

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday August 1st 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], Ian Fonant [Bookham], John Meudell (JM) [Dorking] Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

Apologies:

PennyTyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/ Newdigate], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham/Leatherhead]

1. Previous Minutes

No comments on the minutes had been received.

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

JA is in the process of getting the signatories updated on the MVCF Bank Account to include LS & JA. Following representations, the Forum is now on the official list of outside organisations that the council recognises, and AM has been appointed as the Council's representative. Theoretically this also means we are eligible for Officer support.

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Luke Dickson (MVDC) kindly provided the following update:

"Atkins have been carrying out the baseline assessment. They reviewed the existing concept proposals in the LCWIP report against the new Active Travel England assessment tool that is used to assess funding eligibility. They have carried out a detailed width check, a safety (critical) check and a look at deliverability risks and are currently going through this with SCC and MVDC."

Meanwhile, RW has been provided with a (redacted) copy of the Mole Valley LCWIP Feasibility Design. This confirms that the Fetcham Springs spur has been included. There are concerns that limited, if any, use is being made of local knowledge which is likely to lead to poor decision making and potentially costly mistakes. For example, the routes proposed need proper options analysis.

The Fetcham Residents Association is pressing for better direct engagement on planning matters.

Generally engagement between the Council and residents is perceived as lacking.

JD asked if we could write to Active Travel England, as they will be providing significant funding for any schemes.

Action: The Forum needs to make its voice heard, although it may need some advice on how best to achieve this in order to add value and save money on the LCWIP plans.

It was pointed out that as MVDC is contributing £128K to the Atkins, it should have some say on this money being effectively spent.

Meanwhile it was suggested that we request another "Cycle-About" on the priority routes.

AM to contact MVDC's Luke Dickson to discuss these issues.

4. Revised Surrey Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy

https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s97927/Vision%20Zero%20Road%20Safety%20Strategy_draft%20Cabinet%20report%2023.07.24.pdf – The Draft Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy and the Updated 20 mph speed limit policy have recently both been approved by SCC's Cabinet.

JM pointed out that there is an issue with how Road Safety Audits are carried out in Surrey.

5. Gatwick DCO (Development Consent Order) Consultation

LS has continued to attend Issue Specific Hearings, primarily on behalf of Charlwood Parish Council. These have included further Surface Access Sessions in the past week.

6. BMX Track

LS is yet to follow up on the formalised agreement. Meanwhile the surface is starting to look quite poor.

JM commented that when the track was first set up, a significant grant was obtained from SITA.

7. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

- Givons Grove to Mickleham

EP has provided a copy of his proposal, which needs some work to make it suitable for distribution (eg. it is too big to email – which could be addressed by compressing the images used).

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

AB has reported by email that she had spoken to the General Manager who was able to say that whilst they have plans to improve the car parking in October they had not thought about cycling. So following their conversation they will hopefully now include more safe cycling facilities for people to leave their bikes whilst visiting. Whilst they currently have not got any further plans going forward, they always welcome cyclists. AB will try and keep the conversation going and hopefully we will see some improvements in October.

RT to forward a copy of the earlier response received from the Polesden Lacey office to JD.

Dorking Area:

- A25 Safety Improvements

The current details can be found here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/a25-dorking-to-reigate-road-safety-improvements-scheme> Refer to the Schemes status table for progress.

- Meadowbank links

RT to contact Cllr Nick Wright with the story so far.[C/F]

Trig Street

PT-D provided an update via email:

The good news is that all the legal and safety checks have now been completed and the work is ready to start. The bad news is that before it starts, money needs to be raised for the surfacing of the path to make it usable for cyclists and walkers. The amount needed is in the range of £40,000 - £50,000 (maybe a bit more). PT-D has received pledges in the region of £20,000 plus. However, as not a fund-raiser and unclear about raising so much money, she has now passed the responsibility for the project to Newdigate PC who are liaising with Capel PC.

Hookwood/Charlwood Area

The new housing plans have been approved on appeal, so it needs to be fed back in to the LCWIP.

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

Nothing to report.

9. 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 14th November 2024**. This will also include the AGM.

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 26th September**.

10. AOB

A25 Sondes Place Farm

LS tabled a copy of the plans, further details available at https://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/new-homes/dorking/sondes-place-farm?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2Gcbrexo-BLku2De3gXgqnNydPZiaxhME74uTej-PZRFgk3ABij4Mx-cw_aem_7GptiHLKJUJhmbYFcdhulQ

The public consultation period ends at midnight on Monday 5th August, however, there will be a meeting with residents and interested parties on 5th September.

Post Meeting Note: LS has fed back the points raised during the meeting and these have been acknowledged. At least two of the points (including a Toucan crossing over the A25) are already in the plans.

Items raised by Eric Palmer

As EP was not present and the meeting had significantly overrun, there was no opportunity to review these further.

Dorking & Bookham Masterplans – Nothing further has been heard since the online workshop in May.

JM reported a surface issue in Chessington Road which AM offered to report to Surrey Highways.

Recently RT reported an issue with a bush significantly overhanging the shared route NW of the Burford Bridge roundabout, which was addressed within 4 working days which confirms that reporting matters does work.

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.