

FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 12 June 2008 at The Old Fire Station, Sandgate

Present: Jean Baker (Chair), Mike Baker, Donna Rixson (KHS Transportation Engineer), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Anne Chamberlain (Go Folkestone), Stephen Gasche(SDC), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger) Malcolm Dearden (SDC Secretary for Environmental Services), Owen Leyshon (RMCP), David Kesby (Ramblers Association), Andrew Register, Toni Spain, Jeff Lyle, and Len Godden.

Apologies for absence were received from Frederick Miller and Tamsin Jarrett (SDC), Mike Brett (Harvey GS), Cllr Lynne Beaumont (SDC), Chris Kirkham (Discover Folkestone) Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Sue Reed (Folkestone School for Girls), George Maidment (Go Folkestone), Barrie Botley and Moira Stuart (Shepway FoE) and Steve Burton (Activ Sports).

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. **Action by**

2 **Matters arising:**

2.1 (Minute 2.2) Donna Rixson was consulting PROW officers at KCC about converting Rights of Way for shared use, and the design of appropriate signage. DR

2.2 (Minute 3) Some suggestions for routes in East Folkestone had been sent to KCC. .

2.3 (Minute 4) Sustrans members would liaise with Donna about re-using notices. Sustrans
Developers of the Royal Victoria Hospital site had indicated that they would include paths in their plans, but no planning application had yet been submitted. Improvements to the path from Lower wall Bridge to Aldergate Bridge were no longer considered to be a priority.

2.4 (Minute 6) Donna had consulted David Young of Sustrans about the proposed diversion of Route 2 on to the beach promenade at Sandgate; they would visit the site to consider problems of mixed use, access from the SDC car park, etc. The legal position on The Avenue, Hythe was still unclear. Hythe Town Council had expressed concern about shared use of The Avenue; Donna agreed to liaise with the Council on the possibility of segregated use. DR
Sustrans
DR

3 **Donna Rixson (KCC)**

Donna explained that, once the Strategy was in place, it would form a basis for advising developers of the need to include provision for cyclists. The draft Strategy would be submitted to KCC's management team in 2-3 weeks, on target for public consultation by the end of 2008. DR
More suggestions were needed on possible links to rural areas, especially north of the M20. A scheme for providing a path for pedestrians and cyclists beside Spitfire Way in Hawkinge had been costed at £215,000 and had been given low priority.

4 **Folkestone West Station Development**

Jean Baker had sent a letter to Mike Gibson of South East Trains deploring the lack of provision for cycle access and storage in their proposals for the station. Stephen Gasche would meet them shortly, with Councillors and Michael Howard, and would include members' concerns in his representations. Members emphasised the need to ease congestion and parking problems by including cycle and public transport facilities from the outset, especially since Sandling station had been removed as a stop on the high-speed line. Secure storage facilities for cycles would also be a requirement, either on or off the platforms. SG

Stephen Gasche explained that SDC had objected to the sudden imposition of parking charges at the station, which would increase pressure on the (currently unrestricted) parking in nearby streets.

5 Cycle Paths – Feasibility trials

Donna asked members to trial the suggested new routes and point out hazards such as on-street parking, traffic calming, dangerous junctions, one-way systems etc. Riders should indicate whether they preferred to be on or off the carriageway. Priority should be given to routes to secondary schools and the points at which routes crossed the railway line. Comments should be submitted to Donna and SDC. Dave Kesby suggested that a number of bridle paths in rural areas could be signed as suitable for cyclists at very little cost.

All

DR

6 Romney Marsh proposals

The A259 was an extremely fast, dangerous road and alternatives had been discussed in the past and abandoned as being too expensive. Routes using the maintenance gangway on the shore at Dymchurch and the track inside the sea wall at St Mary's Bay were suggested. Owen Leyshon pointed out that very few children cycled to the Marsh Academy, compared with the numbers given encouragement at Hamstreet School. He volunteered to ask for comments from participants in the forthcoming Marsh Ride.

OL

7 AOB

a. **Schools:** Every school must have a Travel Plan by 2010, and they would then qualify for a grant to spend on cycle park provision. Donna would provide the name of the newly appointed officer responsible for Travel Plans.

b. **Lorries:** The problem of lorries parking at the Kingsmead entrance to Folkestone Academy appeared to be insoluble. Malcolm Dearden agreed to pursue the matter.

c. **AONB:** Owen Leyshon suggested that Nick Johannsen might submit suggestions for routes north of the M20.

d. **Opportunities for cycling:** Minutes would include news of local cycling events

MD

8. Next meeting - Thursday 2 October at the Civic Centre.