SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 4 February 2026 **Venue:** The Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby

Apologies: Kevin Bushell, Mike Butler, Josh Kerry, Alan Langley, Angela McMahon, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes**	
	▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions**	
	▪ Gordon confirmed on the VCWB first aid course on 26 February. Mike Butler was unable to attend.	
	▪ Josh had sent a letter in response to the Andover Road consultation. William had not reached out to Velo and the Road Club regarding a joint letter.	
	▪ Rob to organise the cycle count for week beginning 9 February.	**RB**
	▪ William confirmed he had redrafted the next steps document to take on board feedback received.	
	▪ Gordon confirmed he had sent out the January newsletter.	
3.	**Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ William and Ed to arrange a follow up meeting with WBC Project Team regarding Lower Way.	**WP/EC**
	▪ No further updates from WBC since the last meeting.	
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.	**Tuddingway**	
	▪ Spokes had been contacted by the Goring Gap Cycling group - an informal group of individuals who went on rides together.	
	▪ They are looking to develop a new cycle route between Goring and Wallingford (Tuddingway). They were inspired by the Eling Way and were keen to learn lessons. Alan to share original feasibility study and Sustrans document.	**AL**
	▪ They are looking to work more with landowners and local authorities, and are considering options for more formal organisational structures to facilitate this.	

Ref	Item	Action
	▪ Gordon provided general background on Spokes and the Eling Way project, while Ed provided information on biodiversity net gain.	
	▪ There may be opportunities for joint working in future if the Ridgeway Council proposal is implemented. Also, there may be scope for a possible future route extension into West Berkshire via the Ridgeway.	
6.	**Social Rides**	
	▪ William confirmed that ride leaders must have first aid and ride leader training for insurance purposes.	
	▪ William to liaise with Mike re training.	**WP**
7.	**Couch to 50k**	
	▪ The next programme is being arranged for March with the help of Chris and Cassie from Newbury Road Club. William to promote and it will be advertised through the clubs.	**WP**
	▪ Participants to be charged £20 to incentivise attendance.	
	▪ There may be potential for Social Prescribers to refer to the programme. Gordon to talk to the NHS.	**GO**
8.	**Spokes Going Forward**	
	▪ Workshop confirmed for 9.30am on 21 February at the Canoe Club.	
	▪ Gordon to send round details of different organisational models.	**GO**
9.	**Comms & Engagement**	
	▪ Potential articles proposed for the following:	**GO**
	– Waiting restrictions consultation results.	
	– Social rides	
	– Couch to 50K	
10.	**AOB**	
	▪ ED provided a financial update:	
	– Current balance = £10,847	
	– Income to date for 2025/26 = £1,540	
	– Expenditure to date for 2025/26 = £3,133	
	▪ Early discussions have taken place with WBC Public Health around accessible bike hire scheme for Greenham Common. It was suggested that they should look at British Cycling's Limitless programme. Gordon to pass on details.	**GO**

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