Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday May 20th 2021 Held Online using Zoom

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Thomas Harrington [Dorking], Kevin Stroud (KS) [Dorking], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Corinna Osborne Patterson (CO-P) [Newdigate], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood]

Apologies:

Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Ron Billard (RB) [Dorking], Barbara & Rob Brigham (BB) [Dorking], Penny Tyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham], Eric Palmer [L'head]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

JA has been investigating Bike Week type insurance and identified Cycling UK insurance for affiliated organisations at a cost of \pounds 82 a year for group membership. JD pointed out that this does not cover children under 13 which was the target age group for the Bookham Common event. She may be able to persuade her employer to fund the necessary insurance as a charitable contribution. **JD** to follow up.

Following the last meeting, PT-D provided an updated version of the Trig St proposal including a map showing the revised route. JA and RT had visited the site with CO-P. JA asked whether the Newdigate brickworks (Ibstock) would be prepared to fund any of the Trig St proposal. *CO-P to query with PT-D*. However the issue may be more getting all parties on board, from the Parish Council through to SCC's Rights of Way department who, whilst supportive, do not have the resource to manage this type of project through to delivery.

The presentation on Greenways which was given by Keiran Foster at the March informal meeting is available on our website at: https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/surrey-strategic-greenways

Following the news that Rod Shaw (MVDC) is due to retire at the end of May, we need to establish who will replace him as liaison with MVCF. JA has spoken with Cllr David Draper who will raise it during a Council meeting next week. CO-P also offered to raise the issue with her contacts.

3. What are the barriers to sustainable transport in Dorking?

Thomas Harrington, a student at Priory School, introduced the report he had written as part of his A-level Geography course having carried out research into this topic, which has particular relevance to cycling. He has been generous enough to share his report (see: https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/barriers-to-sustainable-transp) along with the questionnaires used and the results he obtained (which are far superior to anything the Forum has been able to achieve up until now!). Not surprisingly the main barrier is the lack of safe routes, and where there are decent cycle tracks, they stop short of the town. Experience elsewhere is that spending money on the right infrastructure does increase the number of people cycling.

4. Review Cycle Route Priorities

The revisions are here <u>https://mvcf.org.uk/schemes/priorities-review/</u> - this is yet to be completed, as further input is still awaited and we also need to include benefits and other criteria.

It was suggested that it might be helpful to indicate the routes on a map. *RT* to look at if/how this can be easily achieved without duplicating the existing mapping of Surrey Cycling Infrastructure (see https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/cycling-and-walking/cycle-network) and their Cycle Facility Map at: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/cycling-and-walking/cycle-network) and their Cycle Facility Map at: https://www.surreycc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=0bb83cc10dd7498d9dbeae416f8c6524

On this map click on E for the Legend and for Layers (eg. tick for Suggested route infrastructure)

Here is a summary of the LCWIP* process as received from SCC:

Working together with officers from MVDC they are currently preparing the way for commencing the LCWIP for Mole Valley with a provisional start date of August this year. A proposal for this work is being drafted by their framework contracted consultant (Atkins) that follows the DfT guidance (see below) and stepped process for developing the LCWIP. Early engagement with key stakeholders is built into this process as a 2 stage activity. A first series of stakeholder workshops is designed to capture feedback in the early development of route and network options for the walk/cycle plans. A second series of workshops then follows later in the process after the LCWIP route audits and prioritisation work has been completed. They expect to make further contact with us as part of this engagement work to invite representation from MVCF, alongside other active travel user/stakeholder groups. The LCWIP itself will take approx. 6 months to complete. More detail including a programme of work will be available later when they commence the work in August.

JA to write to Neil McClure to seek guidance on how we can usefully prepare for engagement.

* 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

5. Route Development Updates

Nothing to report

6. Active Travel Initiatives

Nothing to report

8. Police Issues; Road Casualties

Nothing to report.

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

AM raised an issue with a group of older off-road mountain bikers creating trails in Norbury Park, felling trees and creating jumps which could easily be very hazardous to other cyclists or walkers unaware of the terrain. This has been raised with PC Hench as a public safety issue, and AM asked what the Forum might be able to do. The responsibility ultimately lies with the landowner, which in the case of Norbury Park is SCC. The first step we felt was to notify Rob Fairbanks (Director, Surrey Hills AONB). **RT** has provided AM with contact details for Rob Fairbanks for **AM** to notify.

Dorking BMX Track Proposals

This has come to the fore again following MVDC's Ranmore BMX Park consultation which runs until 24th May (see https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/bmxranmore) JA has been invited to appear on BBC Radio Surrey on Sat 22nd May (see: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09h8cfx – available for 28 days – at 1h10min in). LS has drafted a number of points and will liaise with JA on a revised response from the Forum (now available at https://mvcf.org.uk/mvcf/assets/documents/ranmore)

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7pm** on **Thursday 30th September**. Whilst it should be possible to hold this face-to-face, this will depend on a suitable venue being available.

The next informal meeting will be on **Thursday 15 July 2021** from **7.30pm**, possibly outdoors, eg. Denbies. Further details for both meetings will be sent out nearer to the time.

9. AOB

A "Long Service Award" certificate recognising Rod Shaw's contribution to the Forum over the years will be forwarded on to him at MVDC.

For information - the cycle track along the Mickleham bypass has made it onto the shortlist for potentially bringing up to modern standards.

Also for information, Bike Week is 30 May - 5 June this year, although under the current circumstances we felt it wise not to try and organise anything ourselves.