

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Waverley Cycle Forum 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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

## Present:

|                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| David Moxon (DM)           | Chair                                |
| Chris Peck (CP)            | Godalming Cycle Campaign             |
| Myra Newnes-Smith (MNS)    | Witley Parish Council                |
| David Kirkham (DK)         | Godalming Cycle Campaign             |
| Cllr David Munro (Cllr DM) | Surrey CC                            |
| Adrian Clark (AC)          | Cranleigh Neighbourhood Plan         |
| Matthew Ellis (ME)         | Waverley BC                          |
| Paul Robinson (PR)         | Godalming Cycle Campaign             |
| Ian Capon (IC)             | Transition Farnham                   |
| Chris Meeks (CM)           | Friends of the Earth, Waverley Group |

## Apologies

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Tom Lankester | Transition Farnham |
| Becky Willson | SCC                |

## Introductions

DM was thanked for his incredibly hard work over the last six years chairing the Forum meetings.

## Surrey Cycling Strategy and its implications for the Waverley Cycle Plan and the future role of the Forum

Cllr DM set out how the adoption of the high level Surrey Cycling Strategy, which forms the final part of Surrey's Local Transport Plan, will be implemented at the local level. The Waverley Local Committee will form a task group which will be chaired by Cllr Pat Frost. Cllr DM will also sit on it and will liaise between the Forum and the Task Group. David North will set it up and will be serviced by SCC Officers including David Sharpington and Becky Willson the new SCC Cycle Officer.

It is appreciated that the progress at the local level of the LTP differs across districts (with Mole Valley and Elmbridge already started). The Task Group will initially meet to discuss how to take things forward. It will decide how to engage with the Forum and with other cycling groups to help with the preparation of a new Waverley Cycle Plan. The role of the Task Group is to also decide how money secured for highway works from Planning Infrastructure Contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy will be distributed.

There was some discussion about how funding from the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership could also be obtained for cycle schemes. However, it would be difficult to secure funding unless it could be tied in with unlocking development

that facilitates economic growth. The level of economic growth taking place and planned for Waverley is relatively low.

The establishment of the Task Group would fundamentally affect the work of the Forum assuming it had a continuing role. A further consideration was that Neighbourhood Plans were now being drawn up across Surrey. These would include consideration of transport issues and it would be important to ensure that neighbourhood plans and the new cycle plans were developed in step with each other so far as possible.

PR asked how both SCC and Waverley saw the role of the Forum. Few of the schemes in the original 2005 plan had come to fruition and those that had, took a very long time to implement. However, Cllr DM felt that the role of the Forum had been decisive in respect of the schemes that had gone ahead. In developing the new plan the Forum would have an advisory role, along with other cycling organisations. While improvements to the cycling infrastructure would be important, SCC Strategy also placed strong emphasis on training and other measures aimed at getting more people cycling both on and off road. Waverley recognised the importance of the Forum in setting out the schemes for its Waverley Plan Cycling SPD but also stated that the focus of its planning policy work at the moment was preparing Part 1 of the new local plan which is the high level plan for development in the Borough which would be the basis for SPD and neighbourhood plans that would be prepared subsequently.

It was considered that it was important that the Forum should continue to hold plenary meetings three times a year for the time being though its terms of reference would need to be reviewed. Informal meetings at a local level with selective attendance could take place when appropriate in between the plenary meetings. These might be quite frequent in the coming months while the new Cycle Plan was evolving. To supplement the meetings and enable a more rapid response as things develop, IC said that it was important to develop a discussion forum on the website to facilitate dialogue on local schemes and issues.

It was also considered that the Waverley Cycle Plan will need to be framed in a way that encourages new ideas and developments. The Local Transport Plan of which it forms a part covers the period to 2026. It will be necessary to take on board the criticisms of the current plan which is thought unwieldy, reading too much like a lengthy but often uninspiring wishlist rather than an inspirational call to action.

MNS said that it was important to note that the schemes discussed at the Forum were only some of the cycle schemes that were required. The list was much more extensive. There was also a discussion about the low levels of cycling, particularly as a form of transport for school children, compared with that on the continent – more than half of Dutch schoolchildren cycle to school as against 2 per cent in England. Part of the answer lay in removing legal barriers that prohibited cycling on walkways and footpaths where there is no good reason. The need for local knowledge to ensure that both opportunities

and obstacles were identified, and involving people who were drawing up local plans could assist with this.

### **Review of Progress on tasks and Schemes**

- Godalming Marshall Road – Work proposed to start 26/01/15. Hope to be ready in the near future with a grand opening.
- Cranleigh Ewhurst Path – completion due in April.
- Amlets Lane Development, Cranleigh – access to the town centre by foot and cycle will be more direct than by car and therefore there is a opportunity to be involved at the detailed application stage to ensure that the cycle scheme is designed to build on this situation which would encourage cycling
- Scholars and Weyside Greenways, Farnham – various problems with the signage as a result of replacing the lampposts. Frustrating as a condition of the contract is to also replace any signage.
- Elstead to Milford – Looking reasonably promising for resurfacing to be carried out in specific places along the route where it was muddy
- All other tasks and schemes – nothing significant to report

### **The Election of a new chair**

Various options considered including a rotating chair or a caretaker until it was decided how the Forum will continue in the light of the LTP Task Force. It was agreed that it could be time-consuming as it involved keeping on top of current issues and looking at all the various strategies and plans being produced as well as the more obvious role of chairing meetings.

DK agreed to chair but, due to commitments, only with assistance from IC who could deputise. IC was well placed as he is leading on the development of the website forum.

Agreed by the forum

### **AOB**

DM said he had spoken to Becky Willson at SCC and she had informed him that once all the eight Surrey Cycle Guides had been completed they would be sent to libraries for distribution.

### **Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting to be decided after the SCC LTP Task Force meeting.