

Minutes of the Meeting of the Waverley Cycle Forum 29th October 2013

Website: <http://cycleforum.org.uk/waverley/>

Present:

David Moxon (DM)	Chair
Chris Meeks (CM)	Friends of the Earth, Waverley Group
Maurice Byham (MB)	Waverley Councillor
Roland Seber	Godalming Cycling Campaign
Myra Newnes-Smith (MNS)	Witley Parish Council
Thomas Lankester (TL)	Transition Town Farnham
Ian Capon (IC)	My Bike Station
Matthew Ellis (MTE)	Waverley Borough Council

1. Introduction

DM welcomed all to the meeting and said that he had received apologies from James Browne, David, Munro, Paul Megson, Paul Robinson, David Gill, Chris Peck and Nikki Barton. (NB: best to avoid half term week in future!)

2. Review of progress on tasks and schemes prioritised for 2013/14

(a) Godalming Marshall Road

CM said that the legal process had yet to be sorted out and was still waiting for SCC to undertake the legal requirement to publish the change to the pathway. Although it was considered that it was unlikely that objections would be received, the delay could mean that the funding for this financial year would be missed. Will need the Cycle Forum to put pressure on SCC to expedite this. All other matters i.e. agreement, landownership and design had been completed. However, it was important that the administrative procedures are successfully completed as failure would undermine not only this particular scheme but the cycle strategy itself.

Action - DM to contact Cllr S Cosser

(b) Catteshall Lane/Wharf Street toucan crossing link

CM met with Wilmot Dixon to discuss link. Although the agent was not aware of the proposed works he will try to follow up on the discussions. DM contact details were given. Demolition still being carried out.

Action - CM to continue discussions with Wilmot Dixon

(c) Godalming High Street contraflow

Nothing further to report. MNS said that cyclists were now being stopped and threatened with fines

Action – DM to follow up with Cllr S Cosser

(d) Milford Hospital development

No progress to report. Cllr MB said that the cycle route was an important consideration in the determination of the planning application.

(e) Cranleigh/Ewhurst cycle path, Swallow Tiles development

Gone quiet on this at the moment. Funding had been secured but the landowners had yet to agree on the deal on the land. In the meantime the development was going ahead. A separate planning application had also been submitted with regard to some new houses at the site's entrance.

Action – DM to email Cllr Alan Brown to check progress.

(f) Shared use cycle route on north of Cranleigh High Street
No progress as far as is known.

(g) Scholars Greenway –

Final measures being implemented however TL reported that there had been setbacks including signage not completed and therefore missed turnings; signs removed, illegal obstruction from Park users, the need for path widening in eastern part of the Park etc which still need to be sorted out. However, there had been progress in respect of Farnham Park, where the right of cyclists to use certain paths was going to be formalised. This would be reflected in new signs.

TL also spoke about being proactive regarding the Local Sustainable Transport Funding bid

(h) Weyside Greenway

Some progress. The relocation of the tennis courts and bowling club to the Riverside site is in progress.

Cllr Munro has spoken to Alan Fordham at SCC about getting NCN Route 22 starting and ending in the centre of Farnham. However need to be proactive about funding.

TL concerned about no response to his representation from Waverley regarding the Conservation Area Strategy

(i) Discuss with Surrey Hills team off road permissive routes

There have been initial discussions.

DM to pursue

(j) Website development

IC regretted that he had not yet had time to devote to this but hoped to make progress before the next meeting.

IC to develop ideas and consult as necessary and report to next meeting

(k) Local Sustainable Transport Fund Two Parks Project

No obvious progress

(l) Cycle parking in Haslemere

IC said that he had met with ATOC to increase parking at all railway stations. However it would need support from local interest groups.

Action - DM to arrange meeting with Nikki Barton from SCC on this and other issues affecting Haslemere

3. Safe route Elstead to Rodborough School

Elstead parish Council is making improvements to a key bridleway near Elstead and the feasibility of improving a bridleway route to Milford is being

explored. Way marking, crossings and junction improvements are needed. Cllr Anne Thomas is keen to progress this and she and DM have conducted a preliminary survey to assess the extent of the work that would be required.
DM to work with other local people to develop this proposal

4. Cycle route on Frensham Common

A good off road circuit on Frensham Common that was created a few years ago but has since been closed. This enabled firm tracks to be used, useful as most bridleways are very sandy. Its loss has been felt locally. Furthermore some local users are trying to be obstructive even when routes that are legal are being used. The common land is owned by the NT but managed by Waverley.

DM to pursue with WBC, specifically in respect of the legal issues surrounding access to common land with the owner's permission

5. Developments affecting access to Hankley Common

MOD have restricted access and in combination with closure of routes across Frensham Common would be devastating.

Postscript: Since the Forum meeting there has been a constructive meeting with Jeremy Hunt and MoD Minister, Andrew Murrison, prompted by local cycle campaigner John Johns who also attended. DM will provide an update in January

6. Surrey Cycling Strategy

A strategy paper is out for consultation and the deadline for responses is 1st November of which there was extensive discussion. The Forum discussions included the following:

- Overall although the aspirations in the Strategy were good the mechanisms for achieving them were vague and there were glaring omissions.
- There was emphasis on the importance of local cycle plans but little detail about the arrangements for devising them. Although the Forum had responsibility to lobby for change it did not have the power to implement schemes and Waverley's remit was also limited. If the Strategy's objectives are to be delivered political and financial commitment are essential.
- Local people with very detailed knowledge would need to be fully involved in developing schemes that would overcome existing barriers to cycling.
- There was a need to move towards the kind of cycling culture that is found on the continent. This would go with the grain, as cycling is becoming more popular and the investment of time, expertise and cash should match the ambition set out in Get Britain Cycling
- There is no mention of the partner organisations that are fundamental to the delivery of cycle ways.
- Some of the statistics are problematic, not least because there is as yet little reliable data for Waverley. Some data relating to the causes of accidents could not be found in the report.

Action – DM had circulated a draft response and Forum members were invited to send him any further comments before the deadline. The response would be added to the Forum's website asap.

7. Any other business

a) Rodborough Jumps

MNS said that the report from John Sandy showed that if the work was to proceed then this would upset the slow worms. Therefore, the jumps will need to be done as soon as the slow-worms are not affected.

Action: MNS and DM to ensure that work commences promptly when conditions allow so that we don't lose another summer's cycling on this much-needed new facility

b) Broadwater Park

CM was very positive that a circular cycle route around the Park can be achieved. Had had met with the Waverley Ranger for the Park. Will need changes to Byelaws. Also changes to traffic tables on the access road to the Park and the provision of Cycle Racks

8. Dates of future meetings and items/speakers

January TBC