SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 2 July 2026 **Venue:** The Weirside

Present: Kevin Bushell, Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Apologies: Alan Langley

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes** ▪ The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting subject to the following correction: – KB had reviewed the NE Thatcham proposal and considered *the WBC response to* the cycling proposals to be comprehensive.	
2.	**Actions** ▪ Gordon provided an update re Bikeability training. The Bikeability Trust had stipulated that 86% of grant had to be spent on Level 2. WBC wanted to run more Balance and Ride, Level 1 and Level 3 courses, reflecting the progressive nature of the training. There were issues with kids turning up for L2 who were unable to ride. The Committee agreed that it would be a good use of Spokes funds to pay for additional places. Clive agreed to approach the Traffic and Road Safety Team Leader to explore options and William to follow up on any request.	**CT** **WP**
	▪ Take photos on the next social ride for use on Penny Post article. William to discuss possible article with them.	**WP**
	▪ Cathy Jenkins had provided a great write-up of her Couch to 50K experience. Gordon to add to the next newsletter.	**GO**
	▪ NRC were supportive of a **Community Wellbeing Fund** bid for next year's Festival of Cycling.	
	▪ William had talked to Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council re Burghfield to Mortimer link. They were looking to raise additional funds. WBC had put in £125K. William to set up meeting to discuss further.	**WP**
	▪ Link to go in July newsletter seeking help with Greenfest stall.	**GO**
	▪ It was confirmed that Gordon, Paul and William had been appointed as trustees at the AGM.	
	▪ William confirmed that he had spoken to Rob about Site 18 for the cycle count.	

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	▪ William confirmed that there were only 3 people signed up for the next round of Couch to 50K. Gordon to follow up with possible extra person.	**GO**
	▪ Gordon to do an article on new cycling infrastructure for the next newsletter.	**GO**
	▪ William had put together a website form for people to suggest 'quick wins' – Kevin to review and provide feedback before it goes live.	**KB**
3.	**Planning Applications**	
	▪ Nothing of interest to report.	
	▪ Kevin and William to attend the next Sandleford meeting.	**KB/WP**
4.	**WBC Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ Clive reported that the Active Travel England Manager had been shown a variety of local schemes, including Eling Way and barrier removal in Thatcham. The meeting had sown the seeds for funding further improvements.	
	▪ It was confirmed that the WBC engineer was reluctant to make the change the road markings on the A4 near Floral Way requested by Spokes (i.e. removal of arrow directing cyclists onto the shared path).	
	▪ Signing of the route between Thatcham Broadway and Colthrop had been completed.	
	▪ Linkway 3 (Thatcham to Trinity School/Shaw House) had been completed – unfortunately, cyclist priority across side-roads had not been possible.	
	▪ Linkway 6 (Newbury town centre to Donnington Heights) signing was complete. Also, it was expected that the paths around the Vodafone HQ would be upgraded to bridleways.	
	▪ There had been minor works around Poplar Place.	
	▪ Newbury Town Centre to Newbury College signing scheme was in design.	
	▪ Design of the proposed toucan crossing at Ham Bridge was still progressing, with trial holes planned.	
	▪ There was discussion about the Old Bath Road scheme that had been dropped following comments about the need to retain kerbside parking. However, anecdotal evidence suggested that the parking bays were not used between Speen Lane and Speen Hill Close. It was agreed that Spokes should collect evidence and submit this after the next election. Newsletter article to encourage Spokes members to take photos when passing.	**GO**

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5.	**Social Rides**	
	▪ A suggestion had been received from a local resident that Spokes should run shorter rides (10 miles) starting at different locations around the district. William to explore the appetite for this.	**WP**
6.	**Greenfest**	
	▪ The Committee discussed the questionnaire circulated by the event organisers and the following were agreed: – Spokes would not be selling anything – There would be 2 people on the stand – The pitch would need space for a gazebo – Activities would include bike checks/M-check and find the fault game. – Reason for attending was to engage people to talk about cycling/ sustainable travel. – Ed confirmed that he was carbon literacy trained.	
	▪ Gordon to confirm responses.	
7.	**Branding**	
	▪ After reviewing the quotes, it was agreed to go with 2 No. double-sided sail banners, 3.2m high. Gordon to order.	**GO**
	▪ William to get prices for tabards to issue to cycle counters.	**WP**
8.	**Comms & Engagement**	
	▪ Newsletter was due – suggestions included: – WBC Schemes - Clive to send photos – Couch to 50K – Cathy had provided an excellent article. – Rides – Counts – Spokes Going Forward / conversion to CIO – Quick wins form	
9.	**AOB**	
	▪ It was suggested that Spokes should undertake regular cycle parking surveys, starting in Newbury and Thatcham. William to come up with a proposal and newsletter article.	**WP**
	▪ It was confirmed that Spokes meetings would move to the second Wednesday of the month to avoid clashes with Newbury Mountain Club.	

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 12 August @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Weirside, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HP**