

Minutes of the Meeting of the Waverley Cycle Forum

3rd June 2010

Present:

David Moxon (DM)	Chair
Chris Meeks (CM)	Friends of the Earth, Waverley Group
Jenny Barnes (JBn)	Godalming Town Council
Alec McCalden (AM)	Voluntary Cycling Coordinator and Godalming Cycle Campaign
Matthew Ellis (MTE)	Waverley Borough Council
Maurice Byham (MB)	WBC Councillor
Thomas Lankester (TL)	Transition Town Farnham
Myra Newnes-Smith (MNS)	Witley Parish Council
David Munro (Cllr DM)	SCC Councillor
Caroline White (CW) for Item 2	Hindhead Together

1. Apologies for Absence

Alan Fordham (AF)	SCC Cycling Officer
Richard Cleaves (RC)	Ewhurst PC
Diane James (DJ)	Waverley Borough Councillor
Ralph Holmes (RH)	Cranleigh initiative

2. Sponsored Cycle Ride through Hindhead Tunnel

CW set out the progress on organising the event for cycling through the tunnel with Balfour Beatty and the Highways Agency. It was likely to take place on 14th or 21st May 2011. The main problem appears to be that the existing A3 will still be in use and there could be no question of any of the surrounding roads being closed for the event.. Therefore there are logistical problems in getting cyclists to meet and park close to the start of the tunnel without compromising safety. The two solutions under consideration are either to have a park and ride arrangement to get people to the start, or to devise a longer route so that the tunnel becomes the focal point of a lengthier ride which starts and ends some distance away. CW asked the Forum to set out possible options for more detailed consideration. To help with this it was agreed that interested members of the Forum should meet up on 5 July to take a look at some of the possibilities for longer routes. AM suggested another option would be for the HA to rethink their risk assessment and use an area of the new road for vehicle parking.

(Action: All to meet with cycles at the at Crossways/Headley Road junction car park, Grayshott at 10.30 on Monday 5 July 2010 – contact DM for further details).

There were further discussions about the restrictions on the number of people and age of those who can take part. Particularly it was disappointing that only cyclists aged 16 and over could participate as it would be the under 16s who would get the most out of it. CW informed Forum that the capacity of the tunnel was still being decided but age restriction was a safety matter and ultimately up to Balfour Beatty/HA. Like the Forum, Hindhead Together and Balfour Beatty/HA wants the event to be open to as many as cyclists as possible but recognises that it may be best to work within the safety

restrictions, however onerous they are, than to risk jeopardising the whole event. There is a possible tension in that Highways Agency/Balfour Beatty's concern is very much focused on safety issues directly related to the tunnel whereas the safety priority for the organisers is with the safety of the event as a whole. CW informed that Cllr Knowles and Cllr Isherwood of WBC were on the Hindhead Together Group

(Action Cllr DM/DM to continue discussions with Hindhead Together)

3 SCC Draft Consultation Paper; Transport Climate Change Strategy

DM presented his summary note regarding the SCC's draft paper which forms the first of a set of consultation documents which will contribute to the Local Transport Plan (LTP3), to be called the Surrey Transport Plan. DM had just heard from Alan Fordham that he would be producing a paper on cycling for LTP3. Alan's initial thoughts on the outline for this paper would be circulated to Forum members and comments are welcome. (The cycling paper is not on the list of forthcoming LTP3 consultation documents but will have the same status as these other papers.) There was a need for the Forum to update the current list of schemes and pick out those seen as most important in the context of the new transport plan. Funding would be very tight over the next few years, but unlike previous local transport plans, which were for 5 year period, LTP3 would be looking much further ahead albeit with regular reviews. Priorities should not therefore be overly constrained by the immediate financial situation though the timetable for implementing schemes would inevitably be affected by the financial situation. Some points:

- Although cycling is to be given more significance it remains to be seen how the commitment to encouraging cycling will be translated into changes on the ground but the cycling paper should fill in more detail.
- SCC has a very limited budget for minor schemes and there is pressure from all road users to meet their needs. There had been widespread criticism of the way resources had been used for cycling schemes – expensive schemes were too often seen as worse than useless by cyclists themselves. There needs to be much closer engagement with knowledgeable cyclists and the various cycle forums when designing schemes.
- A list of priorities needs to be formally documented so that it can be used as evidence for public inquiries etc.
- While new schemes can be very important if well designed, there is real concern that existing roads are not being maintained well enough. Potholes that damage cars can and do cause injury to cyclists. (NB: things are more complicated than a simple competition for resources between different users – we all need good road surfaces.)
- Road maintenance was only one part of any improvements. Rights of way also need to be considered and the Rights of Way Improvement Plans provided a useful starting point.
- What reassurances are there that the way SCC contracts out works to roads and highways will not raise the price of some projects, making them unaffordable?
- Cycling is not just about transport choices and reducing emissions but also about lifestyle and health. The outgoing Government made this

connection with its Active Travel Strategy. As yet it is not known whether this will survive the change of government though it may well do so, as the ideas are consistent with the policies of all the major parties. Cycle forums will need to come up with constructive ideas for implementing a national strategy at the local level.

- In too many cases the provision of cycling facilities cannot be practically used. Providers need to be educated and consult with users. In the long term this would save them money.

The Forum was reminded that the consultation ends on 17th June 2010.

(Action: DM to put forward a formal response from the Cycle Forum)

4. Update Farnham Greenways

TL had just returned from a meeting with Farnham Park Advisory Group meeting. The design and colour of the Scholars Greenway direction roundels and where they were to go had been mainly agreed. It was also agreed to make changes to the design of the access to Farnham Park at Bear Lane to make it safer. A follow up meeting was needed to ensure that the signs would help cyclist access and exit the park. Cllr DM asked to see the notes of the Farnham Park Advisory Group meeting and for them to be distributed to fellow Councillors. The Forum was very pleased with the successful progression of the scheme.

(TL to ensure that the notes of the Farnham Park Advisory Group meeting were written up and distributed to Cllr DM, MB and Pat Frost)

5. Report from Alec McCalden

Marshall Road

Jeremy Hunt MP, Godalming Town Council and Sustrans have supported the campaign for Jewson to release a strip of land adjacent to their Godalming store to provide a cycling link between Godalming and Farncombe. AM met with Alan Fordham and with a Jewson main board director and their head company surveyor. Jewson seem keen to agree to agree that giving the land will enhance their image and there is a very good chance that they will agree to do so. The use of the land to widen the path to 3m from Marshall Road down to the Chalk Road roundabout is part of the strategic route envisaged to run from Farncombe centre to Godalming. Alan Fordham and AM have also been speaking to Railtrack about a similar release of land close to Farncombe Street. The strategic route was for both cyclists and walkers and therefore should be a priority, as identified by the Godalming Health check. Therefore getting the estimated £80 000 to undertake the work should include receiving money from planning gain. Consideration would also have to be given to tapping into other sources of finance and using volunteers to do some work as the SCC minor schemes budget was limited. TL said it was the sort of task with which Sustrans volunteers could help.

(Action: AM)

Hydestile/Milford Cycle Route

There was a need to ensure that there are signs at both end of the path. It was suggested that James Taylor at SCC be contacted first to get the disks put on.

(Action: DM to contact James Taylor, copy Cllr DM in)

6. Matters Arising

National Bike Week 19th – 27th June 2010

Events include Pepperpot Pedal - a week of mystery tours starting at the Pepperpot, Godalming

Dr Bike – Free safety check and information at Crown Court on Saturday 19 June.

SCC also issued their Cycle Challenge – Contact Graham Burt SCC

7. Any other business

Witley PC

- MN-S reported that Witley PC had written to Tesco's and had no reply
- The crossing point over the A3 at Lee Coach Road Junction had now been reopened

Update on Ewhurst/Cranleigh Cycle way

RC has been in contact with the owner of the land, who has objected in the past. This time there was a positive response, and written confirmation is awaited.

Cycle Forum Website

DM was grateful to AM for getting the Cycle Forum website up and running. It was very sound in terms of content. To raise the profile of the Forum and increase the impact of its work, it would be worth having more by way of lively and topical content, including pictures. AM reminded all forum users that the website was an opportunity also for other members to contribute.

(www.cycleforum.org.uk)

8. Dates of next two meetings (added after the meeting)

30 September 2010

13 January 2011