

Woking Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2011

Present:

Cllr Will Forster	Surrey County Council
Paul Fishwick	Surrey County Council
John Masson	Surrey County Council (Retiring scribe)
Carole Frost	Woking Cycle Users' Group
Ian Wright	Woking Cycle Users' Group (in the chair)
Roy Benson	Woking Cycle Users' Group
Steve Millard	Business representative
Phil Hamilton	
Cllr Olly Wells	Woking Borough Council
Norman Johns	Woking Cycle Users' Group
Mary Painter	CTC Right to Ride
Cllr Anne Murray	Woking Borough Council

Apologies:

Alan Fordham	Surrey County Council
Cllr Liz Bowes	Surrey County Council

Election of Chairman

Ian Wright was appointed Chairman.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

IW asked about cycle facilities on the Wey Navigation towpath. The National Trust is pro-cycling, but does not want to encourage too many cyclists onto the towpath. It would accept a path about 1 metre wide.

PF updated the meeting on the Town Centre Shared Use consultation. This has been extended to 27 February 2011. Cycle Woking representatives will be present in the town centre on three more occasions:

Thursday 26 January
Friday 28 January
Saturday 29 January

All between 10am and 3pm in Middle Walk. A Press Notice will be issued next week.

MP felt that Middle Walk was biased in favour of pedestrians, but PF pointed out that this location was set by the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Local Committee.

IW suggested signs by cycle parking areas, directing cyclists to Middle Walk. MP asked who she could write to about the consultation. PF suggested the Chairman or Vice-chairman of the Local Committee.

NJ felt the consultation was biased and worthless.

AM said she had been contacted by several residents about "incidents" in the Town Square area, but these had not involved contact between cyclist and pedestrian. The only other incident was in Church Path, which is outside the shared use area.

Concern was expressed about the new library entrance in Gloucester Walk. (Potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians). However, the cycle parking could be relocated.

PH asked about "incidents" in areas where cycling is not permitted. (i.e. outside the area of consultation. PF said these should be discounted).

Several WCUG Committee members are meeting with Surrey Disabled People's Partnership on 14 January 2011.

MP confirmed that she is the CTC's "Right to Ride" representative, but also mentioned that in her caring rôle, the main gripe of the disabled and frail elderly was able-bodied drivers parking in disabled bays, not concerns about cycling.

Update on Local Committee Meeting, 20 October 2010

PF explained that the Committee had been informed that Cycling England will cease to exist after 31 March 2011.

The Committee had resolved to remove the refuge in Bagshot Road, Brookwood, outside the Total garage. (For this reason, the modifications recommended in the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit have not been implemented). PF was asked to investigate how the removal could be funded.

IW informed the meeting that WCUG have started a petition to retain the refuge. They are hoping to present it to the Committee on 9 February 2011. IW had been collecting signatures on site on the afternoon of Saturday 8 January (a cold day) and at least 30 people had used the island in a two-hour period. In that time only two people had crossed the road at the traffic signals.

WF asked whether the response to the petition could go to the Committee in March. PF thought it could, provided that the Chairman agreed.

SM asked about the phasing of the traffic signals at Brookwood Crossroads. The meeting felt that improvements could be made. PF said that SCC had agreed with local residents that the signals would not be re-phased. SM asked if there was any money to model the junction, allowing for the presence of the refuge. PF replied that there was not.

MP pointed out that, if the refuge is removed, the £15,000 provided by Cycling England to install it will have been wasted.

Petition re signs on the Basingstoke Canal.

PF explained that this issue had been resolved. The above ground signs at Sheets Heath bridge will be replaced with thermoplastic signs on the ground. These will be installed when weather permits. PH pointed out that the signs on the towpath could be obscured by fallen leaves, etc.

Kingfield School Link

This link, from Rydens Way, via Shackleford Road and the wide footway in Old Woking High Street, has been approved by the Committee.

Sythwood Link

This shared use link, from the Salvation Army site to Tresillian Way, has been approved by the Committee. Funding is in place, and work on the scheme has started. (Funding has been transferred from the Bike Station, which is not now going ahead).

NJ asked about progress on the Centrium-related works. PF said the new Toucan crossings would be commissioned on 13 January.

WF mentioned the island outside F W Evans. He was concerned that the temporary barriers were obstructing sightlines. He also felt that the planned permanent barriers would unnecessarily narrow the island and limit the numbers of people that could stand on the island, particularly if one or more had bicycles with them. NJ stated that the signal controller interferes with sightlines. PF said these issues would be picked up at the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit.

MP queried the layout of the southbound cycle lane where it leaves the carriageway and joins the footway south of Victoria Arch. She felt this was very dangerous, with drains and manhole covers at the exit and right beside the queue of pedestrians waiting to cross the light controlled crossing. MP also pointed out the very poor state of the carriageway under Victoria Arch. PF said any comments or concerns should be addressed to him. MP also expressed concern about cyclists using the footways under Victoria Arch. PF said "Cyclists dismount" signs were due to be erected shortly.

Cycle Woking Schemes

PF circulated an infrastructure programme update. This will be put on the Cycle Woking website.

Victoria Bridge Cycle Crossing

This should be complete by the end of January. There will be a closure of the eastbound carriageway, the bridge and its approach ramps on 22/23 January, to enable maintenance work to take place on the bridge and approach ramps, removal of signs and the construction of a raised table on the carriageway.

Horsell Common Mountain Bike Course

Work on site in February/March

Parking at Woking Station (North Side)

Sheffield stands due to be erected on triangular piece of land between station and bus lay-by. Agreement awaited from Network Rail.

Wheeling Channels in Subway under Railway

Should go ahead in February. A mock-up for the disabled groups would be installed beforehand. About 60 responses to the consultation exercise had been received.

Hermitage Bridge

A start on site in May is hoped for. (Funded from Cycle Woking match funding).

Cycle Woking – Finance Update and Future

PF explained that match funding could be spent in the next financial year. There will be no Cycling England “interim year”. Instead, there will be a “Local Sustainable Transport Fund” from 1 April 2011. There will be two rounds of bidding for this fund:

Round 1: small schemes up to £5 million

Round 2: small schemes up to £5 million and large schemes up to £50 million

The bids will cover a four year period, and there will only be one chance to bid. (Transport Authorities only). Bids could include cycling, walking, public transport, electric cars, etc. SCC will bid in Round 2 for large schemes. (Bid forms not yet received). Round 1 bids are due to be submitted in March/April, Round 2 bids by end June. Funding of successful bids will come in winter 2011/12.

Ministers are keen that all Cycle Towns should bid, as they feel that they have done exceptionally well. Cycle Woking will be repackaged as something else after 31 March. SCC’s bid is likely to extend beyond the Woking boundary. A

report on the proposed bid will go to the Cycle Woking Board on 19 January 2011.

MP asked if more s106 money and other funding streams could be used to fund cycling.

PH mentioned that the best way to spend is in large chunks over a small area, rather than low spend over a large area. This was endorsed by the Danish Cycling Federation on their recent visit to Woking.

WCUG Items

IW outlined the possibility of a cycle commuter route between Woking and Weybridge, and ultimately onward to Kingston and London. He felt that the routes through Brooklands and over the River Wey would be the difficult parts. He asked for it to be considered for the long term. PF would welcome WCUG input and suggestions for overcoming the difficult parts.

SM mentioned a footpath link from the River Wey to Ripley. PF explained about the difficulties of converting footpaths to cycle tracks, but that it was easier to convert them to bridleways, albeit with the attendant risk of encouraging horse riders onto the route.

WF asked about the resurfacing of White Rose Lane. PF confirmed that the white lines and green surfacing would be refreshed once the surfacing has been done.

CTC Items

MP tabled photos of the Lockfield Drive off-road route. This is badly overgrown and covered in fallen leaves. PF to action sweeping and clearance via Woking BC's contractors.

MP asked about the new highways contract – where could she get details of the contract, Service Level Agreements, etc? PF to make enquiries.

MP felt that the Local Development Framework, and other important policy documents, should be discussed at the Forum.

Woking Business Items

NJ asked about the Tour Series. Woking has been offered the final on 16 June 2011, but has yet to accept, as funding to the tune of £100K needs to be secured.

Sustrans Items

MP mentioned Sustrans' "Quality Streets" campaign: The first step is 20mph speed limits across whole villages, towns and cities. The second is residents

being involved in designing their streets for living, playing, and getting out and about more.

CF mentioned that Sustrans are looking for volunteers to maintain the Basingstoke Canal towpath, which is now a National Cycle Route.

Any Other Business

PF mentioned the World Wildlife Fund development on Brewery Road car park. He tabled a plan showing the proposed routes to/from the building. The plan shows lengthy and inconvenient movements for both pedestrians and cyclists. The meeting felt these movements were unacceptable. PF had already commented on the plan to Transportation Development Planning and the Forum supported PF's proposed amendments.

MP said that the new bridge over the Basingstoke Canal was unnecessarily high at its southern end because the CHP pipe was accommodated underneath it. She could not see why the pipe could not be accommodated alongside it, allowing the bridge deck to be lower.

NJ is looking for children's cycles. (In order to teach young children how to ride a bike). IW suggested Freecycle.

IW thanked JM on behalf of the Cycle Forum for all his hard work for Woking cyclists and wished him a happy retirement.

Date of Next Meeting

June 2011. (Exact date to be confirmed).