

FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 1 November 2007 at Morehall School

Present: Jean Baker (Chair), Gary Peak (Kent Highway Services), Barrie Botley, Moira Stuart and Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Anne Chamberlain (Go Folkestone), Richard Wallace (Go Folkestone/Folkestone Town Council), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Clive Harris (Kent Youth Service/CDRP Shepway), Sue Reed (Folkestone School for Girls) Mike Brett and Kelvin Pawsey (Harvey Grammar School) Julie Williams (Parent/Governor at Morehall School) Rory Love (SDC District Secretary for Environmental Services) David Kesby, Jeff Lyle, Len Godden, Tony Gilbert, Terry Conybeare, Kody Potter, B V Oxford, and Brian Turner. **Apologies for absence** were received from Frederick Miller (Transportation Manager, SDC), George Maidment and Ann Berry (Go Folkestone), Ian Norman (Pent Valley Community College)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 27 July 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 **Matters arising:**

- 2.1 (Minute 2): JB had obtained printed copies of the Thanet Cycling Plan that might serve as a basis for a similar plan for Shepway.
- 2.2 (Minute 7) JB had written to Primary and Secondary schools in Folkestone and Hythe, with patchy results. She welcomed representatives from Folkestone School for Girls and Harvey Grammar School who were present. However, she reported that a response from Cheriton PS suggested that teachers and parents were fearful of young children's safety on roads.
- 2.3 (Minute 7) MS had contacted developers of the Town Centre, and learned that no cycle tracks had been included. Parking facilities would be provided, but away from the new centre site.

3. **Gary Peak, Senior Transport Engineer responsible for Shepway, Kent Highway Services**

welcomed the input from JB TG and RH relating mainly to the central area of Folkestone, and invited **more contributions** in this area and the eastern and Cheriton areas. Plans of the town suggesting feasible routes and locations for parking/lockers would be assimilated into a "strategic plan". The next step would be to assign priorities to creating and linking paths for inclusion in next summer's KCC budget. Construction work could commence in the financial year 2009-10, although simple line-marking and signage might take place earlier. Problems included potential conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on shared paths (this problem is also being researched by Sustrans), local bylaws and land ownership. Specific areas of concern were discussed: the Kingsmead access to Folkestone Academy, Harvey Grammar School, Coolinge Lane, Sandgate coastal route, Rail stations and Folkestone Harbour area during the forthcoming Triennale exhibition. Priorities might be influenced by the numbers of potential users (eg Folkestone School for Girls' catchment area might be too wide to justify high priority), the ease of implementation, or the activities of developers in the town.

All

4.. **Safe routes to schools**

GP stressed the importance of schoolchildren using bikes safely as early as possible, and explained that KCC had travel planners in touch with all schools in the area. JB suggested that schools should be encouraged to comment on the Forum's strategic plan at an early stage. Other suggestions included publicity for existing and developing off-road routes and

**Schools
reps**

Action by

quiet roads and encouragement for schools to draw up travel plans to include bike storage. It was hoped that students would be involved in these initiatives, and it was agreed that Sustrans would distribute a questionnaire to schoolchildren.

5.. Clive Harris, Kent Youth Service

explained that he was attached to SDC Crime Prevention Team, responsible for giving advice and encouragement to 11-19 year-olds using mountain bikes for off-road and on-road use. His advice included acceptable tips for safe and visible cycle use in built-up areas. Courses were open to asylum seekers, and covered the whole SDC area. GP welcomed this new initiative and advised that KCC was active in giving advice to Primary School children. Information on the Sustrans Bike-it scheme was available on their website.

6. AOB

6.1 Support from other organisations

RL confirmed that SDC supported the aims of the Forum, and would ensure that the interests of cyclists would be considered when development applications were submitted to the Council, but had no funds to offer. He agreed to contact Shepway Youth Forum. Police support had initially been enthusiastic, but it was now considered that they should be consulted formally once the initial plan had been drafted. Folkestone Town Council might be able to provide funds for cycle racks, and RW would involve a Pent Valley student group in discussing the Strategic Plan.

RL

RW

6.2 Cycle racks

It was agreed that the first site for cycle racks should be in the town precinct outside WH Smith. The B and Q design of covered racks was preferred,

6.3 Engineering solutions for cycles

GP explained the difference between the various styles of road crossing, and the use of cycle priority boxes at traffic lights. Issues of riding on pavements and shared space and were discussed, and GP confirmed that the widths required for areas to be shared by pedestrians and cyclists were 1.5 metres for paths and 2 metres for subways. Suggestions for shared routes should take these measurements into account.

6.4 Lottery funding for Sustrans

AJ asked everyone to support the Sustrans bid for lottery funding for "Connect 2" by visiting the website: sustransconnect2.org.uk, or by responding to the forthcoming TV publicity.

All

6.5 Publicity

AC and JB agreed to persevere with getting a press release in the local papers

AC/JB

More copies of a plan of the routes suggested so far will be circulated if/when technology allows. Please send your suggestions to: gary.peak@kent.gov.uk

Next meeting: 28 February 2008 at 7pm at Morehall School (Access from rear Car Park – off Surrenden Road)

AJ/PR