

## Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday September 30th 2021 Held at The Old Clunker Café, Dorking RH4 1EL

**Present:** John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Michael Bourke (MB) [Buckland], Penny & Richard Tyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Corinna Osborne-Patterson (CO-P) [Newdigate]

### **Apologies:**

Ron Billard (RB) [Dorking], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood]

### **1. Previous Minutes**

Agreed.

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

JD to see if her employer might cover the insurance costs for a children's cycling event on Bookham Common. No events ran this year, JD to review again next year.  
Rod Shaw retired in May and our MVDC contacts are now Jane Smith and Luke Dickson.

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

JA wrote to Neil McClure to seek guidance on how we can usefully prepare for engagement. Subsequently we learnt that funding had become a stumbling block with regard to Mole Valley. JA raised a question about this at the recent Local Committee Meeting and received the following (summarised) response (again from Neil McClure):

*I am pleased to report that as of last week we have reached agreement with MVDC colleagues, and a plan is now in place to undertake the stage 1 work to develop the LCWIP.... In line with the methodology and process followed with the existing LCWIP work being completed elsewhere in the county, I would expect the first stage engagement workshops with stakeholders (including MVCF) to take place towards the end of this year. Your local knowledge and support to help shape these plans for cycling and walking improvements within the Mole Valley area will be much appreciated. We will expect to be in touch directly nearer the time with further detail concerning the engagement sessions.*

JA noted that the Reigate & Banstead stage 1 is almost complete. They concentrated on looking at key corridors for cycling (and walking) and the density of existing cycling (and walking), and it was felt that we could help by reviewing this for Mole Valley. Some work has been done on this in the past (see <https://mvcf.org.uk/mvcf/assets/documents/mvcfstrategiccyclenetw2012>) which would benefit from a review, now taking into account the revised Local Plan (<https://futuremolevalley.org>). NB. Comments on the revised Local Plan need to be submitted by **November 7th**. Of particular relevance here are also the background evidence papers, which include an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (evidence document L3) and Strategic Transport Assessment (document B6 and B7).

JD noted that the biggest opportunity for modal shift is to get more secondary school students cycling (and walking). While roads/routes continue to be viewed as unsafe/unsuitable they are going to be driven. If young cyclists can be made to feel confident, then this will also bring in nervous adults and leisure riders. Also worth noting is that major roads junctions (eg. Wisley) now have to come with funding for cycling.

The latest Surrey Infrastructure Plan

(<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s75425/Surrey%20Infrastructure%20Plan%20Select%20Committee%20Report.pdf>) includes scoring criteria.

\* LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans – for more information, see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools>

### **4. Review of Cycle Route Priorities**

Clearly this overlaps significantly with the preparation for the LCWIP.

The latest revisions can be found at <https://mvcf.org.uk/schemes/priorities-review/> - this is yet to be completed, as further input is still awaited and we also need to include benefits and other criteria.

RT has included maps based on the existing Surrey Cycling Infrastructure maps. The resolution of these images is not great, so **RT will include link(s) to more readable versions of these maps.**

RT has been updating the priorities for the southern part of Mole Valley and including links to the corresponding annotations on Commonplace website which is being used to gather input for the LCWIP.

It has been commented that the trouble with the Commonplace map is that it registers point issues rather than strategic routes. What we expect they will be looking for is where multiple people support a particular issue, which then gets prioritised.

JA asked that **JD, PM and EP** get together to review/update priorities for the Bookham-Leatherhead-Ashted areas prior to the next meeting.

## 5. Route Development Updates

### Trig Street (Newdigate)

PT-D gave an update on the situation. The landowner (Ibstock) is supportive of the scheme and are willing to provide hardware. The scheme also has the backing of both Newdigate and Capel PCs who may be willing to provide some funding. However, no further progress is likely until Surrey's Rights of Way team can come up with some estimates of costs etc. (circa £50K?)

In the meantime PT-D asked that MVCF should email support for this scheme to Daniel Williams (SCC). (**RT to action**)

RT has already added this scheme to the Commonplace website being used for the LCWIP.

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

### Dorking BMX Track Proposals

JA outlined the situation following several meetings with MVDC. Since the Trail Academy proposal has fallen through, the proposal for the site to be run by volunteers is now the preferred option. Daren (proprietor of the Old Clunker Cafe) was able to add a few comments and it was agreed to put Lisa in touch with him.

### Norbury Park MTB issues

AM reported via email the tragic incident in February this year where a man was hit by a cyclist in the vicinity of Norbury Park House, and after three months in hospital later died as a result of his injuries. It is believed the cyclist was also badly hurt in the collision. There was also a second incident in March where a pedestrian was injured although the injuries were less serious.

Regarding issues in Norbury Park with potentially hazardous unofficial trail building, we understand that Rob Fairbanks (Director, Surrey Hills AONB) is attempting to address similar problems generally in the Surrey Hills area.

## 8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting (which will include a brief AGM) will be a workshop session to help prepare for the LCWIP along with any further comments on the Local Plan.

This will be held on **Thursday 28th October at 7.00pm**, location TBC.

## 9. AOB

The theme of the Mole Valley Climate Hub (in Leatherhead) from Oct 14-16 is Transport & Pollution and they would like to stimulate discussion of cycle routes and raising the profile of cycling in Mole Valley and wondered if Forum members might like to have a presence.

SCC's Local Transport Plan for 2022-32+ (LTP4) is out for consultation – see <https://surreyltp4.commonplace.is/> Please note that responses have to be in by **October 26**. It is worth looking at this document together with the draft points identified by the Surrey Climate Commission Transport Group which can be used to help with areas to respond on (<https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/ltp4draftpoints> )

PT-D raised the need for a light-controlled crossing over the A24 (Horsham Road) and that some people find it necessary to drive to Dorking as it is unsafe to access the footway on the eastern side of the road. RT noted that there was at least one request for this annotated on the Commonplace website.

RT pointed out that the changes to the Highway Code which introduce the concept of a hierarchy of road users, and also mention (though do not appear to define) safe passing distances, were introduced in mid-September.

All present thanked Daren (proprietor of The Old Clunker Café) for allowing his premises to be used for the meeting.