

Minutes of the MVCF Meeting, Thursday 25th September 2014

Committee Room 1, MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Ron Billard (RB) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Gail Brownrigg (GB) [Equestrian/Local Access Forum], John Cohen (JC), Michael Davies (MD) [Dorking Advertiser], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Rod Shaw (RS) [MVDC], Peter Silburn (PS) [Horsham/Notes], Mike Ward (MW) [Leatherhead]

Apologies: Bert Dean (BD) [Surrey Police], John Meudell (JM) [CTC], Andy Tanner (AT) [Transition Dorking], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary]

1. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Police & Safety Issues: At the time of the meeting road casualty statistics had not been received. BD confirmed by email that he is investigating the issue of what happens to the statistics.

2. Surrey Cycling Strategy – Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan

The Mole Valley Local Cycling Action Plan was approved by the Mole Valley Local Committee on the 10th September.

The Forum had a meeting beforehand on 14th August with Lucy O'Connell and Graeme Kane from MVDC to provide our feedback. The need for routes to be continuous was stressed. RS said the plan had been updated to take account of this.

RS to check where the updated plan will be published.

[Update from RS after the meeting: the plan will now need to pass the MVDC Scrutiny and Executive. The updated plan should be available online soon with the meeting agenda.]

RS said there will be a further meeting with MVDC to discuss the details of individual infrastructure schemes (date to be announced).

3. Route development updates

Leatherhead/Ashted area

Randalls Road: No action expected due to lack of funding. To be removed from the list since this is no longer a live issue.

Safe Routes to Schools (Therfield): Still an active issue but nothing to report.

Leatherhead-Ashted route: The route is now largely completed. Feedback from those who have ridden the route was that it was an improvement (in particular the toucan crossing over the A243) but that it would be beneficial to have a "lessons learned" meeting with Surrey Highways to discuss improvements (dangerous bollards, accessing the route from Leret Way, what to do when you reach the end of the route etc.). *PS to collate the responses, deadline end of October.*

SCC had given a presentation on the route, attended by RB and others. *RB to circulate the presentation.*

Bookham/Effingham area

Safe Routes to Schools (Howard of Effingham): *RB to liaise with JD and set up a meeting with councillors.*

Dorking area

Dorking southbound: RB reported that SCC claim to have recently done some work. *RB to find out what this is.*

Brockham-Dorking town centre link: RB attended a meeting with SCC Highways and several MVDC councillors about extending the route from Reigate Road into the town centre. There needs to a continuous route at least as far as Moores Road that links westbound with the start of the on-road cycle lane outside the Dorking Halls and eastbound links with the shared use path between London Road and Pippbrook.

Comments at the meeting ranged from there not being sufficient numbers of cyclists to warrant a cycle path into the town centre to their being too many cyclists. There was no clear outcome. Both SCC Highways and Surrey Police however agreed that some of the recently installed No Cycling signs do not meet requirements and should be removed.

Issues around the cycle/foot path outside Tesco Express on Reigate Road were also discussed. There is no separate pedestrian access to the store. SCC will talk to Tesco to see if this can be resolved.

Also discussed was the bus stop on NCR 22 opposite Dorking station. The cycle path is too narrow and the advertising hoarding creates potential conflict between cyclists and people waiting at the bus stop. There is no possibility of redesigning this section of the path but it may be possible to more clearly indicate the route of the cycle path.

Holmwood circular trail: PS reported that phase 2 (bringing the remaining sections of the route up to standard) is now complete and the updated signposting work is mostly complete. The entire circular trail and all the linking paths to car parks and other access points is now 2m wide. An opening ceremony was held on 16th October. Trail guide leaflets/maps were circulated to attendees.

GB asked whether cyclists were legally allowed to ride on the common. The forum has not heard of this being an issue. The National Trust as land owner has created permissive bridleways that allow access for walkers, people on bikes and horse riders.

Leatherhead-Dorking cycle path (alongside the A24): JC raised the issue of why sports cyclists don't use the cycle path. He had asked some cyclists why they choose instead to ride on the road: reasons cited were the poor quality of the surface (particularly between Denbies and Box Hill) and the narrow section at the railway crossing just north of Westhumble Street. Options discussed included changing the priority at the "roundabout", reducing the speed limit and making the tunnel more attractive to sports cyclists.

Surrey Highways have committed to maintaining the west side path, which is swept twice a year. Sections of the path have been recently replaced following water main repairs but the surface is already starting to crack up in places.

The east side path would be used more if it was improved. RS suggested this would be a good candidate for the Mole Valley Local Plan infrastructure list. The southbound section from Givons Grove to Old London Road could be utilised as a cycle path but there is poor access at the Givons Grove roundabout so it would likely only be of use to sports cyclists who are already on the road. General cyclists will prefer to use the western path.

4. Other matters

Cycle path signage audit: PM and MW have completed their survey, which has been passed to RS for forwarding to John Lawlor (SCC). RT has almost completed the survey of the cycle path alongside the A24/A25 in Dorking.

MVCF Website: CB had received a request by email for articles to be published but this was felt to be inappropriate.

JC asked why there is no link to the MVCF website from the MVDC website. **RS to investigate.**

[Update from RS after the meeting: the cycling pages on the MVDC will be revamped (hopefully sometime before Christmas) and a link to the Forum website will be included then.]

5. Financial Statement and Approval of Accounts

CB presented the accounts which were then approved. The current balance is £72.32.

6. Voting in of Officers

The current officers were unanimously voted in to continue for another year: Chairman - Ron Billard, Treasurer - Colin Brewer, Secretary - Roger Troughton.

7. AOB

GB talked about the common issues faced by both horse rides and cyclists and felt there were shared objectives. The Local Access Forum is compiling a Rights of Way Improvements list highlighting areas such as creating links between routes and upgrading the status of routes. Ideas discussed included bringing a horse to schools so as to demonstrate the need to give extra room when passing, joint press events etc. RB will be attending the next meeting of the Local Access Forum in October.

8. Next Meetings

Next formal meeting is **7:00pm, Thurs 13th November** in the Council Chamber, MVDC, Pippbrook.

Next informal meeting is **7:30pm, Thurs 9th October** (Ye Olde Windsor Castle, Little Bookham Street, Great Bookham).