Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting/AGM, Wednesday October 7th 2026
Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary; Dorking], Cllr Bradley Nelson (BN) [MVDC, Holmwoods], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham], Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer; Dorking], Robert Whitcombe (RW) [Fetcham Residents Association (FRA)], Chris Williamson (CW) [Fetcham]

Apologies:
Ian Houghton (IH) [Bookham], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead],

1. Previous Minutes
Accepted.

2. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions from previous meetings not covered elsewhere
Nothing to report.

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. There will be a payment due soon of £7.19 to cover the cost of renewing the MVCF.ORG.UK domain name.
LS proposed that we accept these accounts, PM seconded.

4. Voting in of Officers / Appointment of Committee
As no other expressions of interest had been identified, the existing officers were voted in to continue for a further year: Chair – Lisa Scott, Treasurer – John Arnold, Secretary - Roger Troughton
Proposer: RW / Seconder: PM

5. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
Regarding the action from the previous meeting for the Forum to send a letter expressing our concerns about the lack of progress and reluctance to engage with stakeholders, this had been deemed as no longer critical since the Bookham Residents Association had now had a meeting last month at Atkins about the L'head to Effingham LCWIP. IH attended as a member of BRA, and provided the following notes by email:
The planners have been listening a bit and the current plan shows a route on Lower Road and an alternative on Keswick Road. There are also walking route improvements not seen before. The meeting felt constructive. They certainly do not want to propose a route that BRA recommends residents object to. As part of the plan Atkins have only considered land that is part of the highway boundary. They do not want to compulsory purchase any land. Their experience is that this increases costs and delays projects.
When asked about an alternative route from the 'rec' south of Lower Road using the existing footpath / bridle paths - apparently this was considered early on in the project and was rejected due to being too narrow in places which would therefore require compulsory purchase from multiple landowners. It is also unlit which is an issue for school children using it in winter months. JD commented that with its problems, it was not a very good route.
Anyone interested in a copy of the workshop presentation should contact the Secretary.
It was noted that FRA were not allowed to observe the BRA meeting.
BN provided a summary of the current situation:
As mentioned above, a meeting was held with Bookham Residents Association at Atkins Epsom office in September which covered the Leatherhead to Effingham Cycle Route & Bookham CWZ. It was confirmed that the meeting would not delay the feasibility work.
SES Water have sent a letter of support for the "Fetcham Spur" footpath / cyclepath at Fetcham Springs (copy here: https://shorturl.at/iVgVa). RW noted that there are other issues to be addressed that have lesser impact on SESW land eg. the junction of the shared use path FP60, with the mini roundabout at Lower Rd / Cobham Rd.
SCC-run Member Workshops for CC1 (Charging Category 1) will need to be held in October to meet the SCIL funding application deadline of 11 Nov. If not, any SCIL funding application will have to go to the final SCIL Working Group. Any strategic CIL funding already agreed will then go forward to the new East Surrey County Council.
BN has asked about stakeholders (eg. FRA) listening in on the member meetings, but as yet has not heard back from Neil McClure. He also noted that Active Travel England may not be particularly happy about the sections that do not comply with the standards (eg. LTN1/20). At the end of the day there is no perfect solution to some of the Lower Road issues. The information regarding the flooding that can take place every other year (sometimes more often) has now been input to the process. ATE funding nationally has been reduced.
The LCWIP will not deliver a detail engineering design document at this point, just the most practical routes. Public consultation, which will follow the feasibility study is not likely to take place until after vesting day (1 Apr 2027).

6. BMX Track
LS noted that it has had quite a lot of use over the summer, ***LS*** *to write to Cllr Nick Wright regarding the status of the contract.* Regarding vegetation maintenance, ***LS*** *to write to Alex Bagnell & RT (for Friends of Deepdene) with details of the works needed.*

7. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Bookham/Effingham area:

IH has requested a copy of the safety audit on the "squareabout" scheme, with particular reference to cycling/cyclists, but had not received a reply or any form of acknowledgement.

Leatherhead/Fetcham area (Bull Hill redevelopment):

It was noted that the shared use path would be better on Station Approach on the western side of the railway embankment, rather as shown on https://shorturl.at/6GHLW – where, as at present, cyclists have to cross onto the site and then leave it again at hazardous junctions. It would be helpful if the Bull Hill Cycle Routes could be discussed with MVDC (the joint developer) or their Transport team, as it is unclear if written comments have been taken up since the suggestions are outside their Red Line Boundary.

A24 Cycle Track & Swanworth Lane

CW had requested this item be on the agenda and provided photos to demonstrate some points. He noted that the 90th anniversary of the construction of the cycle track was approaching. CW asked if there was any fixed schedule for maintaining the path. Over the last couple of years most of it has been "sided out" (cleared to the edges) on both sides, although the narrow section by the Burford Bridge roundabout appears to have been omitted. Although SCC undertakes regular grass cutting alongside the tracks, it is unclear as to who is responsible for the newer Givons Grove – Leatherhead section. CW recommended using FixMyStreet (https://www.fixmystreet.com/) to report issues. CW also raised the specific issue of vehicle crossings, as he had been witness to an incident at the Swanworth Lane junction where the white give-way lines had since been re-painted. Whilst there are a number of other crossings (eg. the North Downs Way junction, and the main track into Norbury Park) which have been marked, these have not been repainted, and there are other crossings where there are no markings at all (eg. Dorking Wanderers Football Ground). Whilst the Highway Code indicates that vehicle drivers should give way to pedestrians and cyclists at side crossings, when the Sec. had contacted SCC's Duncan Knox about this, the response received was:
"LTN1/20 states that in rural areas, where the speed limit is greater than 40mph, it will not normally be appropriate in safety terms to provide simple priority across side road junctions".
CW felt that the best thing would be to have consistency along the route so that cyclists knew were they stood.

Dorking Area:

A25 Safety Improvements: no new news.

Meadowbank: ***RT*** *to copy the Forum's original proposals for a cycle route around the football ground to BN and Cllr Wright.* ***c/f.*** NB. Elements of this had been taken up by the Dorking Masterplan, most of which has now gone quiet.

Westcott-Dorking Shared Route (NCN 22)

RT *to copy the details of the proposed Westcott extension to BN, and to request an update on progress from RoW.*

Brockham Trails

BN raised the issue that their site off Rough Rew is due to close in November 2026 as the land licence will end owing to fungal disease requiring clear-felling. (Secs note: whilst the site has been active for some years, this was the first time the Forum had been made aware of its existence!) Is there any synergy with the BMX track?

8. Gatwick DCO

With the appeal dismissed, the position is to look for "the best we can get". With regards to the LCWIP, LS has had a meeting with the consultants who are keen to look at wider local communications. Currently they only have £110K.

9. Cycling Issues and Events: Road Racing/Sportives/Off-Road – Nothing to report.

10. Local Government Reorganisation and MVCF

A Foundational Strategic Authority is due to be established by April as a precursor to a Mayoral Authority (with a Mayor likely to be elected in 2028). This will have strategic responsibility for Transport Planning.
BN noted that the way CIL is allocated is currently handled differently by each Local Authority.
RT sat in on the Transport Webinar for Community Groups held in September, For those who couldn't make it, or want to revisit any part of it, the recording and slides are available here: https://shorturl.at/DWIQr

11. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be held in the **MVDC Offices**, Pippbrook, Dorking in Committee Room 1, at 7pm on **Thursday 14th January 2027**. Meanwhile it was suggested that we hold an interim informal meeting on **Thurs 3rd December** at **The Stepping Stones, Westhumble**, from 7pm.

12. AOB

Earlier in the meeting CW raised the issue of "close passes". Over the years he has submitted a number of videos of these situations, recently it seems very few of these are now likely to be actioned as the team will only progress cases that are extremely close or where there is another aggravating issue.
The ownership of this really lies with the Local Police & Crime Commissioner, Lisa Townsend, who is not known for her support of cycling/cyclists. BN suggested that MVCF could write to our local MP (Chris Coughlan).

BN reported that there are likely to be improvements for cycle parking at Dorking West Station with a two-tier racking and cameras. He asked for any suggestions - the recommendation was to take best practice from other stations.