

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday May 16th 2024 Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], Cllr Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham/Leatherhead], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead]

Apologies:

Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], Cllr Rosemary Hobbs [Holmwoods], Corinna Osborne-Patterson [Newdigate], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association], Ian Fonant [Bookham], Penny Church [Bookham]

1. Previous Minutes

EP expressed his concerns about the wording “belatedly” regarding the submission of his (20+) issues raised before the previous meeting (the notes actually reported that LS endeavoured to cover some of the points where they were not covered within the agenda). Otherwise no comments on the minutes had been received.

2. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions from previous meetings not covered elsewhere

JA has received the MVCF Banking file from the previous Treasurer, Colin Brewer. The account balance is £225.82, including the grant of £200 from the Surrey Climate Commission for the BMX Track signage etc. The next step will be to review the Universal Mandate and update the signatories. The Secretary (Roger Troughton) is already a signatory. It remains to add the new Treasurer (John Arnold) and the Chair (Lisa Scott). *Action JA.*

RT to contact MVDC’s Luke Dickson to confirm that he is still our contact within MVDC. His reply was that, he did not believe there is a designated Council contact point for the Cycle Forum. However, as a planning policy officer, he has been involved with work on the LCWIP and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and if we had any queries he would endeavour to help (and subsequently provided an update on the LCWIP – see below).

JA & RT attended the Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan online workshop on Thurs 21 March.

At a recent meeting LS asked EP to list locations of good and bad examples of resurfacing in the District, however, as no specific locations have been provided, this action will be discharged.

RT had an action to email District Councillors to make them aware of the Forum. AM has suggested that we approach either the leader of the Council, Cllr Stephen Cooksey and/or the Chief Executive, Karen Brimacombe, for a 10-15min slot at a full Council Meeting after the Local Elections (C/F). More recently AM has established that the Forum is not on the official list of outside organisations that the council appoints members to. We are currently going through the process to request that the Forum be added to the list of organisations that the council supports such that a council member can be appointed to the Cycling Forum. In due course this should formalise AM’s attendance.

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Luke Dickson (see above) kindly provided an update: “The feasibility stage has just kicked off... the first tasks will be a review of the initial proposals outlined in the LCWIP report, the collection of data and survey work.”

RW also provided the following update by email which included an email from SCC’s Neil McClure including the following note: “... we are ready now to commence the Mole Valley LCWIP stage 2 feasibility design/development having agreed final scope etc with Atkins and colleagues at MVDC. We have an internal project inception meeting scheduled in for next week to set things off.” Meanwhile RT has emailed Neil McClure on behalf of the Forum to ask if he would attend a meeting of the Forum, or set up a virtual meeting. Whilst a response is still awaited, this looks to be a timely contact. It would be useful to have confirmation of the routes selected.

Meanwhile we need to collect a wish list of projects we would like to see added to the LCWIP (eg. see Givons Grove below).

4. Gatwick DCO (Development Consent Order) Consultation

The Examining Authority had asked for revised maps for walking and cycling to be made available and these were produced. LS has asked questions about cycling access from Charlwood, as the current plans indicate that some of this has been removed. There is a further Issue Specific Hearing which will include Surface Access Commitments scheduled for Tues 18 & Wed 19 June.

5. BMX Track

Unsurprisingly the recent weather has caused significant foliage which needs addressing. LS is working on getting a formalised agreement back to Cllr Wright

6. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

- Givons Grove to Mickleham

EP has a proposal to improve the existing south-bound cycle track. (This item will be included on future agendas for monitoring.) EP noted that at the Mickleham end, vehicles regularly block the cycle track. It was suggested that EP contact SCC's parking enforcement team (see "Reporting illegal and inconsiderate parking" at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/parking-and-permits/enforcement-and-fines>)

Effingham - Howard of Effingham Plans

At the last meeting JD noted that as the case has gone to appeal, we need to resubmit our previous concerns. RT has located these but has been unable to identify where to send them. **RT to contact JD before resubmitting.**

Polesden Lacey Routes

RT received a response from Polesden Lacey: "Improving access to our property is a long-term goal and will certainly form part of our future infrastructure improvements plans, however, at the current time, no firm plans are in the pipeline." They are happy to meet and listen to our ideas. We need to identify Forum members to lead on this. AB volunteers there and travels there by bicycle, and agreed to make informal contact.

Dorking Area:

- A25 Safety Improvements

No further news yet, the public consultation on the proposals is due June/July time.

- Meadowbank links

RT to contact Cllr Nick Wright with the story so far.

Trig Street

LS has included this in the "wish list" for the Gatwick DCO as part of repairing broken pavements and resurfacing of bridleways and footpaths in the area.

Hookwood/Charlwood Area

The LCWIP proposals for this area were removed, but with the new housing plans, will now need to move up the priority list.

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

Nothing to report.

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be in the MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking in Committee Room 1 (TBC), at **7.00pm on Thursday 11th July 2024.**

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 13th June.**

9. AOB

Items raised by Eric Palmer

The meeting reviewed some of the points that EP had put forward previously (where not covered above). Unfortunately EP had had to leave the meeting before we reached this point in the meeting.

Invitation to Dorking & Bookham Masterplans - Online Workshop: Thurs 30th May 1.00 pm

The purpose of the masterplan for Dorking is to identify improvements to the town centre and links to the stations. The masterplan will consider aspects such as: improving the quality of streets and public spaces, reusing vacant buildings, redeveloping opportunity sites, encouraging walking and cycling, reducing the impact of traffic, improving accessibility, and better connecting the railway stations.

In Bookham the masterplan will focus on the High Street and selected sites in the wider area. It will consider aspects such as: improving the quality of the public realm, encouraging walking and cycling, and redeveloping or enhancing selected sites.

If you wish to receive a copy of the invite, please contact the Secretary.

The usual reminder that AM has set up a Facebook page for MVCF- <https://www.facebook.com/Mole-Valley-Cycle-Forum-113318514186934> and is after suggestions and contributions to help populate these pages. If you can assist, please contact the Secretary, who will forward them on to AM.