantial utilities costs. ▪ **Pangbourne to Purley** – Drone LIDAR survey complete. ▪ **Grant Funded Schemes** - Cycle parking: – Shelter at Hungerford Hub – Upgrade to Newbury Library shelter ▪ **Cycle Hub** – Newbury Velo encouraged to look at a town centre location with multi-club use. Potential use of the Waterside Centre was discussed – it was noted that they were looking at extending and were open to providing a cycle locker, but there was limited scope for anything more. It was noted that the only successful schemes were in the north-east and were heavily subsidised by the local Mayor.	
4.	**Monks Lane** ▪ It was noted that cyclists would have access at all times throughout the closure. This was welcomed, since it would mean that cyclists would avoid the long detour and long climb back up the hill.	
5.	**Consultations** ▪ The proposed 20 mph for Cold Ash and Hermitage did not include parts of the Eling Way Extension. KB to submit a response. WBC Traffic and Road Safety Team should have consulted before publishing the draft traffic order.	**KB**
6.	**Planning Applications / Parish Plans** ▪ Hungerford Parish Plan had been adopted – lots of references to cycling, which was positive.	
7.	**Cycle Counts** ▪ Rob indicated that he would be willing and able to organise the February count. (Thanks Rob!)	**RB**
8.	**Social Rides Survey** ▪ William was looking at the feasibility of weekly rides. ▪ It was proposed to have a slightly shorter first ride each month. ▪ It was agreed that the programme should be more heavily promoted through social media and to promote via other pages.	

Ref	Item	Action
8.	**Spokes Going Forward**	
	▪ William set out some proposed next steps.	
	▪ It was agreed to have a workshop on a Saturday for Spokes Committee only.	
	▪ If agreed, then a second workshop could be held with other groups.	
	▪ An EGM would be required to ratify any decision about future changes.	
	▪ William to redraft the next steps to take on board feedback from others and organise the first workshop.	**WP**
	▪ Everyone invited to message William with thoughts, with a focus on what Spokes' priorities should be rather than the process.	**All**
7.	**Comms**	
	▪ The draft newsletter was approved for release with the addition of an article on the cycle counts analysis.	**GO**

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 4 February @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Newbury, 137 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, RG14 5HB**