

FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 18 June 2009 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: Jean Baker (Chair), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Brian Turner (Sustrans), Mr and Mrs R Dray, Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Dave Kesby, Mike Baker and Cllr Richard Wallace (Folkestone Town Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carole Waters (SDC Secretary for Sport and Leisure), Malcolm Dearden (SDC Secretary for Economic Development and Transport) Jacqueline McCleod (KHS Transportation Engineer) Tony Gilbert and Stephen Fawke (Spokes).

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising:

- | | Action |
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| 2.1 * (Minute 2.1) The question of signage on the bridleway alongside the Sports Centre remained unresolved; possibly a local bylaw complicated the issue. | by:
JM |
| 2.2 (Minute 2.2) Owen Leyshon had been reminded that he should consider suggestions on routes to schools on the Marsh. | AJ
AJ |
| 2.3 *(Minute 2.3) No-one present was aware whether a Road Traffic Order had been made to prevent lorries parking at the Kingsmead entrance to Folkestone Academy, including authorisation for "blips" on the pavement, which would give greater control. | JM |
| 2.4 *(Minute 2.4) Work was planned (possibly for a mini-roundabout) for the Shorncliffe Road junction south of Folkestone West station. | JM |
| 2.5 (Minute 2.5) Agreed that Jeremy Whitaker of SDC be contacted again to remind him that any future bid for the development of Tontine Street should include provision for cyclists. | JB |
| 2.6 *(Minute 4) Jan Wickham (KHS School Travel Plan Advisor) had reported that three new School Travel Plans were submitted in the Shepway area for this year. Jacqui McLeod was also involved in visiting local schools. | JM |
| 2.7 (Minute 6) Alan Joyce had contacted SDC about the design of the speed bumps on the south side of the Hythe Canal and the Coastal Park. Chris McCreedy of SDC had assured him that cyclists and others had been consulted about the design. Alan agreed to write formally to Chris McCreedy repeating the Forum's concerns, relating to Health and Safety, about the bumps both along the Canal and in the Coastal Park. | AJ |

3. Jacqueline McLeod (KCC)

*In sending apologies for the meeting, Jacqui had sent a report on the progress she had made and asked to meet members of the Forum as soon as possible to obtain further input and detail as the strategy took shape. She would be conducting some questionnaires in the Folkestone area and obtaining some information from schools regarding cycling during the next few weeks.

She had looked at the route information filed at KCC and confirmed that the North-South route had been included in the scheme list for 2010/11. She was looking at

funding and trying to establish when the scheme was likely to happen.

**Action
by**

She would be speaking to South Eastern regarding another cycling issue at Folkestone West and supported the Forum's request for covered stands. She was also working on the strategy and would keep the Forum informed of progress.

JM

4. Cycle Stands

*The Forum thanked Folkestone Town Council for its generous grant of £5000 for cycle stands in the town, which would be erected in July. Paul Rees had contacted Sandgate Council and at their request had sought details of costings for similar stands from KCC. It was agreed to consult Liz Timmins of Folkestone Town Council about obtaining examples of designs for discreet bike-park signs before the next Forum meeting. In respect of cycle stands in the Coastal Park area members stated their preference for these to be designed to indicate their function (eg in the form of bicycles as at Hastings) or to be appropriate for their surroundings, as exemplified by those on the Canal at West Hythe.

JM

JB

Greg Williams of Spokes was preparing a map of cycle facilities in every town, and it was hoped that a Folkestone map, including the location of stands, would be produced with the Strategy.

JM

5. Demarcation lines on the seafront promenade/The Leas/ Cycle to School signs

*After discussion on the issues of bylaws and the problem of varying width of paths, it was agreed not to insist on formal demarcation lines, but to request "shared use" symbols on the ground where appropriate. Sustrans members would raise this issue in discussion with KCC on 2 July, and Richard Wallace would identify the officer responsible for progressing such a request at SDC.

AJ

PR

RW

It was agreed that signage for "school routes" would be discussed at a future date, possibly with a view to involving schoolchildren in the design, and prioritising the East-West route.

6. Folkestone West Station

Members continued to prefer the suggested improvement of the underpass at the station (a public Right of Way) to the construction of a bridge/lift. It was agreed that the problem be reviewed once the fast service to London was under way.

Jean Baker had contacted Mike Gibson of South Eastern asking for the cycle stands at the station to be covered, to encourage more use.

7. Cyclefit

The recent event at new Romney had been well organised and attended by a large number of families and individual cyclists. The Forum had benefited from the hospitality of the Spokes/Sustrans stall, and handed out flyers to a number of the cycling fraternity, 3 of whom had decided to attend the meeting.

8. Publicity

Steve Fawke had generously offered to host a webpage for the Forum on the new Spokes website. It was agreed to accept the offer, and to prepare material as soon as the Strategy was completed. At that stage, a joint publicity stall could be set up for a morning in Folkestone precinct. The Forum thanked Liz Timmins of FTC for an article on the Forum in Town Crier.

RH

9. Hythe Issues

Alan Joyce suggested that newly elected councillors on Hythe Town Councillors might be sympathetic to cyclists' lobbying. He had approached Aldi and Waitrose to provide cycle stands but had received discouraging replies. Mr Dray suggested that the bridle path along the north side of the Canal should be improved as far as Aldergate Bridge, and Alan agreed to raise this suggestion at his meeting with KCC. This improvement could be part of a larger scheme for safer access from Botolph's Bridge Road to the newly refurbished sea wall at Dymchurch. As an interim measure, undergrowth needed to be trimmed on the A259 near Nicholls Quarry, and also on the Newingreen to Hythe Road.

**Action
by**

AJ

AJ

10. AOB

1. Tim Prater, who had been helpful to the Forum on Folkestone Town Council, had recently been elected as a Kent County Councillor. It was agreed to congratulate him and offer to send him the minutes of the Forum.
2. SDC had published its Core Strategy for consultation, which would govern its future planning policy. Members were urged to respond and/or visit the manned exhibition the following week: Monday 22 June at the University Centre (old Glassworks) Folkestone 1-4pm and 5-8pm or Wednesday 24 June at the Assembly Rooms, New Romney (same times as at Folkestone).'

JB

ALL

11. Date of next meeting

Arrangements will be made to organise a meeting with Jacqueline McCleod as soon as possible, to be attended by any Forum members able to do so.

***Items in these minutes marked with an asterisk will form the main agenda for the meeting.**

The subsequent Forum meeting will be held at the beginning of October, at a date to be arranged.