

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting/AGM, Thursday November 13th 2025 Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer; Dorking], Ian Houghton (IH) [Bookham], Cllr Bradley Nelson (BN) [Holmwoods], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Robert Whitcombe (RW) [Fetcham Residents Association (FRA)], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead]

Apologies:

Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham/Leatherhead]

1. Previous Minutes

RW had provided some clarifications to the previous minutes which have been incorporated into those available on our website at <https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/notesofmeeting20250904-rev>

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

Regarding the A24 Horsham to Dorking Corridor Feasibility Study, RT had forwarded details to BN, and subsequently submitted a response on behalf of the Forum.

3. Financial Statement and Approval of Accounts

JA presented these, which remain unchanged from last year. The current balance is £225.82, which includes a grant of £200 from the Surrey Climate Committee which is restricted to purposes related to the BMX track. LS proposed that we accept these accounts, RW seconded.

4. Voting in of Officers / Appointment of Committee

No other expressions of interest had been received, as a result the existing officers were voted in to continue for a further year: Proposer: RW / Seconder: IH

Chair – Lisa Scott,
Treasurer – John Arnold,
Secretary - Roger Troughton

5. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

AB had reported back by email that, although she had contacted Dave Sharpington to find out if travel plans for schools in the Bookham area had been provided to the LCWIP. As he did not deal with these matters, he had passed the request on, but AB had yet to hear back.

Since the last meeting, RW had received a progress update from Neil McClure on 14th October, summarised here:

Feasibility stage work is progressing to refine the scheme design and options, taking account of recent activity including the Ecology Assessment. We are currently working towards a further internal 'checkpoint'/gateway review of the draft scheme plans before the year end. As part of the LCWIP governance and process, this will include an initial report back to Council Members. After this we can share the latest draft designs with FRA in a follow up session before we then work to finalise the feasibility work stage. On current timeframes the feasibility stage for L'Hd area routes is expected to complete around March 26. Other LCWIP schemes within the Mole Valley area are a step behind, and due to complete by June 26. As discussed previously, consideration of taking schemes forward to wider public consultation and onto bids for available delivery funding would then follow into 2026/27.

Related to the next stage of scheme development/delivery, I can also advise that we are working directly with MVDC to secure strategic CIL funding contributions to support the future delivery of LCWIP schemes in this local area.

RW is pushing for key stakeholders to be involved in the review before anything goes to public consultation to help prevent schemes being put forward which are "not going to fly" with the general public and believed that this had been accepted by Neil McClure. Noting that the LCWIP team intend to report back to Council Members in one session and then hold a later session with FRA, RW would like to encourage the Council Members and the LCWIP team to include stakeholders such as FRA and MVCF at the presentation – at least as Observers, with the opportunity to provide written comments afterwards. This might avoid the need for a follow-up session and accelerate the Feasibility programme (which is already nearly a year behind schedule). RW believes such an approach would be in line with Active Travel England requirements to ensure effective stakeholder engagement, see:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67ab354a0f72884e1756aa20/ate-best-practice-guide-consultation-engagement-community.pdf> **Fetcham Spur (Shared use footpath / cycleway)**. The LCWIP team proposed an alignment for this to SES Water (Landowner) in August, but the SES Water is struggling to respond to this because they have lost key staff following their take-over by Pennon. FRA will comment, but a lack of response from SES Water will delay completion of this part of the LCWIP (had been scheduled for this autumn).

Transform Leatherhead FRA has written to SCC's Transport Development Planning team about concerns that the Public Consultation material had no satisfactory proposals for transport/ access, especially cycling / walking and received the following response from Matt Strong (Principal Transport Development Planning Officer):

"Thank you for your comments on the Leatherhead development proposals - we will take these into account when we are consulted on the forthcoming planning application for the site." He pointed out that SCC's TDP were only a consultee of the LPA (MVDC).

BN noted that improvements to NCR22 are being proposed as part of new housing developments along Milton Court Lane. BN also mentioned that Local Streets Improvement Plans (LSIPs) are being proposed for 20 areas in Mole Valley – these will help to deliver LTP4 objectives that bring improvements for pedestrians and cyclists and to the public realm.

4. BMX Track

LS is in the progress of reviewing the contract – this needs to be completed before the Local Govt reorganisation to prevent the land being earmarked for other purposes. Whilst generally the site is in good condition, there is still work to be done - RT has asked MVDC's Alex Bagnell if the Friends of Deepdene would be available to carry out another clearance session in the coming months before the bird-nesting season starts.

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

Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

- Givons Grove to Mickleham

At the previous meeting John Meudell reported that he had submitted an FoI request asking the reasons why the cycle track within the central reservation had recently been cleared, to which the response had been that the work was part of cyclical highway maintenance to preserve the existing infrastructure.

Dorking Area:

- A25 Safety Improvements - see <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/a25-dorking-to-reigate-road-safety-improvements-scheme>, which indicates no further progress at present.

EP has been in touch with Surrey Highways regarding the implications for cyclists should an overtaking vehicle lose control where High Containment Kerbs have been installed. It was suggested that as these are installed nationally, it is more appropriate for a national organisation such as Cycling UK to question the safety implications for cyclists, and that the original proposal to use such kerbs would presumably have followed on from research carried out by the modern day equivalent of the Transport Research Laboratory.

6. Gatwick DCO

A meeting of GATCOM (Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee) is scheduled for Nov 17th. LS will be attending. BN is a representative for MVDC, but is unable to attend.

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

There have been reports of significant track erosion in the Leith Hill area resulting from riders losing control of their e-MTB's.

8. Local Government Reorganisation and MVCF

We need to look at how we connect with the new Unitary Authority for East Surrey. This goes for a lot of similar organisations. RT suggested that perhaps we should find try and find out what other cycle campaigning groups currently exist in the East Surrey area.

Also we do not know yet the responsibilities of the strategic authority which will cover both East and West Surrey, as it is possible they may retain the responsibility for cycling infrastructure, LCWIPs etc.

BN if possible to enquire and find out what is being considered so that MVCF can provide comments.

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, at **7.00pm on Thurs 15th January 2026**. With Christmas nearly with us, it was felt best to skip the usual interim meeting.

10. AOB

In recent months EP has raised a number of issues regarding potholes and road surfaces. These are best reported via <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> where they will be forwarded on to the council responsible.

EP had also raised some concerns about some of the "build-outs" which have appeared in recent years (eg. Middle St in Brockham, and on the bridge over the railway at Westhumble). These have not been designed for cyclists to travel separately from the main flow of traffic, which may be intentional as these are not necessarily safe for cyclists. Active Travel England has guidance along with other resources here:

<https://www.activetravelengland.gov.uk/planning-active-places/traffic-calming>