SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 3 June 2026 **Venue:** The Weirside

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

Apologies: Mike Butler, Alan Langley, and Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes** ▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions** ▪ Alan confirmed he had contacted Goring Gap Active Travel. ▪ Clive had talked to Jo Bassett about how Spokes could provide support. WBC did not appear to be able to deliver as may Bikeability training sessions as they would like, but they had rejected offers of help from Spokes. It was not clear if the issue was capacity or funding. Gordon to seek clarification.	**GO**
	▪ Social rides had been promoted internally. It was difficult to take photos for use on Penny Post article when there was just one leader. Take photos on next ride with two leaders, then William to make contact.	**GO/WP**
	▪ No response from Ali about featuring her in an article about Couch to50K. William to ask Kathy.	**WP**
	▪ No response from NRC & Velo re possible Community Wellbeing Fund bid for next year's Festival of Cycling. WP to follow up via WhatsApp.	**WP**
	▪ KB had reviewed the NE Thatcham proposal and considered the cycling proposals to be comprehensive.	
	▪ KB was yet to review the other planning apps mentioned at the last meeting.	**KB**
	▪ William to follow up with Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council re Burghfield to Mortimer link.	**WP**
	▪ Emails to Greenfest appeared not to be getting through.	
	▪ Link to go in July newsletter seeking help with Greenfest stall.	**GO**
	▪ Reminder had been sent to the membership re completing the survey.	
	▪ William had sent emails to the committee re becoming trustees – William, Gordon and Paul all confirmed that they were willing to put themselves forward.	
	▪ Quote for the sail banner remained outstanding	**GO**

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	▪ Calling notice had been sent out for the AGM.	
	▪ Wiliam had reviewed the PAWS schemes, but nothing was relevant to Spokes.	
3.	**Planning Applications**	
	▪ Nothing of interest to report.	
4.	**WBC Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ No update provided.	
5.	**Spokes Going Forward**	
	▪ 18 responses received to the consultation, which was around 10% of the membership.	
	▪ 13 were strongly in favour of the proposals, 3 were broadly in favour and 2 were neutral.	
	▪ 13 were in favour of Spokes becoming a charity.	
	▪ All liked the new mission statement.	
	▪ Various comments/suggestions had been received:	
	– Need to focus on under-represented groups.	
	– Need training for children and adults who had lost confidence.	
	– Leadership roles should be filled with people willing to take action.	
	– Run bike maintenance courses.	
	– Seek to influence WBC more.	
	– Work with Newbury Road Club and Newbury Velo, with mutual advertising of activities and initiatives.	
	– Be sensible and don't aim too high if you only have a limited number of people.	
	– There was one comment about the speed and length of our rides.	
6.	**AGM**	
	▪ Scheduled for **2.30pm on 13 June** at the Canoe Club	
	▪ It was agreed that there was no need for a pre-meeting.	
	▪ Committee members were reminded of the need to produce reports.	
	▪ William to confirm trustee and officer roles	**WP**
6.	**Cycle Count**	
	▪ William to organise the June count – already had responses to mailshot.	
	▪ William to check with Rob re Site 18.	**WP**

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7.	**Couch to 50K**	
	▪ William confirmed that six people had started the last round, one f whom was practising on their own.	**WP**
	▪ Five people were signed up for the next round.	
	▪ Williiam had discussed the scheme with British Cycling- there may be potential for William to get coaching training from them.	
8.	**Comms & Engagement (plus Merch and Promotion)**	
	▪ The next newsletter was due in July.	
	▪ There was a need to do some comms around some of the new WBC infrastructure.	**GO/WP**
	▪ William to get conversation going on the WhatsApp group re cycling infrastructure gripes – it would be good to get a 'you said, we did' section on the website.	**WP**
	▪ William to talk to NRC and Velo re ideas for schemes reported to them.	**WP**
	▪ Gordon mentioned that West Berkshire Council was setting up a Highway Infrastructure Group (WBC Members only) to help develop the Highways Capital programme. This may take public questions, so could potentially be an additional channel to influence spend on cycling schemes.	
8.	**AOB**	
	▪ No other items of business were raised.	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 1 July @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Weirside, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HP**