

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday May 16th 2019 Committee Room 2, MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Ron Billard (RB) [Chair], Eric Palmer (EP) [Leatherhead], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Kevin Stroud (KS) [Dorking], Peter Ansell (PA) [British Cycling], Rod Shaw (RS) [MVDC], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary]

Apologies: Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Penny Tyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society, Newdigate], Sergio Conti & Lisa Scott [Hookwood/Charlwood], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

RB to approach Surrey Highways regarding the possible inclusion of a cycle lane through cross-hatching on the A25 between the Watermill PH and the Wyevale Garden Centre (c/f).

3. Route Development Updates (Nothing to report unless recorded below.)

RS indicated that the Local Plan is now unlikely to be published until the autumn. This will include housing allocations and by implication, highways estimates of traffic generation.

RT noted that the Mole Valley Draft Updated Local Transport Strategy Forward Programme was presented at the February Local Committee. This includes a large number of cycle scheme, some with estimated costings – see <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s55253/Annex%201%20-%20Revised%20Forward%20Programme.pdf>

Leatherhead area

PM attended the Leatherhead High Street Focus Group meeting on behalf of the Forum. JD also attended representing the business park angle. She also took this opportunity to raise some ideas to improve cycle routes in the town bridge area.

According to RS the consultants' initial design ideas will be presented to a further meeting in due course.

Following confirmation that the school is to be rebuilt, a review of the Howard of Effingham routes is urgently needed. **RB** to email Clare Curran about arranging a site meeting to involve the relevant Highways Officer together with both RB & JD.

Dorking area

There was concern that at the Local Committee concern had been expressed about cyclists on the A24 and at the same time there had been a request for "Cyclists Dismount" signs in the subway by Westhumble St. Whilst these are actually only advisory, they can be interpreted as mandatory by some members of the public, which can lead to conflict. Signs along the lines of "Please cycle courteously and give priority to pedestrians" might be better.

Dorking Southbound:

RB to complete the report being prepared [c/f]- this will require another site visit as there have been some changes. This scheme (DW1) is in the Mole Valley Local Transport Strategy Forward Programme (see above).

Dorking centre – Meadowbank links:

The comment was made that the path along the northern side of the football ground could have been made wider. Even though a colony of slow worms has been identified to the west of the football ground, there should still be scope to improve the route through to North Street

Trig Street, Newdigate (upgrade of footpath to multi-user route suitable for horses, cycles etc)

PT-D reported prior to the meeting that sites meetings had been held with the manager of the brickworks (Ibstock) and the area land agent and everyone was keen for this to proceed. The proposal has the support of the Parish Council and many people in the village as well. At the eastern end, the route would start by the Bowls Club, and at come out at the western end behind Kettles Cottages. In time this could potentially link up to the Dorking Southbound scheme when this is extended to Beare Green. Ibstock have offered to stockpile and supply hardcore for the track, it would then be up to the Parish Council to engage a suitable contractor. There is also the issue of financing this and a number of possibilities are being explored. Any assistance would be very welcome!

Cycling Parking Provision

It has been noticed that some of the cycle racks in Dorking are being quite heavily used at times (notable by St Martins Walk and outside Waitrose). St Martins Walk itself has some "wheelbender" racks which rarely get used. Dorking Hospital, surprisingly, has no provision for cycle parking.

4. Police Issues; Road Casualties

Cycling Incidents:

MV RTC stats involving cyclists: 21/02/2019 – 16/05/2019	
MILL WAY HEADLEY 21/02/19 16:46	SINGLE CYCLIST COME OFF MINOR INJURY AMBULANCE CALLED
FLANCHFORD RD LEIGH 05/03/19 15:36	CAR V PUSHBIKE SERIOUS INJURY TAKEN TO HOSPITAL
ZIG ZAG RD BOX_HILL 01/05/19 10:15	CYCLIST HIT POST NO APPARENT INJURY
ST JOHNS RD LEATHERHEAD 02/05/19 09:47	CYCLIST V CAR MINOR INJURY
LOWER RD GREAT_BOOKHAM 14/03/19 18:10	CYCLIST LOST BALANCE AND FELL OF HIS BIKE NO INJURY TRIED TO AVOID CAR
COLDHARBOUR LN NORTH_HOLMWOOD 21/04/19 11:55	COME OFF HIS PUSH BIKE TO SWERVE CAR TAKEN TO HOSPITAL BY AMBULANCE
OUTSIDE OF LEATHERHEAD LEISURE CENTRE 07/05/19 08:40	CAR VS CYCLIST SLIGHT INJURY
HEATH RSE WESTCOTT 21/04/19 13:54	FALLEN OFF HIS BIKE ONTO A ROAD INJURY TO LEG TAKEN TO HOSPITAL NY AMBULANCE – LOOKS LIKE OF ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKING ACCIDENT

This list covers approx. 3 months since the last report. The number is encouragingly small. (NB. It only covers incidents where the police were involved.)

RB to put in a Fol request to establish the rates of prosecution, if any, resulting from cars hitting cyclists. [c/f]

5. Cycling Issues: Road Racing/Sportives/Off-Road

PA reported that this year's race season had run into a number of unforeseen issues such as road works, leading to some races having to be cancelled. Also several unofficial cycling events are being held which are not notified to British Cycling nor to Surrey County Council and hence will not appear on the SCC web page.

6. MVCF Communications

The website is currently hosted by SurreyCommunities.info and we have recently been notified that this facility will be withdrawn early next year. RT is looking into alternative services.

7. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be on **Thurs 22nd August 2019 at 7.00pm** in Committee Room 2, MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking.

The next informal meeting will be on **Thursday 25th July** from **7.30pm** in **The Stepping Stones, Westhumble**

8. AOB

JD noted that the Parliamentary Transport Committee is currently focussing on Active Travel Plans and is questioning local authorities on their ambitions.

BellLane/School Lane, Fetcham – traffic calming scheme involving road tables. MVCF has been approached for comment. This was briefly discussed – our main concerns being the impact on cyclists, in particular the steepness of the road table and the drainage in the immediate vicinity. **RB** to respond to Surrey Highways on behalf of the Forum.