

Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum Meeting, Thursday March 7th 2024

Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

Present: Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer], Julia Dickinson (JD) [Bookham/Effingham], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead], Penny Tyson-Davies (PT-D) [British Horse Society/ Newdigate], Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association]

Apologies:

Peter Mayor [Leatherhead], Cllr Rosemary Hobbs [Holmwoods], Corinna Osborne-Patterson [Newdigate]

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. There was discussion on what we need the money for. JD suggested a MS Teams Licence (this would look to be around £48pa, inc VAT). We also discussed insurance for a cycling event, and an event like Guildford's successful Kiddical Mass was suggested, although we struggled to identify a suitable location. Another proposal was a stand at Pippfest, although it was felt that it should be possible to borrow a gazebo if needs be.

RT had had an action to email District Councillors to make them aware of the Forum. After some discussion AM suggested that we approach either the leader of the Council, Cllr Stephen Cooksey and/or the Chief Executive, Karen Brimacombe, for a 10-15min slot at a full Council Meeting (NB. this might get delayed by Local Elections). Regarding the action to contact MVDC's Luke Dickson to confirm that he is still our contact within MVDC, **RT** to follow this up.

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

It has been confirmed to the Forum by Cty Cllr Matt Furniss (Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport etc) that all LCWIP funding across Surrey is secure and continuing. The SCC Officer is (still) Neil McClure, However, RW indicated that it is difficult to get a response from him, possibly due to the number of LCWIPs he is managing with Atkins on behalf of SCC. It was suggested that we ask Neil McClure if he would attend a meeting of the Forum, or set up a virtual meeting. **RT** to email on behalf of the Forum, copying AM and SCC's Michelle Bradley-Tigwell - Lead Community Link Officer for Mole Valley.

4. A25 Safety Improvements

The scheme is a project funded by the DfT strictly to their criteria to improve road safety for all road users of the A25 between Dorking and Reigate. LS, JA and RT were invited to a call recently with SCC's Duncan Knox and colleagues, the aim of which was specifically to look at the very first section of the A25 project, between the Dorking Cockerell roundabout and The Watermill, and looked mostly at the Tesco's entry and Punchbowl Lane junction. It was not a forum to discuss Vision Zero or the overall standard for the A25 project, although we were able to comment on their initial thoughts. By being constructive, this will hopefully increase our influence in future discussions. The detailed designs will form part of the public consultation, anticipated around mid-summer at which point everyone will be able to comment. Prior to the call, RT copied to Duncan Knox EP's 3 pages of concerns further along the A25, together with some supporting comments of his own. These concerns include the raised kerbs east of Buckland and EP was urged to "pin" the issue on the Commonplace map. (Sec's note: details for this have been passed to EP.) SCC's notes from the discussions are available upon request to the Secretary. EP felt aggrieved that he had not been invited to the meeting.

5. Vision Zero

Full details of this draft Road Safety Strategy for Surrey covering 2024 to 2035 can be found at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/strategy-2024-to-2035>.

The consultation at <https://visionzerosurrey.commonplace.is/> remains open until 24 March.

Currently it appears that a (County) councillor has the ability to override the wishes of their community – which needs to be highlighted as a concern. Also, if a consultation appears to potentially lead to bias, this needs to be flagged.

6. Gatwick DCO (Development Consent Order) Consultation

The relevant part of the Issue Specific Hearing on Surface Transport starts at 1h 21m 24s into this recording:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR020005/TR020005-001517-ISH4%20Part%202.html>

The Examining Authority has asked for revised maps for walking and cycling to be made available by Deadline 1 (12th March). LS also noted that they are looking to remove 1.5 miles of Active Travel Infrastructure to add a third lane to that section of the A23. **RT** to submit our additional comments before the Tuesday 12th deadline (completed). Meanwhile, MVDC has published its Statement of Case and basically indicated they will not be defending it.

7. BMX Track

Good progress was made during the work party with the Friends of Deepdene and the Friends RNB to carry out clearance work back in November, and others have carried out further clearance work recently.

5. Route & Infrastructure Updates

Leatherhead/Fetcham area

There was discussion on the land originally purchased for a new Surrey Police HQ (ref MO/2023/0642) and the aim to retain pedestrian and cycle access through the site for employees at nearby businesses.

Effingham - Howard of Effingham Plans

JD noted that as the case has gone to appeal, we need to resubmit our previous concerns.

RT has located these and is awaiting confirmation from JD before resubmitting.

Polesden Lacey Routes

RT emailed the NT Surrey and West Sussex Regional Office querying any plans for Polesden Lacey, and this has been forwarded on to the property itself to respond on.

Dorking Area

A query was raised about the A24 cycle path featuring as a "Heritage Cycleway" – the details to be found in this link <https://www.britishcycletracks.com/> probably answer this.

Trig Street

From PT-D's update 2/2/24: SCC have completed all the legal side of things, but say the local people must find the bulk of the money (£80,000 + VAT). We have pledges of approx £20,000 which is a good start, but need to get more. Mole Valley DC say they won't help with a parish council application as it is something for SCC. So we are going round in circles. The two parish councils which cover the land have very little to play with in their budgets, so not much to help. PT-D expanded on this and possible funding options were discussed.

Hookwood/Charlwood Area

An announcement is expected soon on proposed housing plans for that area.

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 16th May 2024**.

An informal meeting will be held at **The Stepping Stones**, Westhumble from **7.00pm on Thursday 18th April**.

8. AOB

Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan

We have received an open invitation to participate in an online workshop scheduled for Thursday 21 March at 7pm to understand the needs of off-road cyclists more fully.

The link to book a place on the workshop is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZD683XY>

Transform Leatherhead

Reports from those present at the meeting last week indicated that this project is unlikely to take cyclists into account, although the topic of "20 minute neighbourhoods" was raised.

At the last meeting LS asked **EP** to list locations of good and bad examples of resurfacing in the District. (C/F). Meanwhile it was reported that Cllr Tim Hall is following up on the condition of the surface in Randalls Road.

LS endeavoured to cover some of the points that EP had belatedly put forward as agenda items a couple of days prior to this Forum meeting (we had endeavoured to cover some of them within the published agenda). Outstanding items will be covered at future meetings or addressed offline if that is easier.

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.