

Woking Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting held 5 October 2009

Present:

Paul Fishwick	Surrey County Council
John Masson	Surrey County Council
Cllr Olly Wells	Woking Borough Council
Cllr Gary Elson	Woking Borough Council
Carole Frost	Woking Cycle Users' Group
Jane Seymour	Woking Cycle Users' Group
Dominic Batstone	Woking Cycle Users' Group

Apologies:

Alan Fordham Surrey County Council

PF provided a comprehensive update of progress with the Cycle Woking programme.

The programme is progressing well; John Grimshaw of Cycling England has given Woking the “thumbs up”.

Reconstruction of the Basingstoke Canal towpath, from Pirbright Arch to Hermitage Bridge, is now complete. There are new links to Percheron Drive and Brookwood Country Park. Improvements are planned at the Hermitage Road/Redding Way roundabout, with green surfacing and flush kerbs. A swing bridge is being designed for installation by Hermitage flash in early 2010. (Two further swing bridges are planned for early 2010 – at Kiln Bridge, St Johns and at Chobham Road, Woking where a new boardwalk will enable cyclists to avoid Chobham Road. All three bridges subject to planning permission).

It is intended to construct a new pedestrian/cycle refuge on A322 Bagshot Road, just north of Brookwood Crossroads by the Total garage. This is to give continuity to the Saturn Trail route. (The Department for Transport (DfT) have approached Cycling England, asking how well the cycle towns are doing, and inviting additional bids from those towns which are on programme. Woking has made a bid for funding for this refuge. See below for other bids).

The off-road Pandora Trail, alongside Brookwood Lye Road, is complete, apart from some local widening opposite Blackhorse Road.

The towpath between Hermitage Bridge and Monument Bridge is complete and signed. The Oberon Trail, an off-road route linking Monument Bridge and Six Crossroads, is complete.

No new lighting is planned on the Basingstoke Canal, except by Langmans Lane bridge. (New lighting has already been installed under Parley Bridge and Lockfield Drive bridge).

Reconstruction of the Basingstoke Canal towpath between Monument Bridge and Sheerwater Road is also complete, with six new links into Sheerwater. (Two links into Blackmore Crescent, one into Woodlands Park, one into the recreation ground, and two into Lambourne Crescent).

A “Get Cycling” week was held recently. (w/c 21 September 2009). Get Cycling is a specialist company which provides active education for schools by providing learning and bike try-out roadshows. Five local schools were visited. (Goldsworth, Barnsbury, Bishop David Brown, Woking High and Westfield schools). There were also opening events at Barnsbury (extension of cycle parking facilities) and Woking High and Westfield. (New cycle shelters). 1500 schoolchildren attended the events over the five days. A public open day was held on 26 September, in Brewery Road car park, which was highly successful.

The cycling ban in the town centre has been lifted – an experimental order was made on 3 April 2009 for 18 months. (See attached plan) Disabled groups have raised objections.

New cycle parking has been provided in Commercial Way (eastern end) and in Peacocks Walk, where the “wheel-benders” have been removed. New double-deck parking will be installed here shortly. Additional cycle parking and new shelters have been provided in Oriental Road. New shelters are also being provided in local schools and Woking College.

Cycle Woking is looking at a multi-storey bike park at Woking station. The DfT asked the Train Operating Companies to submit bids for improved cycle parking at stations. Cycle Woking assisted South West Trains (SWT) with their bid, which was successful. However, there is no money specifically for Woking station. PF has approached Cycling England with a view to asking DfT for more funding. Meanwhile, SWT will improve cycle parking at Brookwood station. They have already improved Worplesdon station and are currently improving West Byfleet station.

Work has started to convert the pelican crossing on Cawsey Way into a Toucan. The staggered pelican crossing on Victoria Way will be converted into a straight across Toucan in January 2010. New lighting columns have been provided in Market Square. The old columns have been removed, providing a wide shared route between Victoria Way and Cawsey Way. From here a contra-flow cycle lane along Commercial Way will be provided. (DfT approval for the non-standard signs expected by mid-October).

Proposed new links

Winston Churchill School has requested a new off-road route alongside the northern side of Hermitage Road. It is intended to provide this in 2009/10.

A new link is proposed between Kiln Bridge, St Johns, and Barrack Path. This will link the Saturn Trail and the Pluto Trail.

A new link is proposed from Sythwood to Sythwood school, via Brookfield. This will give direct access into the school grounds via a gate.

A new link is proposed from the Basingstoke Canal at Langmans Bridge to the Goldsworth Park Centre, via a bridge over Lockfield Drive. Because the bridge is of sub-standard width, "Cyclists dismount" or "Pedestrians have priority" signs will need to be erected.

A new link is proposed along the north side of Albert Drive and the west side of Sheerwater Road to the Basingstoke Canal. This will provide a useful link into Sheerwater from Sheerwater Bridge.

PF tabled plans of these proposals, which met with the meeting's approval. The Woking Local Committee will be asked to approve these proposals on 22 October 2009.

Further bids

PF is bidding for funds to reconstruct the Basingstoke Canal towpath between Sheerwater Bridge and Scotland Bridge. (Stone and Fibredec), and between Scotland Bridge and the Wey Navigation (stone only, with Fibredec in Spring 2010). He is also looking to bring forward rebranding of the network.

Other Proposals

Cycling England wish to see an improved two-way north-south link under Victoria Arch. This will be provided via a widened shared use footway.

A scheme to provide a link between York Road and De Lara Way, via Two Bridges, will be brought forward to 2010/11.

A wheeling ramp will be provided in the subway under Woking Station.

Monitoring

A cycle counter on the Basingstoke Canal by Langmans Lane recorded a total of 57 cyclists in one day in July 2007. In June 2009, the daily average was 389 cyclists. There has been a notable increase in the number of cycles parked at Woking Station. Four new cycle counters have recently been installed, bringing the total to thirteen.

Events

Neon Night – 31 October 2009. (Halloween). Cycle display in Town Centre, followed by mass bike ride.

The Tour Series returns to Woking on 24 June 2010. The race in Woking will be one of the last in the series.

Any Other Business

The trees and planters in Commercial Way, between Church Path and Chapel Street, will be removed in 2010, subject to Woking Local Committee approving additional funding on 22 October. New trees in moveable planters are proposed.

CF asked if there was any possibility of a Toucan crossing on Lockfield Drive, in the vicinity of Amstel Way/Robin Hood Road. PF to identify crossing point. **Action PF**

OW asked about Bikeability training. PF to obtain further details from OW.

Action PF

CF expressed dissatisfaction with the cycle-friendliness of Woking station. PF to contact SWT re the stairs in the station. **Action PF**

Date of Next Meeting

JM to email group with possible dates.