

WALKING AND CYCLING FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010
in the Crothall Room, St Mary's Church, Ashford

Present: Jonathan Beare (in the Chair); Spencer Morgan (taking minutes) Cycle Activity Provider; Liz Wedgwood, Kent County Council Transport Planner; Christine Green, CACF and Town Centre Partnership; Ted Prangnell, Ashford Cycling Touring Club, Roadpeace, Living Streets; Greg Williams, Spokes; PC Paul Morton, local police officer; Jan Richardson; Colin Cresser.

Apologies: Emily Neighbour

Minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2010: these were approved.

Regarding winter path conditions: It was confirmed that Emily had received confirmation from KCC indicating that path/cycleway gritting was low priority. PM added that the police had also logged their concerns over the condition of the paths during times of snow and ice.

Regarding Vegetation clearing: LW confirmed that a request has been made to increase budget for this in line with the growth of the cycle network. PM suggested that the section between Bridge Street and Chart Road needs attention. LB said that he has notice some work has been carried out recently. GW suggested logging 'faults' on the KCC site at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/KHSFaults/>

Regarding Willesborough Dykes Path Planning Application: JB read out the comments which he logged on behalf of the forum. A total of 11 comments for and 1.5 against had been received. The only negative was lighting (perhaps wildlife concerns). Need to wait for official decision regarding funding from ABC at beginning of May.

Ashford Cycling Strategy: LW provided following update. The strategy went live on Monday (emailed consultees, posted on ABC website, Ashford Future website, Explore Kent website, Twitter posted. Also to be published in Town Talk and a copy left at the library (perhaps moved to another location when library closes)).

The press report in KM was commented on. Generally disappointed that article focused on 'Bike Tree', however it may encourage public to post their view.

Bike Hub – Possible money via a European budget that Simon Alum mentioned to LW. PM suggested use of vacant shops where lease is already paid.

JR leaves with apologies.

It was clarified that strategy was just for town and not for whole borough.

Comments about strategy to be posted by 30/4/10.

Pilgrim's Hospice Ride: LW updated progress on charity ride to be held on 9th May 2010 as a fund raiser and to encourage families to cycle. The two routes, 8 or 15 miles in the Shadoxhurst area have been agreed, next need to draw up and publicise from mid April (KMFM, Explore Kent and suggestion made for Cycle Weekly, CC volunteered to create artwork with JB providing text). The 70 mile route for serious cyclists has already been publicised. A stand will be jointly run by Spokes to promote. PM suggested 'sweep vehicle' and will ask NEG to provide for free.

AOB

Strategic routes: LW - Learning link, route 18, Cheeseman's Green and Sevington routes have been submitted to Ashford Future. Jacobs will now provide engineering works with possible funding coming from Growth Area Foundation and Developing funding.

A2070: TP – raised concerns over safety of this route. Has been removed from map, but signage still exists pointing cyclists to potential dangerous route.

Godinton House: SM – Godinton House are keen to open a route to their Estate. This could be linked with the current proposed link (in strategy) between Orchard Heights and Godinton Park Estates utilising an existing, but unspecified forest track

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

Next meeting: Proposed Tuesday 20th April 2010 – To be confirmed.