

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday February 4th 2021 Held Online using Zoom

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Ron Billard (RB) [Dorking], Barbara & Rob Bringham (BB) [Dorking], Rod Shaw (RS) [MVDC], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Penny Tyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham], Lisa Scott [Hookwood/Charlwood]

Apologies:

Kevin Stroud (KS) [Dorking]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed (although apologies to Andy Tanner for omitting his presence at the meeting, particularly as he had set up the Zoom event).

2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

Regarding the current status of the 2014 Mole Valley Cycling Plan (still accessible online at <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s16038/10%2009%2014%20ITEM%2012%20MV%20Cycling%20Plan%202014%20annex%201.pdf>), RS reported back that Lucy O'Connell who helped develop this now works in a different area, and it is thought that the plan may no longer have any status, as it is not up-to-date and in any event would be overtaken any future LCWIP. RS then outlined how the Local Plan fits into Future Mole Valley (see <https://futuremolevalley.org/>), and of particular relevance is the Infrastructure Delivery Plan at <https://molevalley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/IDP%20December%202019%20V5.pdf> which encompasses cycling and walking. Consultation on the next iteration of the Local Plan is heavily dependent upon when the next Local Government elections take place.

JD raised this issue of the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which the Government is currently consulting on, although RS thought that this was unlikely to have any significant impact.

JD raised the opportunities by opening up greenways through Norbury Park. RS understood that since the management of Norbury Park has returned to SCC, they were reviewing the opportunities this might open up. AB mentioned the Cycling UK website <https://www.cyclinguk.org/missinglinks> where tracks can be added. It was also pointed out that the British Horse Society and Ramblers were also putting resources into recording old paths and tracks.

Since the last meeting RB had been in touch with Tim Hall who has responded that the County Councillors do have the facility to help fund local community organisations. JA asked attendees to feed ideas in to RT so that we could work with CB to put together a budget over and above that needed to fund the website/domain name. JD raised the possibility of covering Public Liability insurance for running a cycling event on Bookham Common outside of Bike Week (30 May – 5 June this year). **JA offered to find out more about Bike Week and the issue of Liability Insurance.**

CB proposed a motion to change the signatories on our NatWest bank account to take account of the change of Chair. This was seconded by JD and was passed unopposed.

Regarding the proposed setting up of a Facebook page – RB and JD reported that no progress has been made, although AM may be able to assist.

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

Bookham/Effingham area, including Safe Routes to Howard of Effingham School

JD's paper is still a work in progress and will probably need to be taken back to the Residents Association to review. Given the length, it is likely that a summary version will also be produced.

Leatherhead/Ashted Area

PM raised the news that Unilever was leaving the business park in Leatherhead and the opportunities that this might bring if the location were to be converted to housing. It was felt that this was more of a planning issue and MV policy is to protect areas of employment. It was also pointed out that any change of use of an office building would not bring any CIL with it.

Dorking Southbound

Whilst not currently part of the route (although on our list of priorities) it was reported that as well as the re-widening work, some resurfacing of the footway alongside the A24 from the Cockerel roundabout to the junction with Chart Lane South has been done. The footway from Chart Lane South to the North Holmwood roundabout still needs attention but it is understood that all budgeted funds for this have been expended.

Dorking centre – Meadowbank links

RS reported that funding has been identified and work was in progress to improve the Archway Place footpath. Whilst the track along the northern side of the stadium could be widened (the land is owned by MVDC) it would not

lead anywhere as the Archway Place footpath is steep and narrow and creating a new route to the west of the stadium is unlikely to be possible as this area of wasteland is a nature reserve!

BB asked about the possibility of a 20mph speed limit through Dorking. RS pointed out that the Police would be unlikely to support this as there would be issues of enforcement.

Trig Street

PT-D reported that funding from Capel and Newdigate Parish Councils was available and that the landowner, Ibstock, was supportive. Mary-Ann Edwards from SCC's Rights of Way department would like to do it, but does not have the staff resource to manage the implementation. There is a potential change at the western end over land thought to be owned by Surrey Highways. *PT-D agreed that the map of the proposed route needs updating to reflect this.*

PT-D also mentioned another potential new bridleway route around Ewhurst brickworks which would take people off the road in the vicinity of the brickworks.

PT-D mentioned the Surrey Hills website <https://www.surreyhills.org/discover/horse-riding/> has routes suitable for off-road cycling.

4. Active Travel Initiatives

AB gave an update of the current situation on Bikeability training which will hopefully restart in schools in early March. AB confirmed that L2 can include roundabouts and crossroads if they are in the locality. Encouragingly, since the first lockdown, children are very much more on board with cycling.

5. Police Issues; Road Casualties

Nothing to report.

6. Cycling Issues: Road Racing/Sportives/Off-Road; Road Closures

Nothing to report.

7. Review Cycle Route Priorities

Given the time constraints, JA suggested that rather than discuss this now, the next informal meeting should focus on this review. With the assistance of RS, RT has proposed additional benefits that could be used to mark routes against. JA suggested LCWIP* criteria should also be used if we can identify them.

In the meantime **ALL** to review the current Cycle Route Priorities (see <https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/cyclepriorities2018>)

JA asked RS who the likely LCWIP stakeholders would be as it could help if the Forum could prepare by doing some "homework". RS suggested that he was aware of a recent meeting of MVDC Officers with a Surrey Highways team and that he might know a bit more next week.

Post meeting note: Some promising news – we understand that a LCWIP is being planned for Mole Valley with a start, hopefully, later this year.

* LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans – for more information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools>

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7pm** on **Thursday 13th May 2021**, most likely online again.

The date set for the next informal meeting was **Thursday 25th March 2021** from **7.30pm** at which we will focus on reviewing our list of Cycle Route Priorities.

Details for both meetings will be sent out nearer to the time.

9. AOB

RS is expecting to retire early summer and will endeavour to find out who will replace him as liaison with MVCF.

JA did ask for any suggestions as to a question that could be taken to the next Mole Valley Local Committee. RT suggested that as Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told parliament's transport committee on 3 February that "We want half of all journeys and towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030" we might ask how this is going to be achieved in Mole Valley.