SPOKES Monthly Meeting

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

Present: Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby

Apologies: Mike Butler, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes** ▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions** ▪ The Cycle Count had taken place as planned in February. ▪ William and Ed still to arrange a follow up meeting with WBC Project Team regarding Lower Way. ▪ Gordon to send Alan contact details for the Goring Gap Cycling Group so he could send them a copy of the feasibility study. ▪ Mike had been sent details of the ride leader training and was booked to attend. ▪ William confirmed hat Couch to 50K was fully booked and the scout hall was booked for the first session. ▪ Gordon had sent round contact details for social prescribers in West Berks. ▪ Gordon had circulated details of different organisational models that Spokes could adopt. ▪ William confirmed that he had drafted two articles for the next newsletter.	**WP/EC** **GO**
3.	**Cycling Schemes** ▪ Clive had provided the following update in advance of the meeting: – A4/Floral Way/Falmouth Way scheme, including barrier removals, well underway; Toucan crossing revision to single stage/straight across programmed for this month. – Active Travel Fund schemes in delivery (new cycle parking at Cotswold Sports Centre, and Hungerford Hub among others) and development (east Thatcham next stages, plus discussions with third parties on other cycle parking including improvements to existing). – Canal initiative also moving forward with some funding earmarked. ▪ William to ask for details of the 2026/27 Cycling Schemes at the Cycle Forum.	**WP/EC**

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4.	**Social Bike Rides**	
	▪ Despite being promoted on the website, social media and via email, current take-up was poor.	
	▪ It was suggested that rides could be promoted via Penny Post.	
5.	**NHS Social Prescribing**	
	▪ Newbury Road Club and Velo were not interested due to lack of capacity/membership ceiling thresholds, but it was suggested that this may be a possibility for Social Rides.	
6.	**Spokes Going Forward**	
	▪ The option of Spokes being consumed by another group had been deleted from the proposal.	
	▪ It was proposed to have a further workshop either as part of the next AGM or as part of an EGM before or after the AGM.	
	▪ William to devise a form to collect views on questions.	**WP**
	▪ For the AGM, it was proposed to get ride of the Training Officer and Publicity Officer positions, and to add a Projects Officer position.	
	▪ There was some discussion about the new mission statement and whether accessible was the most appropriate word. It was agreed to keep it, but to ensure that the meaning was clearly communicated.	
	▪ It was agreed that there should be no comma in the logo (Gordon to amend).	**GO**
	▪ It was suggested that Spokes could become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This would allow it to actively fundraise for projects.	
	▪ William to update the Spokes Going Forward Document.	**WP**
7.	**Comms & Engagement**	
	▪ Potential articles proposed for the following:	
	– Social rides	
	– Couch to 50K	
	– Parking scheme consultation results	
	– Removal of barriers in Thatcham	
	– Way Forward document	
	– Social bikes rides now available on the website	
8.	**AOB**	
	▪ Possible items for discussion at the Cycle Forum were discussed:	

Ref	Item	Action
	– Lower Way – 2026/27 schemes – Bikeability update	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 1 April @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Newbury, 137 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, RG14 5HB**