

## Minutes of Mole Valley Cycling Forum AGM/Meeting, Thursday November 14th 2024 Held at MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking

**Present:** Lisa Scott (LS) [Chair; Hookwood/Charlwood], Cllr Andrew Matthews (AM) [Bookham/Effingham], Roger Troughton (RT) [Secretary], John Arnold (JA) [Treasurer], John Meudell (JM) [Dorking], Robert Whitcombe [Fetcham Residents Association (FRA)], Eric Palmer [Leatherhead] (early part only)

### Apologies:

Ian Houghton [Bookham], Peter Mayor [Leatherhead]

### 1. Previous Minutes

RW had provided a clarification which is incorporated into the previous minutes. (Also, the DoNM was incorrect!)

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

JA reported that the process of getting the signatories updated on the MVCF Bank Account along with the change of address is now complete.

### 3. Financial Statement and Approval of Accounts

JA presented these. The current balance is £225.82, which includes a grant of £200 from the Surrey Climate Committee which is restricted to purposes related to the BMX track.

RT proposed that we accept these accounts, LS seconded.

**JA to email AM regarding the possibility of requesting some top-up funds from MVDC.**

### 4. Voting in of Officers / Appointment of Committee

No other expressions of interest had been received, as a result the existing officers were voted in to continue for a further year: Proposer: RW / Secunder: AM

Chair – Lisa Scott,

Treasurer – John Arnold,

Secretary - Roger Troughton

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

Luke Dickson (MVDC) kindly provided the following update:

“Atkins are currently working on the feasibility of various options to overcome the key pinch points and issue sections in the schemes selected for feasibility. Efforts are also being made to ensure that this process is conducted in harmony with the work being undertaken for the Transform Leatherhead proposals and Bookham and Dorking masterplan work.”

RW reported that the FRA were disappointed in the poor communications, information sharing and reluctance to engage on the part of SCC Officers, despite some support from SCC Councillors, including Marisa Heath as Cabinet Member for Environment. Following a call with Marisa Heath, a senior member of the Highways Team and the LCWIP officers, it was hoped that there would be better engagement, but the improvement has been marginal.

A site visit by cycle to the area between Fetcham and Leatherhead was held in September, but FRA has had no feedback on this. Also a request for a copy of an Archaeology Report by Surrey County Archaeology Unit (SCAU), originally commissioned by FRA as part of the Feasibility Study, was only shared with FRA after 7 weeks despite repeated requests. FRA had to point out that the report's recommendations had not met SCAU's own terms of reference and requested a call to discuss this. The SCC LCWIP team and SCAU ignored this request and had a follow-up call without FRA. It is believed that those working on the LCWIP are stretched in their activities, yet they are not tapping in to local expertise and knowledge. Almost two years ago RW did manage to get some action (on the inclusion of the "Fetcham Springs Spur" in the LCWIP Feasibility Study) by asking a question at a SCC Cabinet Meeting.

RW also noted that SCC had indicated that they would be arranging separate site visits (e.g. to Bookham) with other stakeholders (which could include MVCF), but it seems that has not happened.

Following discussion, it was agreed that **LS & RW with assistance from AM would put questions to both SCC and MVDC cabinets.**

**AM to email SCC's Neil McClure asking what are the next steps for the LCWIP following the site visit with Atkins, and if we could please have an update on the latest progress.**

RW noted that he and others from FRA (and other MV RAs) would be attending an invitation-only Transform Leatherhead meeting with officers of MVDC and representatives of SCC focussing (it is hoped) on transport / connectivity to neighbouring "villages" and Bull Hill issues, including the LCWIP. This is scheduled for Dec 9th.

## 6. BMX Track

LS has received a template contract and will be looking at this with JA.

**RT** to liaise with MVDC's Alex Bagnall about arranging a work party from the Friends of Deepdene at the BMX track.

## 7. Route & Infrastructure Updates (where there is anything to report)

Leatherhead/Fetcham area:

RW reported that Surrey Highways have been repairing FP16 and putting in draining – this is used by children accessing Therfield School.

- Givons Grove to Mickleham

RT has managed to significantly reduced the size of the document provided by EP so that this can now be placed on the website.

Dorking Area:

JM noted that the 20mph limits proposed for Dorking hadn't taken into account the areas around primary schools.

- A25 Safety Improvements

The current details can be found here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/a25-dorking-to-reigate-road-safety-improvements-scheme> It is understood that there will be further details available shortly.

LS has recently been in email discussion with SCC's Duncan Knox regarding the West St (Reigate) segregated cycle lane which is yet to be completed.

- Meadowbank links

**RT** to contact Cllr Nick Wright with the story so far.[in progress – noting that there are proposals along similar lines included in the Dorking masterplan.]

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

Nothing to report.

## 9. 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 23rd January 2025**.

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

## 10. AOB

Establish a schedule of main contacts/reporting processes for cycling & road safety issues

Limited information already exists on our website, this could be usefully expanded. **Action: RT**

Dorking & Bookham Masterplans – These have now been published

– see: <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/bookham-dorking-masterplan/> , and the public consultation is open until 5th December. Please submit your comments on these Masterplans and/or provide comments to the Secretary by 2nd December so that a submission can be made on behalf of the Forum.

A24 Horsham to Dorking Corridor Feasibility Study

The study corridor includes the A24 between the A24/A264 Great Daux roundabout near Horsham, and the A24/A25 Dorking Deepdene Roundabout. Since a webinar in 2022 for organisations and groups inviting views about priorities for the study, feasibility work has been undertaken on a package of improvements for the corridor and there will be a follow-up session on 2nd Dec (2-4pm) where they will be reporting back on the outputs of the study and inviting feedback. If you would like further information or to attend the webinar, please contact the Secretary for details.

RW has been in touch with Sam Jones - Access Officer for the Surrey Hills National Landscape (previously AONB) which obviously includes the Mole Valley Area. JA is probably the best contact point to follow this up having worked with the Surrey Hills organisation recently.

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 the Secretary, who will forward them on to AM.