

# Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday September 21st 2023

## Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

**Present:** John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Aldith Bruty (AB) [Fetcham/Leatherhead], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

### Apologies:

Rosemary Hobbs (RH) [Holmwoods], Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], Sam Parkinson (SP) [Dorking Cycling Club], PennyTyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Robert Whitcombe (RW) [Fetcham Residents Association],

### 1. Previous Minutes

EP wished it to be recorded that he did not agree with the previous minutes as they did not reflect his views. (Secs note, the minutes were sent out on 29th June and that no representations on their accuracy or otherwise prior to this meeting had been received.)

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

*JA to approach County Councillors for some funds to cover MVCF expenses. (Ongoing.)*

We need to establish what we need the funds for (other than the website domain name which CB has been funding out of his own pocket. RT suggested we could update our old leaflet, although AM thought that this could be provided as a download from the website, with perhaps just a few copies printed off.

*JA to approach MVDC councillors to suggest the establishment of a cross-party Cycling & Walking Group (c/f).*

*JA to contact MVDC's Luke Dickson to confirm that he is still our contact within MVDC (c/f).*

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

Since the previous meeting the LCWIP has been formally published (<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/building-planning/local-plans/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan>) and a paper identifying funding for some of the schemes has been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee and will now go to Cabinet.

JA is contacting MVDC's Piers Morgan to confirm the situation and which schemes will proceed to feasibility.

RW has been in touch with RT by phone and email, and pointed out that the Fetcham Residents Association proposals to move the path alongside the railway line is to be included in the Leatherhead to Great Bookham/Effingham via Lower Road scheme.

JD noted that it would be useful to understand how they reach the estimated costs of these proposed projects.

EP continued to express his view that district level LCWIPs do not appear to improve connectivity for longer distance and cross-district cycle routes

*Post-Meeting Note:* Since the meeting the feasibility study for stage 2 of the LCWIP has been approved by MVDC up to a maximum of £160,000 with 86% of the funding to be match funded by SCC. More detail can be found at <https://news.molevalley.gov.uk/2023/09/27/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-project-funding-approved/>

#### A25 safety improvements

We need to see if we can get early sight of the plans to ensure that they are fit for purpose. It has been suggested previously that Cty Cllr Steven Cooksey may be able to point us in the right direction here. *RT/JA to follow up.*

#### 20mph

Speed restrictions including 20mph limits have been introduced in the Leith Hill – Abinger Common area.

### 4. BMX Track – next steps

JA reported that the DT department of the Ashcombe School has been approached to create signage for the track using the funds recently awarded by the Surrey Climate Commission's Community Grants for Sustainability Fund.

LS reported via email that a meeting has been scheduled for 2pm on Friday 22nd September. Dorking bike shops have been invited as have the volunteers who provided a note of experience of track building. There are two of them, with 15 years and 20 years' worth of track building mountain bike tracks which should prove really helpful. MVDC Parks Department has also been invited.

### 5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

#### Leatherhead/Fetcham area

At an earlier meeting JD pointed the potential for creating an access route for cycling/walking to improve permeability through the Business Park before the land originally purchased for a new Surrey Police HQ is resold. There is now a planning application in ref MO/2023/0642. On behalf of her employer, JD has submitted a representation on this matter. *RT to do likewise on behalf of the Forum.*

### Trig Street, Newdigate

PT-D provided an update by email, a summary of which is included here:

- The project and plans all have full SCC approval and the legal side of things are complete.
- SCC have appointed as the contractor to do the work. Ibstock have pledged to supply as much hardcore delivered on site as needed. Bill Kear has also kindly pledged to contribute to the funding out of business profits.
- Unfortunately, although SCC have agreed to pay for all the preparatory work – legal, overseeing and final signage – they are looking to the general public to find the remaining costs – over £40,000. The two parish councils can only raise about £5,000 each and MVDC say they cannot give funding to parish councils either. Other funding, possibly in the region of £15,000 has been pledged from the local bridleways group, the BHS, Helyn Clack and a very generous donation from a private individual.
- So, with the lack of definite full funding, we are likely to fall at the last hurdle – approx £40,000
- PT-D has no experience of fundraising, and there is no one available to do it for the parish councils either.  
*Full details of the project and contract can be supplied if anyone could take it on.*

### Hookwood/Charlwood Area

LS reported by email that a planning application for 446 houses in the Hookwood area has recently been submitted. This will likely lead to a need to revise the decision to remove the high priority routes in Charlwood and Hookwood from the LCWIP because the proposed housing development in Hookwood was not going to go forward.

JD reminded us about the proposed expansion of Gatwick Airport, and whether the Forum should register as an interested party. **RT to liaise with LS.**

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

JD reminded us that there will be another Kiddical Mass ride in Guildford planned for Guildford's car free day on Sun 24th September.

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

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be in the MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking, at **7.00pm on Thursday 16th November**. This meeting will incorporate a short AGM.

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 19th October**.

## **8. AOB**

### Stonegate

EP asked what we knew about the Stonegate development of the old Aviva/Friends Provident site, which will include a Cycle Hub. We have not been consulted, neither have Dorking Cycle Club. JD pointed out that what approval had been given for is just an outline proposal at this stage (application ref. MO/2023/0386).

### Russ Hill Hotel Asylum Seeker/Refugee Cycling Initiative

Unfortunately the Slow Bicycle Race did not take place since the whole event had to be cancelled. JA and LS are now discussing the possibility of arranging monthly guided cycle rides out of the Health Hub in Horley to Crawley. Issues to be resolved include insurance. Advice may be available from SCC's Dave Sharpington who has responsibility for BikeAbility. It was also suggested that Dorking Cycling Club might be interested as they may have individuals with appropriate experience.

### Active Travel Cafe is a friendly, weekly forum on sustainable transport (particularly walking, cycling etc)

This has been recommended by various members of the Forum.

For more details see <https://www.activetravelcafe.org.uk/>

### Forum Communications

Earlier in the meeting there was a discussion about how communications on various active topics (eg. the LCWIP) could be improved and made more dynamic. JD noted that G-BUG have access to MS Teams which as well as enabling Zoom-like meetings, has "channels" with "threads" and "tabs" which individuals could contribute to in an asynchronous manner. It is thought that perhaps Guildford BC in some way fund this. **JD and/or RT to find out**. NB. Since the meeting RT has checked and the software running our website has something similar built in which we could trial informally. **RT to pursue**.

Post-meeting note: AM has established that in the MVDC offices there are no facilities for hybrid meetings other than the screen in the room, into which a laptop could be plugged.

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.