

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday April 24th 2025

Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

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

Apologies:

Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Ian Houghton [Bookham], Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], and County Councillors Tim Hall, Hazel Watson and Helyn Clack.

1. Previous Minutes

Accepted.

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

RT to update our webpages to include contacts/reporting processes for cycling & road safety issues, together with other webpages (Cycle shops etc) which have become noticeably out of date.

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

RT had emailed Luke Dickson (MVDC) for an update, however no reply has been received to date.

RW reported that he had heard nothing from Neil McClure and the LCWIP team despite a request by MVDC local Councillor Phil Hammond back in December 2024 that SCC had a session with FRA, following a briefing for Members (SCC & MVDC Councillors) that month.

RW submitted a question to SCC Cabinet which was referred to Matt Furniss' Highways Committee on 25th February over the concerns that the LCWIP team hadn't engaged with local residents.

Matt Furniss agreed that a workshop would be held, but with still no reply from the LCWIP team, he emailed Neil McClure on 16th April, following which a Teams meeting was arranged for May 1. We need to try to push for improved stakeholder involvement (as per ATE latest Best Practice) to make best use of local knowledge now before the public consultation, which will come later. He feels the LCWIP team need to be challenged on some of their technical analysis relating to route selection. If little comes of this we need to consider writing to Active Travel England pointing out the Surrey is not engaging with stakeholders.

AB has spoken with SCC's Dave Sharpington about providing the school travel plan data to Atkins (the consultants working on the LCWIP) who said he needed to go away and do some research first.

LS to consider writing to Dave Sharpington regarding the schools in the Bookham area, ie.: Howard of Effingham, Therfield, along with: Manor House, Eastwick, Great Bookham, Polesden Lacey infants, Saint Lawrence, Oakfield.

4. BMX Track

LS to review the template contract with JA. C/F

5. Route & Infrastructure Updates (where there is anything to report)

Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

RT contacted Lisa Townsend (PCC) office to ask who should be approached re access through new East Surrey Police building complex, and received a response and passed the contact on to JD. The footway along Waterway Road has been cleared back.

- Givons Grove to Mickleham

RT reported that EP's proposals are now on our website at:

<https://mvcf.org.uk/mvcf/assets/documents/givons-grove-to-mickleham-prop>

Dorking Area:

- A25 Safety Improvements (see <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/a25-dorking-to-reigate-road-safety-improvements-scheme>)

RT to email Duncan Knox regarding progress, also noting EP's concerns about the High Containment Kerbs that have/are being installed in a number of locations and increase the risk to cyclists.

- Dorking Southbound

RT noted that the (now) shared path had recently been "sided out" down to South Holmwood. Post meeting note: this work has since continued down as far as Beare Green.

- Nower Link

RT has liaised on this proposal to allow cycle across the Nower area primarily for children attending school, with Cllr Nick Wright, MVDC Parks Officer & Cheryl Arumugum (governor at Powell Corderoy School) with responsibility for sustainability, keen to support more families to switch to sustainable / active travel.

6. Gatwick DCO

Gatwick are due to submit their responses to the Secretary of State by end of 24/04/25. When published then we can review and if necessary counter the proposals. Post-meeting note: these have now been published:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR020005/TR020005-003985-Gatwick%20Airport%20Limited%20-%20Cover%20Letter.pdf>

A quick glance through the Gatwick response indicates that there are no references to Active Travel or cycling. Earlier in April, LS had a meeting on active transport with Stuart Wingate, Gatwick CEO. It was noted that while there is decent cycle access from Crawley, there is no formal or official cycle route from Povey Cross. Stewart Wingate understood the needs and the poor quality of what was being proposed, so hopefully a positive outcome.

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, at **7.00pm on Thursday 3rd July (TBC)**.

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 22nd May**.

9. AOB

It was noted that both the Dorking and Bookham Masterplans have been signed off. These both include potential improvements for cycling.

RT had received an email from MVDC's Luke Dickson asking if the Council could include the Forum's cycle trails on the new Visit Mole Valley website, which promotes business and tourism in the district. This was agreed. RT noted that some of the links need updating (see earlier action point) first.

RW pointed out that the Transform Leatherhead proposals are incomplete and not acceptable in their current form. Built development proposals for Bull Hill were presented in some detail at the Public Consultation events in March, but not the transport arrangements. This includes proposals for cyclists and pedestrians into the development of housing / flats in Red House Park and the gyratory / one way system around it. Traffic studies were still ongoing and RW believes that there should be follow-on engagement / design panel review sessions before the "Leret Partnership's" Planning Application is submitted in the summer.

RT noted that the planning application ref: MO/2024/1228 for Land at Milton Court Lane includes a number of responses from highways responses which sound promising, as they include the proposed installation of Copenhagen crossings, which would benefit cyclists.

AM noted that he may be handing over his liaison responsibilities to another District Councillor, as his Council responsibilities are likely to change soon.

EP queried the development on the old Aviva/ Friends Provident site at Pixham. JA noted that it had been put up for sale or auction as the owners, Stonegate, had hit financial problems.