

## Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday May 14th 2020 Held Online using Zoom (\*)

**Present:** Ron Billard (RB) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Peter Mayor (PM) [L'head], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham], Scott Williams (SW) [Holmwood], John Arnold (JA) [Dorking]

**Apologies:** Peter Ansell (PA) [British Cycling], Eric Palmer (EP) [L'head], Pat Smith [Dorking], Rod Shaw [MVDC], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

(\*) Sec's note: Whilst the logon details for the Zoom call were not widely distributed for security reasons, they were sent to those who asked for them and to regular attendees. Unfortunately, it appears that a couple of people did not receive them.

### 1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

### 2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

RT raised the following question at the last Mole Valley Local Committee meeting in March:

Given the increasing need to promote walking and cycling for numerous reasons, when is Surrey Highways going to prioritise the maintenance of footways, shared paths and the like, to make them fit for purpose?

In summary the response from Surrey Highways was that responsibility for the clearing these lies with MVDC, although Surrey Highways was able to carry out some work to clear some footways and shared paths during the 2018/19 financial year from the limited revenue resources available.

In coming years SCC will be investing significant funds into the maintenance and improvement of the highway, and this includes footway works.

Quite surprisingly the question resonated with many of the County Councillors present.

The full response can be seen at:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s66738/Item%204a%20-%20Written%20Public%20Questions.pdf>

### 3. Route Development Updates *(Nothing to report unless recorded below.)*

#### Bookham/Effingham area: Safe Routes to Howard of Effingham School

RB suggested we need to push to get more "shovel ready" proposals so that they are sitting there waiting when funding becomes available. RB asked PM to work with JD regarding details for the proposed routes for the new Howard of Effingham School, and then we lobby all of the councillors who are involved, particularly Clare Curran, to ask them to get it costed up so that it is "ready to roll". **PM and JD to liaise on this.**

#### Dorking Southbound

SW expanded on the comments he had presented which were included in the final agenda. The main issues relate to clearing of the shared route - itself a MVDC responsibility which appears to be dependent upon working with Surrey Highways when they have traffic management in place for other works. RB suggested that the issues could be worked into a question to put to the next Local Committee meeting. **RB & SW to liaise on this.**

#### Dorking centre – Meadowbank links:

Regarding the possibility of improving cross-Dorking cycling connectivity by developing a route along the northern and western sides of the football ground and then on to Archway Place through to North Street; as the route follows what are marked as footpaths, RT still has not received any reply from SCC Rights of Way (Claire Saunders). **RT to try Mary Ann Edwards. Depending upon the response, RT to revise and reissue our proposals.**

### 4. Mole Valley Local Plan

A substantial submission was made on behalf of the Forum before the closing date (Mon 23rd March).

AB pointed out that the possibility of a development at Fetcham Springs had raised concerns.

The current situation is that responses are currently being reviewed with a Final Consultation due in Autumn 2020.

### 5. Police Issues; Road Casualties

Nothing to report. NB. At the last meeting it was agreed that we would dispense with requesting the stats on RTAs involving cyclists.

### 6. Cycling Issues: Road Racing/Sportives/Off-Road; Road Closures

PA reported by email that all of British Cycling's programmed sporting activities stopped at the beginning of March with the intention of restarting in 1st July. This is extremely unlikely as BC's SE fulltime staff have been furloughed and more likely it will be sometime in August and will be subjected to government instructions, agreement with police

and emergency services. The race programme will need to be reviewed in the light of availability of volunteers, facilities such as HQs and social distancing.

BC's Education department has put together a number of online educational packages to help members with all aspects of cycling and Events management team also organised Zwift training and competition sessions to keep people active.

BC in conjunction with HSBC has launch a micro site aimed at families: <https://www.letsridelocal.co.uk/> also see BC's page: [## \*\*7. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings\*\*](https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/about/article/20200429-about-bc-news-British-Cycling-has-developed-<u>HSBC-UK-Let-s-Ride-Local-to-further-support-family-riding-during-the-lockdown-0</u></a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7pm on Thursday 13th August**. It is likely that it will need to be held online again.

It is difficult to predict at this stage whether or not it will be possible to hold an informal meeting (probably early to mid-July). If one is to be organised, details will be sent out closer to the time.

## **8. Capitalising on the increase in Cycling during Lockdown**

Owing to a mis-communication, MVDC's Rod Shaw was unable to attend the meeting; however he passed on the following news which sounds promising:

MVDC has a team of officers and cabinet members who will be working with Highways to consider ways of improving pedestrian and cyclist provision. This will probably be principally in town centres so that we can get the town centre economies going again and people feel safe walking and cycling on narrow footways and carriageways. They are hoping that it may be possible to use the Cycling Forum as a sounding board for how the government money (they don't know how much yet) can be used most effectively.

This news may rather remove the need for the question that RT was likely to raise at the Local Committee to ask what Highways were planning on doing to help maintain cycling levels

RT mentioned an email he had just received from the Guildford Bicycle User Group reporting that their Chair has written to Matt Furniss, Surrey County Council's Cabinet member for Transport, to request a dialogue about the government's statutory guidance to local authorities to reallocate roadspace as we come out of Covid-19 lockdown, and suggested that RB should make a similar representation.

CB and PM made reference to the Cycling UK campaign <https://action.cyclinguk.org/page/59646/> which enables you to edit and send draft letters to your councillors and council leader to ask them to create more space for cycling. PM reported that an informal traffic survey he had carried out on 13th May around Leatherhead indicated only low volumes of vehicles.

JA introduced himself as a regular attendee of the Forum some years ago and as having contributed towards an early report on cycling in Dorking (still on the MVCF website). He has access to a group of fellow cyclists who may be able to assist in various ways. JA referred to our list of Cycle Route Priorities. RB suggested that these Priorities would be a good starting point. (Sec.'s note – as this list was last updated in 2018 we need to consider whether this should be reviewed.)

## **9. AOB**

MVCF Constitution: RT sent out a draft . **RT to re-issue a draft update for review by RB & CB.**

Via email, EP raised issues he has with regard to recent road closures at Headley. The process that covers road closures is here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/permits-and-licences/temporary-road-closures> RT to respond to EP and suggest that he could raise the issue with the utility concerned, or if he is unhappy with the process, that he could perhaps put a suitable question to the next meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee.