

# **Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday January 15th 2026 Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking**

**Present:** Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer; Dorking], Ian Houghton (IH) [Bookham], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary; Dorking], Cllr Andrew Matthews [Bookham], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead]

## **Apologies:**

Cllr Bradley Nelson (BN) [Holmwoods], Robert Whitcombe (RW) [Fetcham Residents Association (FRA)], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

## **1. Previous Minutes**

EP expressed disquiet about the point recorded that High Containment Kerbs were to be found installed nationally. It was pointed out that guidance on their usage can be found in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and related safety standards.

*Post Meeting Note:* On reviewing the last minutes, RT noticed that EP had been omitted from the list of attendees. This omission has now been corrected.

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

Nothing to report.

## **3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

RW reported via email that Councillors were given presentations on the latest iterations in Nov / Dec, to which RAs / stakeholders were not invited. Fetcham Councillors are generally supportive whereas Ashted Councillors, he understands, are not supportive. We have not been informed of a date for any further engagement, though this was promised. There is the usual disappointment at the incredibly slow pace at which SCC and their Consultants are moving. It has been requested that BN ask Neil McClure of SCC that the presentations (not the meeting recordings) are made available for RAs/Stakeholders in accordance with Active Travel England Best Practice and the constructive engagement that we have been pursuing.

AM reported on behalf of BN the following key point from the presentation that of the 2 cycle corridors it had been agreed to advance to next stage, the focus now will be on:

Cycle Corridor 1A: Leatherhead to Great Bookham via Lower Road, as:

Cycle Corridor 5: Leatherhead to Epsom (north) has been paused from further development

AM also reported that the Fetcham RA are looking to promote their spur (shared use footpath / cycleway) link outwith the LCWIP, as a separate project using local CIL funding. The key to this will be getting SCC on board and there is a potential issue of no new projects being taken on before Local Government Reorganisation is wrapped up (vesting day is scheduled for 1/4/2027). It is understood that the landowner, Pennon (previously SES Water), is supportive.

## **4. BMX Track**

LS has almost completed the process of reviewing the contract. Whilst generally the site is in good condition, there is still work to be done - RT is liaising with MVDC's Alex Bagnell for the Friends of Deepdene to assist with another clearance session in February.

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

### Bookham/Effingham area:

It is understood that there are plans to reduce sections of Lower Road to 20mph as part of wider traffic calming schemes focusing on Church Road, High Street, and surrounding roads in the vicinity of the "squareabout".

### Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

- Givons Grove to Dorking

It was noted that the cycle tracks on both sides of the A24 have recently been swept.

### 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 had contacted SCC's Duncan Knox, who had reported back that they expect to begin engagement on the scheme soon after the local government elections in May. They are not allowed to undertake any engagement during the 6-week special period prior to the election, before which they will not be ready to proceed.

### Westcott-Dorking Shared Route (NCN 22)

Over recent years this track has deteriorated, partly caused by flooding. AM reported that a bid of £356,335 is being put forward for CIL funding to resurface the cycle route between Springfield Road, RH4 3PD and Hanover Court RH4 3EQ. *Post meeting note:* a request was received from the SCC's Rights of Way team (responsible for these works), requesting local organisations to support the proposal (copy of email from Mary-Ann Edwards, Senior

Countryside Access Officer (Maintenance & Enforcement), Surrey County Council Countryside Access has been placed in the MVCF Basecamp site). An email of endorsement has duly been sent.

#### **6. Gatwick DCO**

LS reported that a legal challenge to plans for a second operating runway at Gatwick Airport will be heard in the High Court shortly, in a hearing from 20 to 23 January 2026.

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

AM reported that the South Bookham SPACE will be hosting one of the refreshment feed stations for the long route of the Classic Surrey cycle event on Sat 9 May, which starts in Cranleigh.

Following on from the reports of significant track erosion in the Leith Hill area LS has received further correspondence. It is not obvious how we can be of assistance, as those responsible may be “off-radar”. The reports that the Summer Lightning Trail is closed may not be correct as JA has ridden it fairly regularly recently.

#### **8. Local Government Reorganisation and MVCF**

RT had investigated as to whether there other cycle campaigning groups in the East Surrey area, and was unable to find any.

Following Surrey's local government reorganisation in April 2027, the goal is to establish a Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) for the whole county, led by an elected Mayor, to oversee key functions like transport, economic development, housing, health, and fire/rescue and more.

At a more local level, future plans include the establishment of a Dorking and the villages Neighbourhood Area Committee.

#### **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 26th March 2026**. It was suggested that we hold an interim meeting on **Thurs 19th February** in **The Stepping Stones, Westhumble**, from 7pm.

#### **10. AOB**

EP had raised a number of points via email (LTN1/220, lack of public awareness about the revised Highway Code (referenced in the email the Secretary sent out advertising this meeting etc), and left with the copy of these which the Secretary had annotated. Using Cycling UK's campaign material, JA has written (a copy of the email can be found on the MVCF Basecamp site) to Chris Coghlan requesting that he ask Local Transport Minister Lilian Greenwood to make sure there is a stronger public awareness campaign to promote the new Highway Code rules as part of the new Road Safety Strategy.