

# FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

## Minutes of a meeting held on 28 February 2008 at Morehall School

**Present:** Jean Baker (Chair), Gary Peak and Donna Rixson (Kent Highway Services), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Anne Chamberlain, George Maidment (Go Folkestone), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Rory Love (SDC District Secretary for Environmental Services) David Kesby, Jeff Lyle, Mike Baker and Brian Turner.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Frederick Miller and Stephen Gasche( SDC), Barrie Botley and Moira Stuart (Shepway FoE) and Steve Burton (Activ Sports)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 1 November 2007 were approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute 6.3 to indicate that the minimum width of shared paths and subways was 2.5 metres and 3 metres respectively, and signed by the Chairman.

### 2 **Matters arising:**

2.1 (Minute 4) Minutes inviting comments on the Strategy had been distributed to schools but no responses had been received. Schools had indicated to KCC that they were unwilling to support cycling until safe routes were in place. Most schools were committed to the preparation of travel plans, and it was agreed that further consultation with schools, PTA's and parent groups should wait until the strategy was complete. However, Folkestone Academy would be approached to trial cycling to school once its access problems were resolved. If the request was refused, Pent Valley School should be approached, and the two Grammar Schools kept informed of progress.

Alan Joyce had prepared a questionnaire for all schools, and received comments from Gary Shipp, Regional Supervisor for Sustrans "Bike It" Project. It was agreed that KCC's Travel Planner for the area be asked to suggest that Sustrans be involved in the preparation of each school's travel plan.

2.2 (Minute 6.1)RL would contact Shepway Youth Forum when Tamasin Jarrett of SDC returned from maternity leave.  
KCC's Public Rights of Way officers might be able to assist the Forum, especially on change of use of paths and upgrading surfaces. Members agreed that clear notices indicating shared use were vital for the success of new schemes.

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

Gary introduced Donna Rixson who would take over responsibility for the Strategy on 1 April. She was already working on the plan for Folkestone, and hoped to widen the Strategy to include the Marsh and Elham areas. (**Donna's email address is [donna.rixson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:donna.rixson@kent.gov.uk).**) Further suggestions were needed for East Folkestone, and comments on problems of Sustrans Route 2. The Dover consultation document was available for comment on [dover.cycling@kent.gov.uk](mailto:dover.cycling@kent.gov.uk), which would provide a model for the Folkestone/Shepway Cycling Strategy 5 Year Plan.

### 4 **Priorities and progress**

Following input from Forum members, the Shepway document would be prepared in 3-4 months, and after informal consultation with SDC would be published for comment within 12 months. Meanwhile, limited funds were available which would allow work to minor projects of signage eg to indicate shared use at Hythe Esplanade.

**Action  
by**

**KCC**

**KCC**

**RL**

**KCC**

**ALL**

**KCC**

Some redundant existing signs could be relocated. Developers could be encouraged to include provision for cyclists in their plans. Members asked for the improvement of the bridle path from Lower Wall Bridge to Aldergate Bridge to be prioritised.

**AJ/KCC**

**5. Folkestone West Station**

Plans had been discussed by Network Rail, SE Trains and KCC for the new building for the High Speed Rail Link. Changes to the station might include a new bridge over the track, secure cycle parking and changes to the road bridge to widen Beachborough Road. Members suggested that the new bridge could be ramped, or that the existing underpass be retained. Folkestone Central Station might also be improved for cyclists and pedestrians.

**4 Sandgate Seafront and The Avenue, Hythe.**

Access to the seawall at Sandgate Castle was discussed. Members agreed that the Sustrans route via Sandgate High Street was unsatisfactory, and agreed that the maintenance gangway along the seawall from Seabrook to Folkestone harbour was suitable for shared use. SDC had agreed in principle that this could be permitted, and it was agreed that KCC should complete the necessary consultations. Other improvements in Sandgate could include cycle racks in the Castle car park.

**KCC**

Cyclists' use of The Avenue, Hythe was legally ambiguous. Members suggested that it would be preferable to cycle along the north side of the Canal, and that the situation should be clarified with SDC.

**KCC**

**5 AOB**

1. Ideas for publicity included press releases to The Herald, Kentish Express and Kent on Sunday and a publicity stall in Folkestone precinct. However, these initiatives should take place at consultation stage, once the strategy was agreed.

2. Cllr Love agreed to circulate the agenda for the next meeting to all District Council members.

**RL**

3. A donation of £50 had been received from Shepway Friends of the Earth. A collection from members totalled £16.

**6 Next meeting Thursday 12 June 7pm– The Old Fire Station, 51 Sandgate High Street (Next door to the Providence Inn)**

