SPOKES Monthly Meeting

Date: 9 September 2026 **Venue:** The Weirside

Present: Rob Borthwick, Kevin Bushell, Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt

Apologies: Mike Butler, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	**Minutes**	
	▪ The minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2026 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.	
2.	**Actions**	
	▪ William and Josh had visited the Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route. The Parish Council had achieved a lot, but the surface was still quite rough and was still to complete a missing section of path in front of a residential property in the middle of the route. WBC had undertaken works at the northern end, but could only provide a pedestrian crossing due to space constraints. Improvements to the section at the southern end remained outstanding and the Parish Council was actively seeking funds to complete this. Josh to advise on signing for the route.	**JK**
	▪ William was still to discuss the social rides article with Penny Post.	**WP**
	▪ William was yet to explore the appetite for 10 mile rides.	**WP**
	▪ The sail flags had arrived and appeared to be of good quality.	
	▪ Promotional stickers to put in café windows remained outstanding.	**GO**
	▪ Statement on Rural Design Guide remained outstanding.	**WP/KB**
	▪ William / Kevin were still to confirm the details of the Sandleford access design with Andy Alty. Mike Butler to confirm if any highway design matters were still to be approved as part of a reserved matters planning application.	**WP/KB** **MB**
	▪ William agreed to do a Whatsapp poll regarding dates for NCN4 maintenance works on the main Spokes group.	**WP**
	▪ The cycle parking survey remained outstanding.	**GO/WP**
	▪ William to chase Alec Gore re the cycle maps for Greenfest.	**WP**
	▪ Gordon had not yet managed to provide others with access to the social media accounts, but would look at this again.	**GO**

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3.	**Planning Applications**	
	▪ WBC had out of date contact details for Spokes, so applications were not being sent for review – William had sent updated contact details, so the issue should be resolved.	
	▪ Kevin to respond to the following planning application:	**KB**
	– Former Bayer site in Newbury town centre - there were issues with the proposed cycle parking and travel plan for the proposed residential development.	
	– The old Quantel site on Turnpike Road – the existing building was to be demolished with new units proposed.	
	▪ It was thought that an application may come forward for Newbury Manor Hotel in the near future – Spokes to request that a strip of land be secured to allow widening of the shared use path on the south side of the A4.	
4.	**Bikeability**	
	▪ Cheryl Evans had sent through a formal proposal for different levels of funding to enhance the local Bikeability offer.	**WP**
	▪ It was noted that another cycling club was also interested in funding enhancements to the Council's Bikeability programme.	
	▪ After debating the options, it was agreed that Spokes should provide £2K for Level 1 and Level 3 Bikeability and request a report on the additionality provided. Ed to explore possibility of a big cheque for publicity.	**EC**
	▪ Gordon to ask the team about how holiday courses were funded.	**GO**
5.	**WBC Cycling Schemes**	
	▪ Clive provided a brief written update:	
	(1) Peachey Drive Park, Thatcham – The remaining section on north-south route to Thatcham Station is receiving a 3m wide asphalt surface – works started this week.	
	(2) Link to Thatcham Station - Discussions are ongoing with the landowner regarding the final approach section to Thatcham Station, on the east side of Station Road - a response is awaited from their solicitors to the draft agreement.	
	(3) Andover Road inbound cycle lane - Double yellow lines and associated traffic regulation order and residents parking have been introduced.	
	(4) Northcroft Leisure Centre – Queried manager's decision to move the planter stands to outside the leisure centre, as the agreement was for them to be for staff use only inside the walled area. It had been agreed that three new Sheffield stands for public use would be ordered when the new Highways contract started.	

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	(5) NCN4 Bridge Street to Parkway - Canal sheet piling works are at the detailed design stage. (6) Hambridge Road Toucan Crossing - Still no date agreed for trial holes – likely that this may get held over to the new Highways term contract. (7) Fir Tree School – Order raised for cycle and scooter parking.	
6.	**Eling Way**	
	▪ The next meeting of the Eling Way Steering Group would be on 2 October.	**EC/AL**
	▪ Next steps would be to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and review lessons learned from the Strawberry Line.	
	▪ Initially, the focus would be on extending the route southwards – this was reliant on a housing development coming forward to get to Station Road, but the group would continue to explore links northwards – the redevelopment of the Pirbright Centre site may present opportunities to secure funding / make links.	
	▪ Spokes had been approached by an active travel group in Oxfordshire – William had arranged a Teams call to explore the potential for joint working.	**WP**
7.	**NCN4**	
	▪ Frustration was expressed about the slow pace of the project – although the current focus was on the piling works, it was suggested that planning could progress for future phases with associated fundraising activity.	
	▪ William to talk to Maria Desborough regarding future phases.	**WP**
8.	**Greenfest**	
	▪ Greenfest to take place on 24 October at St Bart's School.	
	▪ William had drafted a schedule for Spokes volunteers.	
	▪ The Spokes stall content would be reviewed and updated.	**WP/GO**
	▪ Greenfest had asked for public liability insurance details – William to obtain these from British Cycling.	**WP**
	▪ Key objectives from Spokes attending were agreed as: – Asking people what would make their cycling journeys better. – Asking women about barriers to cycling.	
	▪ William to organise the 'find the faults game'.	**WP**
	▪ Spokes to give away any remaining stocks of old tabards and bells.	
9.	**Glow Ride**	
	▪ Glow Ride to take place on 22 October.	
	▪ This year's route would be longer, including a loop via Strawberry Hill.	

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	▪ An article was already on the website – to be promoted via Whatsapp, the newsletter and on social media.	**GO**
	▪ There would be costs for signs and catering - £150 for each of the three cycling groups in Newbury.	
10.	**Comms & Engagement**	
	▪ Newsletter to go out in October:	**GO**
	– Tour de France trip	
	– Infrastructure issues reported via the website	
	– Cycle parking surveys	
	– Andover Road scheme	
	– Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route	
	– Bikeability funding	
	– Promoting Goring Gap	
11.	**AOB**	
	▪ William had obtained quotes for cycling tabards, which all came in at around £10 each complete with logos. It was agreed that these could be ordered.	**WP**

Next meeting:	**Wednesday, 14 October @7.30pm**
Venue:	**The Weirside, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HP**