

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday March 17th 2022

Park House, Leatherhead

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Simon Cox (SC) [Dorking Cycling Club], Cllr Rosemary Hobbs (RH) [Holmwoods]

Apologies:

Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], PennyTyson-Davies [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Corinna Osborne-Patterson (CO-P) [Newdigate]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

2. Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions from previous meetings not covered elsewhere

None.

3. Feedback from Mole Valley Local Committee

RT raised three questions: Firstly regarding the ongoing maintenance (eg. sweeping of footways and cycle routes) – basically the answer is to report them to MVDC.

Secondly asking whether the matrix displays (also known as Variable Message Signs) could be used to display public information messages such as the recent changes to the Highway Code: for example to keep 1.5m when passing cyclists etc. The response was not overly enthusiastic; however their position on using these displays is being reviewed.

The third question related to the possible introduction of 20mph speed limits in Mole Valley in the light of the county councillors throwing out this proposal – this elicited a standard response referring to SCC's speed limit policy entitled "Setting Local Speed Limits".

JA suggested that we should have some reference to the Forum's support of 20mph limits on the website (*RT to look into and action*).

JD also raised a couple of questions, both related to the LCWIP: The first one related to the new scheme being installed alongside the A217 in the Hookwood area.

The second question asked whether existing good practice regarding the success (or otherwise) of contraflow cycling schemes in operation in London would be taken into account.

JD has subsequently followed up the responses with email conversations with various SCC officers.

For full details of the questions and answers please refer to:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s85013/ITEM%205%20-%20Public%20Questions%209%20Mar.pdf>

Our understanding is that this was the last Local Committee meeting, and it is currently unclear as to what will replace it or how we might raise Highways issues.

4. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

JA indicated that we are still awaiting a start date. RT (as a Sustrans Volunteer Ranger for NCN Route 22) has been approached by Sustrans to be a local representative on the Workshops.

RH reported that District Councillors were given a presentation on the LCWIP process, and that Councillors expressed concern that as Mole Valley is a semi-rural area, there might not be much in the way of funding as the initially it will be aimed at getting cars off the roads on a volume basis for short journeys to "hubs" (schools, shops, transport etc.)

JA asked if the slides could be made available. RH has since checked and they can be shared. A copy can be viewed here: <https://mvcf.org.uk/assets/documents/lcwip-briefing>

Post Meeting Note: RT can confirm that invitations to the Stakeholder workshop on 28th March are now being sent out (there may be a limit to the number of representatives from stakeholder groups such as MVCF).

We have concerns that the Commonplace tool used is very much "point" based, which does not lend itself to identifying or commenting on a cycle route, also the use of Strava data as a tool.

5. Cycle Route Priorities Updates

Our list of priorities is to be found at <https://mvcf.org.uk/schemes/priorities-review/>

It still appears possible to "approve" the Commonplace entries (by clicking on the "thumbs up" icon at the bottom right-hand corner of the description). This information will be used within the LCWIP process, although it appears that a "snapshot" for inclusion in LCWIP background data was taken on 4 March.

RH asked if there was a requirement for secure cycle parking. This is a need where cycles are stored on a longer term basis, eg. properties without suitable storage facilities, offices/business parks, transport hubs (although anecdotally the Cycle Hub at Dorking Station has a reputation for not being very secure). This is an area that the Forum has not given much attention to until now.

6. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Trig Street (Newdigate)

PT-D reported via email that there is now a date (4th April) to discuss this at Helyn Clack's office. Present will be representatives from Ibstock, SCC Countryside Access, Capel PC and Newdigate PC.

Ranmore BMX Track

LS reported that the proposal was approved by the Scrutiny Committee earlier this month and is due to go to the Cabinet Meeting on 22nd March. RT understood that a work party involving the Friends of Deepdene will be onsite on Weds 23rd March to tackle some of the vegetation issues. (Post meeting note: this has since taken place.)

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

CS reported that Dorking Cycling Club is organising a "hard-riders" time trial on Sun 3rd April, however as it is early in the morning the effect on the general public will be minimal.

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next meeting will be an informal get together at **7.00pm on Thursday 28th April**, at The Stepping Stones, Westhumble.

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at 7.00pm on **Thursday 26th May 2022**, location to be advised. (*RT and JD to liaise about asking a District Councillor to attend, which should enable the meeting to be held on MVDC premises at Pippbrook.*)

9. AOB

EP asked if anyone had any experience of Better Points (see <https://surrey.betterpoints.app/>) – this has been introduced with a view to making every car-free journey even more worthwhile for the residents of Surrey

A number of those present expressed concern that the recent changes to the Highway Code have not been widely publicised. *JA to write to the Surrey Police Commissioner on this matter.*

JA mentioned the Dorking Town Partnership (<https://dorkingtowpartnership.co.uk/>) who have issued a "Place Making Report" (see https://dorkingtowpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/211214_Dorking-town-centre-place-making_final-report_web.pdf). This does state that active travel, walking and cycling could benefit the town more, and does suggest that 20mph limits could be considered.

John Meudell, who has been involved with this report, has expressed an interest in attending the next informal meeting of the Forum to provide a more detailed update.

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