

# Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday April 13th 2023

## Held at Park House, Leatherhead

**Present:** John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Peter Mayor (PM) [Leatherhead]

### Apologies:

Andrew Matthews [Bookham/Effingham], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead]

### 1. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

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

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)

The latest update from SCC's Neil McClure is "I can update that we are still in process of signing off the plan with MVDC Cabinet, which will be followed by SCC Cabinet Member approval. Due to the council elections, this will be going to the next MVDC cabinet meeting scheduled later in May. Once signed off the LCWIP report can then be published and we then expect to move forward into 'stage 2' to progress the design/development of the priority routes. Stage 2 will include public consultation on the proposed schemes as we move forward in preparation for securing the necessary funding to complete construction of priority schemes."

We have also heard on the grapevine that whilst SCC would match fund the £146K required to proceed, currently MVDC have allocated £75K from their Climate Change Fund, and that as a result Atkins are proposing 3 walking and 3 cycling routes for the next stage (as a comparison Reigate & Banstead are looking at progressing 15 routes). Of concern now are the recent massive cuts to Active Travel funding in England by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. More information from Cycling UK here: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/blog/help-cycling-uk-reverse-cuts-cycling-funding>

*At an earlier meeting it was suggested that **JA** write to MVDC councillors to suggest the establishment of a cross-party Cycling Group – with the Local Elections imminent, it makes sense to delay this until the make-up of the new Council is known.*

A25 safety improvements (<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/04/06/surrey-awarded-1-8m-from-safer-roads-fund/> )

Following the recent announcement of these proposals, we need to see if we can get early sight of the plans to ensure that they are fit for purpose. **LS** suggested she could ask Cllr Helyn Clack to see who we might contact in Surrey Highways.

### 4. BMX Track – next steps

LS announced that £200 has been awarded by Surrey Climate Commission's Community Grants for Sustainability for signage, and that she is hoping to get local schools involved in designing and making these signs.

Further vegetation clearance has been carried out, and MVDC's Stuart Dare is being very supportive with some of the other work that is needed. It is also hoped that the return track for the freestyle section, which is currently being used by the Community Orchard can be re-established by the use of appropriate signage to alert any vehicles that infrequently use the track.

Promoting the BMX track (strictly speaking more of a youngster's mountain biking track) could be another Bike Week spinoff.

### 5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Fetcham area

**JD** to liaise with FRA as she has spent a lot of time in the past looking at the possible options. (c/f)

At the last meeting JD pointed out that before the land purchased for a new Surrey Police HQ is resold 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 (c/f).

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.  
**JD** and **RT** to liaise on this (c/f).

#### Dorking Area

It appears that MVDC are now going ahead with the proposed sale of the football ground. Whilst in itself this is of little concern to the Forum, we understand that the sale would likely include the land around the edges which could prevent the development of any cycle route there. LS suggested that **RT/JA** write to the Chair and other members of the Scrutiny Committee before they meet to discuss this on 6th June.

#### Trig Street (Newdigate)

Since the last meeting PT-D had suggested that any follow-up by MVCF be delayed for the time being, as the lack of communication had been down to incorrect email addresses and incorrect groups being contacted.

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

SP offered to forward the latest Dorking Cycling Club Newsletter.

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

The 100th annual Bike Week (full details at <https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek> ) appears to be focussing on workplace cycling, and encouraging as many workplaces as possible to support their staff to ride during the week.

**JA** suggested that he write to the Chief Executive at MVDC about supporting Bike Week.

**JA** also agreed to contact MVDC's Luke Dickson to confirm that he is still our contact within MVDC.

**JA** is liaising with the Surrey Hills AONB about the "Puttenham Loop" route which will be promoted during Bike Week. **JA** to contact G-BUG to ensure they are aware and to find out if any of their members are interested in being involved.

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

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be at **7.00pm** on **Thursday 22nd June**, venue to yet to be confirmed. It was suggested that the next informal get together be delayed until around July so that it might be held outdoors, eg. Denbies.

### **9. AOB**

JD noted that the Surrey Street Design Guide: Healthy Streets for Surrey had been formally approved.

#### Surrey Hills AONB Extension

JD outline the current consultation on the proposals to extend the Surrey Hills AONB, of which the Forum is supportive.

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.