

Minutes of the MVCF Meeting, Thursday 8th May 2014

Park House, Randalls Road, Leatherhead

Present: Ron Billard (RB) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Lucy O'Connell (LO) [MVDC], Eric Palmer (EP) [Leatherhead/Ashtead], Rod Shaw (RS) [MVDC], Peter Silburn (PS) [Horsham/Notes]

Apologies: Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], John Meudell (JM) [CTC], Andy Tanner (AT) [Transition Dorking], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary]

1. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Police & Safety Issues: At the time of the meeting road casualty statistics had not been received.

2. Surrey Cycling Strategy – Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan

LO outlined the action plan being drawn up that includes improvements to infrastructure, promotion of behavioural changes and better management of sporting events. MVDC will be contacting the organisers of all on-road sporting events. A key aim of the plan is to support utility and commuter cycling.

A list of infrastructure schemes will be appended to the plan and these can be drawn upon when funding becomes available. LO assured the Forum that they will be consulted on this but cautioned that implementation will depend on funding being available. Possible sources include Local Enterprise Partnership (e.g. Coast2Capital), Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and grant funding. RS noted that many of these sources of funding will be oversubscribed.

In the ensuing discussion it was stressed that infrastructure must be of a high quality and must meet the needs of all cyclists. Routes must be direct, convenient and attractive to use (see [MVCF Strategic Cycle Network](#)).

RB stressed the importance of consultation and that for it to be meaningful it must be both early enough (see West Street below) and that any feedback must be listened to and, where appropriate, responded to.

Two meetings have already been held with councillors and the aim is to deliver the plan by September/October. LO has sent minutes of these meetings to RB.

RB to circulate the minutes to the group.

3. West Street, Dorking (proposed alterations to road layout)

RS stressed that this is first and foremost an environmental improvement scheme with enhancements to the pedestrian realm. The Forum is however disappointed that an opportunity to improve conditions for cyclists has been missed and that – on the contrary – an already notorious route for cyclists has been made worse. In addition, with the implementation of the proposed changes the Forum's aspirations for a West Street contra-flow (as part of a westbound route along South Street and Junction Road) are now much less likely to be fulfilled.

For reasons that remain unclear the Forum was not consulted during the formative stages of this scheme. RS assured the Forum that in future they will be consulted on similar schemes.

Particular concerns with the plans highlighted during the meeting were the reduced width of the road (forcing cyclists into the path of vehicles), the pinch points at the western end (creating conflict between cyclists and motorists) and the tight size of the loading bay (potentially forcing cyclists into the path of oncoming traffic as they manoeuvre around parked delivery lorries).

RB to summarise the Forum's response to RS (and others).

4. Bike Week – 13-22 June

No "bike breakfasts" this year. JD emailed the following updates:

- CGI (formerly Logica) – date set for 19th June, kick-off meeting has been held.
- Info emailed to travel contacts at KBR, Unilever and Cobham Technical Services (aka ERA).

Celebrate Cycling” on Bookham Common (free family event that aims to encourage children to cycle)

- Sunday 22nd June, most likely 10am-3pm, bit like orienteering on a bike with several trails set up around the common including a short stabiliser-friendly route around the ponds that is suitable for very young children. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Volunteers needed – 8am set-up slot (Mark out trails, set up info point etc.), rota starting 9:45 for marshals on bikes & manning info tent, 4pm onwards to tidy up & remove trails.
- Taking part: Entry info goes to families via schools and groups (Guides, Scouts etc.) Contact me if you know a school/group that will coordinate for us. Prefer to know how many to expect. After the event the children take their collecting cards back to their school/group to get their certificates. (I send out a PowerPoint template). Possible to turn up on the day, but better if the schools/groups are involved to make sure that parents are involved and the children’s participation gets celebrated properly.

5. Route development updates

Randalls Road: No updates.

Safe Routes to Schools (Howard of Effingham, Therfield): Nothing to report.

NCR22 / Dorking-Westcott link: Nothing to report.

RB to circulate the stats from the bike counter installed by Alan Fordham.

Safe Routes to School through Dorking: A suggested route (going around the back of the football ground) was investigated.

RB to check whether this has been documented and forwarded to relevant parties.

Dorking southbound: No progress to report.

Holmwood circular trail: PS reported that phase 2 (bringing the remaining sections of the route up to standard) is scheduled to start in July. The signposting work is underway (the circular trail is indicated by orange signs).

Brockham-Betchworth route: RT has been unable to contact Clare Saunders for an update.

6. Other matters

“No cycling” signs near Deepdene roundabout: (See letter in this week’s Dorking Advertiser). Disappointment was expressed that the Forum was not consulted on this first.

Cycle path signage audit: This is ongoing. RT and RB are still doing Dorking. Peter Meyer (PM) and Mike Ward (MW) have nearly finished Leatherhead.

MVCF Website: Nothing to report.

7. AOB

None.

8. Next Meetings

Next formal meeting is **7:00pm, Thurs 10th July** in the Council Chamber, MVDC, Pippbrook. (RS to confirm).

Next informal meeting is **7:30pm, Thurs 12th June** (venue to be decided).