

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday January 6th 2022 Held over Zoom

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Ron Billard (RB) [Dorking], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Camilla Peterken [Betchworth], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charwood], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham/Leatherhead], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham]

Apologies:

Michael Bourke [Buckland], Corinna Osborne-Patterson [Newdigate], Kevin Stroud (KS) [Dorking], PennyTyson-Davies [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Andrew Fleming [Westcott], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

2. Matters Arising, Outstanding Actions not covered elsewhere

Following the informal meeting RT had made enquiries about cycle counters in Mole Valley, as the data available via SCC's website was out of date. The response was that: the web page showing automatic counter sites is no longer being maintained and the link from the website has now been removed and replaced with a link to the Surrey Interactive Map where it is possible to view the location of all traffic surveys. Also, they do have recent data from most if not all the cycle counters in Mole Valley which will be used to inform the Mole Valley LCWIP.

(To view where these cycle counters are, open the "Surrey Interactive Map" and from the Layer List select the 'Roads & Transport – Traffic Survey' layer – Automatic cycle counters are indicated by pretty plum-coloured circles.)

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

JA reported that the budget for this has been approved and a plan is in place for consultants, however, we are still awaiting a start date. Our contact, Dug Tremellen, is shortly moving to a new job, so our best contact at SCC is now Neil McClure - Transport Strategy Project Manager; Strategic Transport Group; Environment, Transport & Infrastructure.

4. Cycle Route Priorities Updates

Since our last meeting, JD has updated the recommended Cycle Route Priorities for the Bookham area and added them to the Commonplace website for the LCWIP, and PM has done likewise for Dilston Road and Waterway Road.

RT to liaise with JD and PM for the details so that they can be added to our list of priorities at <https://mvcf.org.uk/schemes/priorities-review/>

These can then be circulated to Forum attendees for all to "approve" (by clicking on the "thumbs up" icon at the bottom right-hand corner of the description).

5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead area

In preparation for Bikeability training, AB undertook risk assessments in the Therfield School area before Christmas. The main issues sound very similar to those added to the LCWIP Commonplace map by PM.

Dorking Southbound (Spook Hill to Beare Green)

RT had received an email from Cllr Caroline Salmon who is trying to get SCC to realise that clearing back the cycle route is their responsibility, so that all maintenance works can be done at the same time.

Ranmore BMX Track

LS updated the forum on progress in this area where she is liaising with Ismina Harvey in MVDC. She is hoping to get details of a costed plan/proposal ready by 20th January. There may be some issues over the choice of surfacing material as it has to be acceptable with regard to the local environment. LS is proposing that a Community Interest Company or similar can be organised. Whilst the Forum itself is amenable to providing short-term support to help the project get off the ground (the example was given of BSpoke which utilised the Forum's banking facility until it had established its own bank account), it is not in a position to be the project lead or have responsibility for the running of this facility.

6. Cycling Issues: Road Racing/Sportives/Off-Road

AM reported no new issues in the Norbury Park area.

7. Local Committee Matters

The next Mole Valley Local Committee meeting is 20th January. As of the MVCF meeting date, there was no agenda listed.

LS suggested we should ask about progress on the A217 shared cycle route. RT has liaised with LS to raise this question.

There was discussion about funding for cycle training, however AB explained that this funding is distributed by the BikeAbility Trust so it was agreed that this was not an appropriate question. (For information, Bikeability training has been hit by Covid. They are now trying to catch up on level 1 and level 2 training. They are also attempting to recruit additional trainers to overcome the lack of resource in this area.)

PM had been approached by people asking that on the Ashted (and other routes) that cyclists use their bells to warn pedestrians of their approach. RT offered to investigate signage. (Post meeting note: RT has been unable to locate any signage, eg. from Department for Transport, or Sustrans, that specifically mentions using bells, although there is a sign in Dorking (on a lamp post on the north-eastern corner of the roundabout) that includes the wording: "If you are cycling politely warn pedestrians of your approach and give way as necessary".)

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next meeting will be an informal get together at **7.00pm on Thursday 10th February**, at The Stepping Stones, Westhumble.

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at 7.00pm on **Thursday 17th March 2022**, at Park House, Leatherhead (subject to confirmation). PM noted that by then we will know what is in the Local Plan that will have been submitted to the Secretary of State (for Housing, Communities and Local Government).

9. AOB

Changes to the Highway Code (if approved by Parliament) come in at the end of Jan which introduces the "Hierarchy of Responsibilities", however many drivers are unaware, eg: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/30/two-in-three-uk-drivers-unaware-of-planned-highway-code-changes>

20mph campaign for Surrey – the motion put forward for the 14 December 2021 Council meeting will now be considered at the January Council meeting with a formal report for Council agreement to be received at the Council meeting on 8 February 2022. Meanwhile KS would welcome assistance from anyone to help with the 20's Plenty campaign locally (if you are interested, please contact RT who will forward your details on to KS).

Following a question by SP, JA explained who the Dorking RATS were, and since the meeting RT has forwarded a copy of their "Revitalise Dorking Walking and Cycling" report.

AM has set up a Facebook page for MVCF- <https://www.facebook.com/Mole-Valley-Cycle-Forum-113318514186934> and is seeking suggestion and contributions to help populate these pages. If you can assist, please contact RT who will forward on to AM.