

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum AGM/Meeting, Thursday November 16th 2023 Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: John Arnold (JA) [Chair], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Lisa Scott (LS) [Hookwood/Charlwood], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham]

Apologies:

Colin Brewer (CB) [Treasurer], Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], PennyTyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/Newdigate], Caroline Cardew-Smith & Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association],

1. Previous Minutes

No comments on these 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. If we are to proceed with this 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. One possibility might be online collaboration tools (see later)

JA to approach MVDC councillors to suggest the establishment of a cross-party Cycling & Walking Group. It is unclear whether there would be any traction on this. Before pursuing this it was agreed that the Forum should contact all District Councillors to make them aware of the Forum. **RT** to email District Councillors on behalf of the Forum.

JA to contact MVDC's Luke Dickson to confirm that he is still our contact within MVDC. Not sure where we got with this, however he is on the distribution list for these notes.

3. Financial Statement and Approval of Accounts

It was agreed that before we sign these off, we should check with CB regarding the grant made available for the BMX track as this does not appear in the accounts, although it is not known whether the money is yet to be paid in.

4. Voting in of Officers / Appointment of Committee

JA announced his intention to stand down from Chair, however he would be willing to take over the role of Treasurer which CB was wishing to pass on. No other expressions of interest had been received.

Chair – Lisa Scott,
Treasurer – John Arnold,
Secretary - Roger Troughton

5. Future of the Forum

There followed a discussion on what the purpose of the Forum was, and it was agreed that we should be a pressure group, to positively promote cycling in the valley and to engage with the appropriate bodies in order to advance active travel.

Greater online collaboration would enable to Forum to become less reliant upon infrequent meetings. JD noted that G-BUG uses MS Teams, not only for online meetings, but also the online collaboration tools it provides. However, there likely to be a cost to this (there is a free version of Teams, however it is not immediately clear whether this would provide the necessary functionality). Whilst RT has checked and the software running our website is capable of having discussion, JD pointed out that everything was visible in the public domain, and there would be situations where we might not wish this to be the case. JA suggested that we use the Basecamp app as a way of communicating on topics. This requires a login, and JA has emailed those present with the details.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The situation is that 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. (For full details see <https://news.molevalley.gov.uk/2023/09/27/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-project-funding-approved/>) This money is not for actual cycle paths etc, but for feasibility studies on schemes. These need to be carried out before Highways can apply for any money from Central Government to cover or part-cover the cost of implementation.

It was suggested that we write to Matt Furniss as Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth, to ask if he would confirm that Surrey County Council would indeed match the funding towards the LCWIP for Mole Valley, as we are uncertain as to the absolute level of their funding intention. Is it limited or will they match fund the full £160k?

A25 safety improvements

We need to see if we can get early sight of the plans to ensure that they are fit for purpose for cyclists. RT has been in touch with Cty Cllr Steven Cooksey to get a contact name in Highways so that we can register our interest.

20mph

A statement is due soon from SCC as to whether they would support a blanket 20mph limit in an (unnamed) area.

4. BMX Track – next steps

A work party for 29 November is scheduled with the Friends of Deepdene and the Friends RNB to carry out clearance work. All invited to help (contact the Secretary for further details if interested).

5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Fetcham area

Regarding the planning application for the land originally purchased for a new Surrey Police HQ (ref MO/2023/0642) about which JD submitted a representation on behalf of her employer, and RT did likewise on behalf of the Forum; this has now been designated a major scheme so it will go to the council's Development Control Committee.

Effingham - Howard of Effingham Plans

JD & RT to liaise on writing to the various parties to ensure there is permeability through any new development (c/f).

Polesden Lacey Routes

In the light of the Members' resolution on walking and cycling access to properties, which was overwhelmingly carried at the recent NT AGM, it was suggested that we contact the NT and ask them what their plans are and remind them that we did have discussions with their staff about this matter some years ago.

RT to email the Surrey and West Sussex Regional Office (NB. this is now in Wisley).

Hookwood/Charlwood Area

Gatwick Airport (Northern Runway expansion plans):

RT has ensured that we are registered with The Planning Inspectorate as an interested party. Whilst the actual timeline has yet to be announced, it is expected that we need to submit any further comments by sometime in December. The next step is to collate what everyone would like to see (best case scenario). (Sec's note – perhaps this is an opportunity to use Basecamp?) Action: **ALL** to contribute points (eg. via Basecamp or direct to RT as Secretary).

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

Nothing to report.

7. Dates and Venues for Future Meetings

The next formal meeting of the Forum will be in the MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking in Committee Room 1, at **7.00pm on Thursday 8th February 2024.**

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 11th January.**

8. AOB

Road Surfaces and Resurfacing

EP expressed his views on this matter (eg. Randalls Road). LS asked **EP** to list locations of good and bad examples of resurfacing in the District.

CCTV in Mole Valley

MVDC currently has a consultation out about this – see <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/cctvreview> for further details (NB. CCTV cameras often surveil cycle parking). NB responses need to be in by Monday 20th November.

Planning Policies

During the meeting there was a discussion about the NPPF (National Policy Planning Framework) and whether or not we might be able to influence the changes that are currently being reviewed within the context of the Future Mole Valley Local Plan. However, it was suggested that it might be difficult for any suggestions to be listened to/taken seriously. LS proposed that we identify appropriate travel related 'policies' within the current version and re-word them to be more strongly supportive of active travel and propose to MVDC, as such changes could significantly improve the council's 'Climate Scorecard' which would be to the Council's advantage.

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.