SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 8 April 2026 **Venue:** The Newbury

Present: Rob Borthwick, Kevin Bushell, Ed Cooper, 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** ▪ William had discussed the Lower Way scheme at the Cycle Forum, highlighting that Spokes did not consider it to be an inter-urban route and concerns about the lack of priority at sideroads and accesses. The committee's view was that if the scheme did not encourage increased cycle use, then it had failed to achieve its purpose. Also, if cyclists did not use the cycle route, then it would prompt additional complaints from motorists. The decision to reinstate kerbside parking at the eastern end of Lower Way was a further disappointment. Rather than pulling out to pass parked cars, cyclists would be encouraged to use the southern footway when travelling west, which was too narrow. It was agreed to lobby the Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee to call in the decision.	**WP**
	▪ Gordon had sent Alan contact details for the Goring Gap Cycling Group. Alan to look for the original Spokes feasibility study for the Newbury to Wantage route and send it to them.	**AL**
	▪ William had updated the Spokes Going Forward documents and had produced a survey form for Gordon to email to the membership.	**GO**
	▪ Gordon to update the Spokes logo.	**GO**
3.	**WBC Cycling Schemes** ▪ Clive had provided the following update in advance of the meeting: – **A4/Floral Way/Falmouth Way scheme:** barriers were being removed where possible and replaced with smaller, better spaced barriers where it was not possible due to limited visibility. The single-stage toucan crossing was about to go in along with path widening into Falmouth Way. – **Active Travel Fund schemes:** schemes being investigated included Thatcham Station link and the Ham Bridge toucan crossing.	

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	– **K&A Canal:** piling works completed on the south side and work was progressing on the design for the north side, with a possible start date of November.	
4.	**Spokes Going Forward** ▪ As mentioned, the document had been updated and proposed changes to the constitution approved. ▪ This would be sent out to the membership in advance of the AGM, which was proposed for 13 June.	
5.	**Bikeability** ▪ An update had been provided at the last Cycle Forum where it had been confirmed that the West Berkshire programme was at full capacity. ▪ The agreed three year programme was focused on Levels 1 and 2. ▪ There were some issues around funding for the scheme and the digitalisation of certificates. William to ask if ongoing or one-off funding was needed. ▪ There was discussion about whether Spokes could offer a bursary for low-income families, but there were concerns that this would simply mask the issue of Council budgets being inadequate.	**WP**
6.	**Volunteer Centre** ▪ It was noted that Spokes had live adverts for a Cycle Count Coordinator and a Publicity Officer. Other roles could be advertised.	
7.	**Paul Farrell** ▪ Paul owns Leggera Bikes – a manufacturer of frames and wheels and is based in Kingsclere. He had contacted Spokes about the possibility of doing some talks about the cycling industry and to explore the potential for running a criterium locally. It was agreed that the talks could be interesting.	
8.	**Comms & Engagement (plus Merch and Promotion)** ▪ William had put the Spokes social ride routes on the website and had started on a History of Spokes page. ▪ It was agreed that Spokes should promote its social rides via its newsletter and William agreed to contact Penny Post. ▪ It was suggested that Spokes should look at tabards/gilets for Cycle Counters. William to investigate. ▪ Another suggestion was window stickers for local cafés.	**GO** **WP**

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	▪ Gordon circulated the draft newsletter and agreed to make amendments, taking on board comments from William and Clive, and ideas from Kevin regarding an appeal for 'quick wins'.	**GO**
	▪ Other ideas for future articles included something about how Spokes members used their bikes, and top tips from the committee.	
8.	**AOB**	
	▪ William to talk to Newbury Road Club and Velo regarding a bid to the **Community Wellbeing Fund** for next year's cycling festival.	**WP**
	▪ Ed reported that Spokes funds were at £10,751.59.	
	▪ It was noted that 6 people had signed up for the latest round of 'Couch to 50K'. One of last year's alumni had just signed up for a 40 mile ride with the road club. William to reach out to Ali about a potential newsletter article.	**WP**
	▪ It was noted that there had been media articles regarding the Newbury town centre pedestrianisation scheme. A decision was due to be made on 21 May.	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 6 May @7.30pm**
Venue:	**Bricklayers Arms, 137 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, RG14 5HB**