SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 6 May 2026 **Venue:** The Weirside

Present: Kevin Bushell, Mike Butler, Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Apologies: None

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes** ▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting, subject to deletion of an unnecessary name where there was no action.	
2.	**Actions** ▪ The call-in of the decision on the Lower Way waiting restrictions was due to be considered on 12 May. ▪ Alan had sent an email to Goring Gap cyclists regarding the feasibility study, but it had bounced. Gordon to send an alternative contact email address.	**GO**
	▪ The 'Spokes Going Forward' document had been emailed to the membership and 10 responses had been received. ▪ The logo had been updated. There was some discussion about the relative merits of a logo with/without an ampersand. ▪ Response from WBC Road Safety Team re Bikeability: – 481 Level 1 places this year (down from 1,800) – No Level 3 places this year – Instructors are working at capacity. – Clive to ask if/how Spokes could provide support.	**CT**
	▪ Social rides had been promoted internally. Gordon to take photos on the next ride for use on Penny Post article. (William to make contact.)	**GO/WP**
	▪ The appeal for 'quick wins' had been incorporated into the latest newsletter. ▪ William to talk to Ali about featuring her in an article about Couch to50K.	**WP**
	▪ William to talk to NRC & Velo re possible Community Wellbeing Fund bid for next year's Festival of Cycling.	**WP**
3.	**NE Thatcham** ▪ Spokes had not been able to attend the drop-ins, but a consultation website was available. ▪ The closing date for responses was 14 May.	

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	▪ Clive to send details of what had already been proposed.	**CT**
	▪ Kevin to take a look.	**KB**
	▪ The masterplan would inform the outline planning permission.	
4.	**Planning Applications**	
	▪ Spokes had been contacted by a member in relation to application 26/00492/MINMAJ - Proposed extraction of soft sand with restoration to agriculture and ecological enhancement using imported inert infill material, inclusive of all associated site works. BHS had proposed a new bridleway link, and it was suggested that Spokes write in support.	**KB**
	▪ It was noted that a major planning application had been submitted for land east of Newbury College, which should be reviewed for cycling implications.	**KB**
5.	**WBC Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ Updates were as per the latest Cycle Forum minutes.	
	▪ Further design work was taking place in relation to the Ham Bridge toucan crossing to see if this could be fitted around the utilities in the footway. It was noted that a zebra/parallel crossing would require a 30 mph speed limit.	
	▪ In relation to the link to Thatcham Station, it was reported that the first scheme had been rejected, but an alternative was being pursued, with a permissive path near the station.	
	▪ It was noted that the Mortimer to Burghfield Common scheme had received planning permission and it was suggested that Spokes should get in touch to see if we could help.	**WP**
6.	**Greenfest**	
	▪ This was planned for 24 October at St Bart's School.	
	▪ It was agreed that Spokes should support this if there were sufficient volunteers.	
	▪ Ed and Mike volunteered and it was suggested that an appeal could go in the next newsletter seeking additional help.	**GO**
	▪ Gordon to respond to the invitation.	**GO**
7.	**Spokes Going Forward**	
	▪ There had been a broadly positive response to the poll:	
	– There was support for the new mission and objectives.	
	– For the strapline, some people thought that 'accessible' had other connotations.	

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	– Representing everyday / utility cyclists was thought to help us stand out (a USP). – One person couldn't see much difference other than Spokes becoming a charity. – There was broad support for Spokes becoming a CIO, but some concern about the onus put on trustees. – There was support for the proposed officer roles, particularly the Projects Officer. – Respondents agreed that we needed to take positive action. – There was a suggestion that we should target dormant cyclists. – There was one suggestion that we should run shorter social rides. ▪ It was suggested that Spokes might consider alternative ride start points. ▪ In relation to the proposed CIO, it was recognised that Spokes needed suitable charity objects – these should be suitably broad not to restrict us and should be different to other groups that have a sports focus. ▪ Gordon to send a reminder to members to complete the survey.	**GO**
	▪ William to email the committee members about becoming trustees.	**WP**
8.	**AGM** ▪ Scheduled for **2.30pm on 13 June** at the Canoe Club ▪ Gordon to send out calling notice.	**GO**
	▪ William to put on website.	**WP**
8.	**Comms & Engagement (plus Merch and Promotion)** ▪ It was noted that there may be a second Glow Ride in October. It was agreed to seek fresh quotes for sail banners.	**GO**
8.	**AOB** ▪ William to check the Pangbourne and Whitchurch Sustainability (PAWS) events for anything that Spokes may wish to get involved with.	**WP**
	▪ Spokes had been invited to an participate in the Goring GAP Festival, but ambitions had been scaled back.	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 3 June @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Weirside, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HP**