

# Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday February 16th 2023

## Held at Park House, Leatherhead

**Present:** John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], PennyTyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association], Caroline Cardew-Smith [Fetcham Residents Association]

### Apologies:

Corinna Osborne-Patterson (CO-P) [Newdigate], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Cllr Rosemary Hobbs (RH) [Holmwoods]

### 1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

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

LS had followed up on JA's attempts to contact the Surrey Police Commissioner (Lisa Townsend) but in essence they weren't really interested.

Regarding the action JA took to approach County Councillors for some funds to cover MVCF expenses, he is currently delaying this to see if any Bike Week activities could be incorporated into the bid. (**JA Ongoing.**)

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

Whilst the draft report has been presented to MVDC councillors, apparently there was only limited discussion, possibly because the majority of councillors present don't cycle. At present we have not been informed of the current position, and as the Forum had contributed to the "site" visit and the workshops it would only be courtesy as stakeholders to be provided with an update. It was proposed that we write asking for an update and possibly a presentation from MVDC and/or SCC officers, particularly as additional funding has recently been announced by the government for Active Travel schemes and we would want them to be in a good position to bid for any "shovel-ready" schemes. It was also noted that the pre-election period for local government elections starts from Wed 22 March which could then delay progress. **AP RT/JA to follow up.**

LS noted that there is expected to be a similar process to develop Active Travel in rural areas coming later this year. There was also discussion as to how best the proposals from the Fetcham Residents Association (see later) might be taken into account in the LCWIP.

*At the previous meeting it was suggested that **JA** write to MVDC councillors to suggest the establishment of a cross-party Cycling Group - status: ongoing.*

#### 20mph speed limits

This is being looked at for three roads in Dorking, and some in the Fetcham area are also under consideration.

### 4. BMX Track – next steps

JA and LS had an onsite meeting with Ismina Harvey (MVDC) and the head of parks department. Out of the 39 interested volunteers contacted, LS has currently received 10 positive replies including 3 with very relevant experience of track building. MVDC have agreed for the Friends of Ranmore Nightingale Bike track to take over maintenance and oversight for a pilot 5 year period.

LS noted that aerial photography indicated that access to the lesser-used easternmost route had been on an area that has since been taken over for a track up to the Community Orchard, who only use it infrequently. A handover meeting is scheduled for 3rd March as Ismina Harvey is leaving MVDC.

### 5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

#### Leatherhead/Fetcham area

Caroline Cardew-Smith and Robert Whitcombe for the Fetcham Residents Association outlined their proposals for improved cycling and walking routes between Fetcham and Leatherhead. More can be found on the FRA website eg. <https://www.fetchamresidents.co.uk/news/fra-to-press-for-new-path-across-fetcham-springs-field/>

**JD** to liaise with Caroline and Robert as she has spent a lot of time in the past looking at the possible options.

JD also pointed out that before the land purchased for a new Surrey Police HQ is resold, that we should urge SCC/Surrey Police to create an access route for cycling/walking to improve permeability through the Business Park.

**RT** and **JD** to liaise on this.

### Bookham

Whilst the main development for the new Howard of Effingham school went through on appeal, the redevelopment of the existing school site has currently been refused. JD is concerned that to ensure that there is permeability through any new development, the original comments from both MVCF and GBUG now need to be resubmitted (to not only SCC and GBC, but also the developer). **JD and RT to liaise on this.**

### Dorking Area

RT expressed concern that any proposed sale of the football ground would likely include the land around the edges which could prevent the development of any cycle route there. It appears that any such plans are currently on hold.

### Trig Street (Newdigate)

PT-D reported even though Ibstock have cleared the section of the proposed route over their land, she is still awaiting an update from Anne Woods (SCC RoW). LS suggested that MVCF contact SCC's Rights of Way department find out what is happening along with timescales on completion of the project. Post meeting note: it has come to light that lack of reply is likely to be due to incorrect email addresses and incorrect groups contacted. This has now been corrected and new communications sent (marked urgent).

**RT to liaise with LS & PT-D on any follow-up in due course.**

### Hookwood/Charlwood area

LS is still campaigning to get a pavement to link Charlwood and Hookwood. Currently there is no funding available from Gatwick Airport.

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

### Potholes

SP raised the issue of potholes and the danger they are posing to cyclists. Whilst there are apps like "fill that hole", in Surrey the best approach is to report these issues online via <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem/road-or-cycle-lane-issues>

For any that are highly likely to result in serious consequences and require an immediate response, there is an emergency phone number: 0300 200 1003

## **7. Bike Week 2023: 5-11 June**

JA expressed a desire to provide a 'one stop' reporting point on activities planned in Mole Valley by different organisations to celebrate, and be part of, Bike Week eg. schools, cycling clubs, MVDC thereby giving Bike Week a greater profile in the area (more details at <https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek>) - a possible opportunity to liaise with Dorking Cycling Club?

## **8. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be an informal get together at **7.00pm on Thursday 23rd March 2023**, at The Stepping Stones, Westhumble.

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7.00pm on Thursday 13th April**, ideally at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking.

## **9. AOB**

PT-D expressed concern about cyclists in black often being extremely difficult to see on country lanes.

The usual 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.