

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday May 26th 2022 Park House, Leatherhead

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Cllr Rosemary Hobbs (RH) [Holmwoods], Corinna Osborne-Patterson (CO-P) [Newdigate], Kev Stroud (KS) [Dorking], Rob Fairbanks (RF) [Surrey Hills AONB]

Apologies:

Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], PennyTyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Cllr Richard Moyses [Bookham]

1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

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

RT to ensure that the MVCF website indicates that the Forum endorses 20mph limits in towns and villages. C/F

JA to write to the Surrey Police Commissioner (Lisa Townsend) about our concerns that the recent changes to the Highway Code have not been widely publicised. C/F This led to further discussion and the suggestion that she be invited to a future meeting of the Forum. Following on from this, RF reported that the police were being involved where the countryside was being damaged by off-road vehicles and MTB groups were using chainsaws (in some instances on SSSIs) to create new trails, as this constitutes criminal damage. EP then raised an issue with landowners leaving felled trees across bridleways – if this is the case the situation should be reported to Rights of Way (see <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/countryside/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/contact-us-or-report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>)

John Meudell attended the last informal meeting of the Forum and updated us on the Dorking Town Partnership “Place Making Report” (see https://dorkingtowpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/211214_Dorking-town-centre-place-making_final-report_web.pdf) which states that active travel, walking and cycling could benefit the town more. It was felt that the Forum should respond to the report via <https://futuresdorking.commonplace.is/> whilst there is still time. *JA and RT to get together and respond accordingly.*

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Stakeholder workshop took place (via Teams) on 29th March, JB, JA and RT attended the event. The overall impression was somewhat disappointing and there were concerns it wasn't focussing on the right areas. During the course of the meeting an update was received informing us that they have made some small adjustments to the draft networks following input from the stakeholder meetings in late March/early April and are identifying a 'short list' of routes for further study as part of the LCWIP – this will include site visits and identifying potential improvements. They are planning to carry out a site visit in early June (tentatively 7th or 8th) and have asked if we might be interested in joining them to cycle a few of the areas and potentially share any local knowledge. Further details will be passed on to those interested when we have them.

Regarding rural areas it was felt that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (last revised in 2014) needs updating in the light of the LCWIP. Meanwhile it was suggested that landowner (eg NT) permissive cycle routes need to be mapped better. RF indicated that there might be payments where a landowner elected to upgrade a footpath to permit cycling. RT noted that Cycling UK has run a campaign whereby individuals can propose paths which could fill in missing links for cycling – see <https://www.cyclinguk.org/missinglinks>

4. Cycling Implications of A24 Review

As a stakeholder group, MVCF were invited to the A24 Horsham to Dorking Corridor Feasibility Study webinar. The aim appears to be to put together plans so that they are ready if/when funding becomes available.

Further details are available here:

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/20220512presentation/slides.pdf> (pdf file – 1.5mb)

<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/20220512presentation/recording.pptx> (Microsoft Powerpoint –note the large file size of 52MB – play the slide show to hear the presentation).

Feedback comments to itp@westsussex.gov.uk

5. BMX Track – next steps

MVDC Cabinet have approved in principle the proposal to take on the management of Ranmore BMX and Mountain Bike Track for an initial 5 year period. *JA to liaise with LS regarding the next steps.*

6. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Ashted area

From June SCC will have the ability to make orders to authorise contra-flow cycling on one-way roads such as Leatherhead High St. JA asked JD to draft an email calling for this for Leatherhead High St.

Bookham/Effingham area

JD noted that both MVCF and G-BUG have submitted comments identifying issues with the Howard of Effingham planning application (currently this has been rejected).

Dorking Southbound

A number of the issues here will hopefully be picked up by the A24 review.

Trig Street (Newdigate)

PT-D reported via email that the meeting scheduled for 4th April did not take place owing to illness, and has not yet been rearranged. Concerns were expressed about the continuing delays in getting anywhere with this project.

Hookwood/Charlwood area

LS reported by email that works on the new shared path will soon resume from Westvale Park heading south. The controlled crossing will be just to the Reigate side of Horsehill / Black Horse pub. There is support for extending the path all the way to Reigate and there has been a lot of discussion about this on social media.

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

Nothing to report.

8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next meeting will be an informal get together at **7.00pm** on **Wednesday 22nd June**, at The Stepping Stones, Westhumble.

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7.00pm** on **Thursday 4th August**, hopefully at MVDC's Pippbrook if RH is able to book a room there.

There may be an additional informal meeting with Guildford Bicycle Users Group (G-BUG), details to be advised (**RT** and **JD** to liaise on this.)

9. AOB

RH confirmed that since Highways have withdrawn from the Local Committee there is as yet no equivalent forum for Highways matters.

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.