Spoke Meeting 14th October 2026

The Weirside

Attendees: Robin Middleton, Ed Cooper, Kevin Bushell, Paul Rumsby, William Pitt, Josh Kerry

1. Apologies: Mike Butler, Gordon Oliver, Alan Langley, Clive Tombs

2. Minutes accepted

3. Actions from previous minutes:

Action	Owner	Status?
Follow up on Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route to offer assistance.	JK	Closed
Discuss social rides article in Penny Post	WP	Open
William to take out advert in NWN to gauge interest in 10mile ride	WP	Open
Identify locations for stickers and design – it was agreed to have a brief message to distinguish us from other cycle clubs as a campaign group which Kevin was to draft	KB	New
Statement on ATE Rural Design Guide – consensus this was perhaps not required	All	Closed
Sandleford on-highway cycle provision – confirmed tiger crossing & continuous footway were still proposed. Kevin to email WBC to point out what could've been better in the design	KB	New
Whatsapp poll was set up for NCN maintenance	WP	Closed
Cycle parking survey – progress made by Gordon but Kevin to review locations	GO / KB	Open
Cycle Maps not going to be ready for Greenfest – but being progressed by WBC with Spokes input	JK / WP	Open
Access for other committee members for social media accounts	GO	Open
Follow up question about Bikeability – no further info has been received from Cheryl at WBC. William to chase. Wording on the cheque TBD	WP	New

4. Robin volunteered for the website editor role and was voted in by those present.

Robin proposed improvements to the website hosting, security, accessibility and a move away from Wordpress to Wix.

ACTION: Handover TBA by William

5. Planning Applications

   Sandleford discussed as part of Actions item above. Kevin responded to proposed Bayer redevelopment (with assistance from Gordon re Travel Plans). The main issues were lack of permeability through site and cycle parking proposal.

   Not enough details for the Quantel site to comment yet. No other applications that warranted Spokes comments.

6. WBC cycle schemes

   Josh summarised the 2026-27 cycle programme from West Berkshire Council: cycle parking, Active Travel England sponsored improvements for route to Thatcham Station, linkways, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust project to improve NCN4 at Faraday Green, and designs.

7. Burghfield to Mortimer cycle route

   There is a gap in funding, and consequently the route can't be opened… Would Spokes consider a contribution?

   It was agreed to first learn more about what the shortfall is, how much might be required of Spokes, and what it would achieve, i.e. is it seed funding to be matched or what is the plan for raising the total?

   ACTION: William to find out more

8. Glow Ride

   Due to take place Tuesday 22nd October at 6:30pm. Buildin on success of last year – more have signed up online already! It is supported by Spokes, Velo and NRC (organisation, funding and marshals).

   It was agreed to cover the small increase in costs by all present.

9. Greenfest

   Spokes arranged to take part with stall on Saturday 24th October from 10am until 5pm. William showed the content to be used at the stall and there were a few slight amendments proposed (subsequently changed and shared by William via the Whatsapp group).

10. Cycle Festival

    Unfortunately, the previous organisers are unable to repeat their roles this year and are looking for more volunteers. No takers from those present.

11. Cycling UK Membership

    It was unanimously agreed to rejoin Cycling UK.

12. Comms & Engagement

    Compliments to Gordon for the newsletter – both content & format.

13. Christmas Meal

    Various locations were discussed but nothing agreed. Dolphin and Red House, Marsh Benham were favourites. It was suggested that the 16th/17th December might be appropriate, pending interest from those not present.

    ACTION: William to set up a Whatsapp poll for dates.

14. AOB

    i) Hi-vis vests the old 'bandit style' to be gifted to cycle count volunteers. Discussion ensued whether the new versions should instead be provided. No agreement reached. William updated that there was no rush to order the new hi vis vests and it was better to wait for a promotional and order with discount.

    ii) Spokes have been approached to see if they can offer assistance to refugees. It was unclear what help is required - bike maintenance, tuition, led rides, or volunteering as 'cycle buddy'.

    ACTION: William to find out more