

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday August 22nd 2019

Committee Room 2, MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Scott Williams , Peter Ansell (PA) [British Cycling], Rod Shaw (RS) [MVDC], Eric Palmer (EP) [Leatherhead], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary, Acting Chair]

Apologies: Ron Billard (RB) [Chair], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

At the last meeting RT mentioned the worn on-highway cycle signs in North Street (Dorking) which occasionally results in conflict with pedestrians/vehicle drivers claiming it is a one-way street. RT has recently reported this issue to Surrey Highways.

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).

RB to email Clare Curran about arranging a site meeting to discuss Howard of Effingham Routes to include the relevant Highways Officer together with both RB & JD.

RB to respond to Surrey Highways on behalf of the Forum regarding our concerns about the proposed Bell Lane/School Lane (Fetcham) – traffic calming scheme involving road tables.

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

Leatherhead area

Transform Leatherhead – the recent survey resulted in around a 50:50 split on whether cycling should be permitted in an otherwise traffic-free High Street. In the longer term North Street and Bridge Street are likely to become one-way (it is not clear whether contra-flow cycling might be permitted). Details of the public consultation and maps of the options can be found at <http://transformleatherhead.com/transport/>

RT mentioned a recently published TfL document on the economic benefits of walking and cycling which includes the high street. This can be found at <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/economic-benefits-of-walking-and-cycling> (see summary pack).

Dorking area

RT raised a question at the June Local Committee meeting requesting that “Cyclists Dismount” signs not be installed in the subway by Westhumble St. as this might be counterproductive. The response received specified height and length of the subway as being the primary reasons, although RT felt that this was based on out-of-date guidance and raised a supplementary question (awaiting response). (NB. since the meeting a site visit has confirmed that signage has been put up.)

Dorking Southbound:

RB to complete the report being prepared [c/f] - this will require another site visit as there have been some changes.

SW provided a number of updates:

Whilst Spook Hill – South Holmwood has been recorded as completed, in practice it isn't; the surface is still bad and is continuing to deteriorate and now bracken is overhanging the route. It is particularly difficult for small-wheeled mobility scooters to navigate. On a positive note, BT have replaced a couple of their access covers. Between the South Holmwood subway and Beare Green there is a tree/hedge overgrowing the route which is now quite hazardous. The NT denies it is their responsibility. RT recommended reporting this to Surrey Highways. SW considers the £20K to complete the section between Beare Green and Henfold Lane is an underestimate. Cllr Caroline Salmon is currently consulting with local people.

SW queried whether there were any plans for upgrading the footway alongside Deepdene Avenue between the North Holmwood and Cockerell roundabouts to shared use given that dropped kerbs have recently been installed at the northern end, although this is more likely for DDA reasons. Issues to do with upgrading were discussed.

Dorking centre – Meadowbank links:

RT had queried whether the new district council administration might be more amenable to cycling given their recent support for a climate emergency motion. Whilst most cycling infrastructure is the responsibility of Surrey Highways, cycling through Meadowbank (which is owned by MVDC) could enable cross-town links to be improved. The path along the northern side of the football ground could be made wider and there could be scope to improve the route through to North Street, along the western edge outside the football ground.

(Old) London Road – Deepdene Avenue Segregated Route Changes

RB had raised this. It appears that the pedestrian and cycle sections have been swapped. The reason for this is unclear although RS suggested that this was to avoid conflict where the cycle route passed the Toucan crossing. It was suggested that if this is a significant issue, RB could put this as a question to the next Local Committee.

Proposed Off-Road Family Friendly Coldharbour to Denbies Route

RS advised that a group including the Surrey Hills AONB were preparing a bid to develop this route which would be eligible for 100% funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. EP was concerned that this might spoil existing MTB routes, otherwise the Forum was in favour of supporting this bid.

RT to write to Rob Fairbanks expressing the support of the Forum in developing this route.

A map showing the proposed route is now available at <https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/denbiestocoldharbour>

4. Police Issues; Road Casualties

Cycling Incidents:

MV RTC stats involving cyclists since – 17/05/2019 – 22/08/2019	
CLAY LN HEADLEY 25/05/19 15:40	MALE HAS FALLEN OFF PUSH BIKE. GRAZE TO ELBOW HE HAD HIT A POTHOLE
LOWER RD GREAT BOOKHAM 21/06/19 20:37	CYCLIST SCRAPED ALONG THE SIDE OF CAR REFUSED TO STOP AND GIVE DETAILS /ALCOHOL BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED
COAST HILL WOTTON 04/08/19 13:24	RIDER DOWN NOT SERIOUS BUT WILL REQUIRE DENTAL WORK AND STITCHES TO CHIN
B2209 MICKLEHAM 04/08/19 13:	RIDER DOWN MINOR FACIAL INJURY
BROOK WAY LEATHERHEAD 12/08/19 14:38	BICYCLE V CAR FEMALE ON BICYCLE WALKED OFF LEFT BICYCLE AT LOCATION UNLIKELY ANY INJURIES.
BULL HILL LEATHERHEAD 13/08/19 17:53	VEH VS BICYCLE MALE WAS KNOCKED OFF HIS BIYCLE / NO FURTHER INFO
HOLMESDALE RD NORTH HOLMWOOD 15/08/19 17:27	MOTORBIKE VS CYCLIST. CYCLIST TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. BROKEN FINGERS AND POSS CHEEKBONE
PARTRIDGE LN NEWDIGATE 17/08/19 12:01	X4 CYCLISTS INJURED / FALLEN FROM PEDAL CYCLE AND SUFFERED INJURIES TAKEN TO HOSPITAL / REPORT SAYS OIL ON THE ROAD.

This list covers approx. 3 months since the last report. The number is encouragingly low - until August. (NB. It only covers incidents reported to the police.) EP felt that these incident reports were of no value. It was suggested that it might be better to use CrashMap (<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/>), though here the latest data is always several months behind.

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 commented that roadworks website information can be fairly poor, which has resulted in some races having to be cancelled, although not in Mole Valley. They have started planning for 2020 using the same criteria as in the past – not running too many races in the same area in consecutive weeks. PA also noted that sportifs are on the decrease with many of the smaller ones not being run. Entries in cycle races are also on the decline – apparently in favour of cycling at home in front of a screen!

6. MVCF Communications

As reported at the last meeting, the website currently hosted by SurreyCommunities.info will be closing early next year. RT has been looking into alternative free services. This may result in not being able to retain the domain name (other than as a redirection page). RS queried the annual cost of a website (approx. £30) and asked if perhaps a local cycle shop might be prepared to sponsor it in return for some advertising.

7. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum (which will also include the AGM) will be on **Thurs 24th November 2019 at 7.00pm** in Committee Room 2, MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking.

The next informal meeting will be **Thursday 17th October** from **7.30pm** in **The Stepping Stones, Westhumble**

8. AOB

RT queried who was now responsible for cycle counter data collection since Becky Willson had left. RS suggested it might be Rights of Way, and to contact Claire Saunders.

EP recapped some issues he had raised in the past. It was suggested that he should report these to Surrey Highways via the SCC website.