

# FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

## Minutes of a meeting held on 15 January 2009, St Andrews Hall, Cheriton

**Present:** Jean Baker (Chair), Donna Rixson (KHS Transportation Engineer), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Brian Turner (Sustrans), Jan Wickham (KHS Dover and Shepway School Travel Plan Advisor) Malcolm Dearden (SDC Secretary for Economic Development and Transport), Gregory Williams (Events Officer, Spokes) Mike Baker and Tony Gilbert.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Carole Waters (SDC Secretary for Sport and Leisure), Cllr Lynne Beaumont, (SDC) Cllr Richard Wallace (Folkestone Town Council), Ann Berry (Go Folkestone), Stephen Fawke (Spokes), Anne Chamberlain (Go Folkestone) Chris Kirkham (Discover Folkestone), Keith Cane (SDC) and Terry Conybeare.

**1. Minutes** of the meeting held on 2 October 2008 were approved as a correct record, subject to the correction of the designations of Cllr Dearden and Peter Wignall (Corporate Director) and signed by the Chairman.

### **2. Matters arising:**

- |  | <b>Action by</b> |
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| 2.1 (Minutes 2.1 and 2.2) The questions of signage on the bridleway alongside the Sports Centre and on NCR2 at Beach Street and the issue of access to the promenade from the car park at Sandgate remained unresolved.  | DR               |
| 2.2 (Minute 2.3) In the absence of Owen Leyshon, it was agreed that he should be contacted for his suggestions on routes to schools on the Marsh.  | AJ               |
| 2.3 (Minute 2.5) Cllr Dearden reported that a Road Traffic Order was being prepared to prevent lorries parking at the Kingsmead entrance to Folkestone Academy, and this should be in place by late February. Donna Rixson suggested that the Order should include authorisation for “blips” on the pavement, which would give greater control. Cllr Dearden also gave an assurance that a RTO would control parking for 350m around the rail stations.  | MD               |
| 2.4 (Minute 5) Jean Baker expressed disappointment that the provision of parking for 10 bikes (uncovered) at Folkestone West was inadequate, whereas at Folkestone Central station parking had been put in place for 20 bikes under cover. Cllr Dearden promised SDC support for representation to Network Rail. Donna Rixson made it clear that there was no chance of widening the footway under the bridge in Beachborough Road, and no prospect of a controlled crossing in that area, because such a project would increase the traffic queues at Beachborough crossroads. The station underpass would not be improved, and Network Rail was considering a lift/bridge arrangement for disabled customers. Members were encouraged to raise their concerns about this matter with Cllr Keith Ferrin, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, at Heatherbank, Woodgate Lane, Maidstone Road, Borden Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7QB Tel:01795 842613 or online at <a href="mailto:keith.ferrin@kent.gov.uk">keith.ferrin@kent.gov.uk</a> | JB<br>MD         |
| 2.5 (Minute 7.1) The bid for EU funding for the development of Tontine Street had failed. Jeremy Whitaker of SDC was preparing a new bid, and he should be contacted to ensure that provision for cyclists should be included at an early stage.   | All<br>JB        |

2.6 (Minute 7.2) Donna's temporary replacement was still unknown. Simon Allum was still nominally KCC's Cycling Officer, although he would be leaving soon.

### **3 Donna Rixson (KCC)**

Donna reported that although the first draft of the Cycling Strategy had been completed, based on the Dover model, there were no resources available to proceed further with it. She assured members that proposals for 3 routes could proceed without the Strategy ie the Folkestone South to North Route from Earls Avenue to Linksway (via the shared path between Shorncliffe Road and Cheriton Road, the pedestrian route along Cornwallis Avenue and the Academy); the East to West route of which the details were still being examined in the light of on-street parking; and the Hythe route from NCR2 to the residential area. These proposals were on course for implementation in 2010-11.

DR

Members expressed concern that work on the Strategy, seen as the vital lever to influence developers in the District, had come to a halt.

### **4 Jan Wickham (KHS Dover and Shepway School Travel Plan Advisor)**

Jan explained that she had joined the Sustainable Transport Team following experience as a Road Safety Officer. Her task was to encourage schools to prepare and implement School Travel Plans with the incentive of Government grants (£3,750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools + £5 per pupil) which could be spent on sustainable transport initiatives. Of 17 schools in Shepway, 10 had begun to prepare plans, and Jan hoped to encourage the remainder to claim their grants before the end of 2010. In addition, the government had made £100,000 available last year, to be spent on such items as cycle sheds and waiting shelters for parents. Jan carried out surveys in schools and found many children keen to walk or cycle to school, but policy was to offer cycle instruction to pupils no younger than Year 6. Other initiatives included:

- Walking bus, walking on a specific single weekday or combining car travel and walking
- Carsharing
- Scooting on pavements
- Freedom passes for public transport

Jan described the difficulties she faced in finding routes perceived to be safe, especially on narrow paths, and in imposing a new perception of cycling in towns more used to car travel. Members agreed to keep Jan informed of progress.

RH

### **5. Folkestone Town Council Grant**

Details had been circulated of the generous grant of £5000 from Folkestone Town Council for the provision of cycle stands in the town. Some of the locations proposed were outside the boundary of Kent Highway Services, and long-term maintenance of these would be the responsibility of SDC. Donna agreed to consult with Liz Timmins of Folkestone Town Council to ensure that all the stands were installed before the end of the financial year, using KCC-approved contractors. Jean Baker suggested that the location of all the stands should be marked on local maps, and a public launch of the stands be arranged once they were all in place. A letter of appreciation would be sent to Richard Wallace and the Town Council, to include a bid for funds for the next financial year, to be spent on line markings long the Folkestone stretch of the Promenade. A similar request would be made to Sandgate Council. In view of the fact that Hythe Council's budgets had already been allocated, it was agreed that no

DR

JB

PR

approach be made for funds to cover the Hythe section of the Promenade, but that .the success or otherwise of the eastern sections be monitored. Donna pointed out that the proposal would require consultation with disability groups and SDC. She advised that KCC's policy was to put up advisory notices only where needed, although the blue "shared path" sign was not widely understood.

## **6 Hythe issues**

Alan Joyce described the poor design of speed bumps installed on the South side of the Canal. They had been installed by Natural England and did not conform to the KCC's design standards. Complaints should be addressed to Keith Cane of SDC.

AJ

## **7 AOB**

1. Tony Gilbert commented that cycle stands in the Town Centre were not well used. Members hoped that the publicity of the launch of the new stands would make cyclists more aware of these facilities.
2. A cycling event had been suggested. In view of the time and funds which would be necessary to arrange and publicise such an event, it was agreed that the Forum should ask the Romney Marsh Countryside Project for access to the participants in their Marsh Ride, either by leafleting on the day or sending information in their joining packs.

AJ

## **8 Next meeting - Thursday 4 June 2009 at the Civic Centre.**

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