

FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 8 October 2009 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: Jean Baker (Chair), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Anna Michalska-Dober (KCC Cycling Officer), Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Brian Turner (Sustrans), Ian Norman (Pent Valley College) Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Dave Kesby, David Taylor, Nigel North, Mark Tuson (WCCP) Tom Weahterley, Mike Baker, Tony Gilbert, Gregory Williams and Stephen Fawke (Spokes)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carole Waters (SDC Secretary for Sport and Leisure), Cllr Malcolm Dearden (SDC Secretary for Economic Development and Transport) Jacqueline Mcleod (KHS Transportation Engineer) and Cllr Richard Wallace (Folkestone Town Council),.

1. **Minutes** of the meetings held on 18 June and 3 July 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Matters arising from the Minutes of 18 June 2009:**

- | | Action
by |
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| 2.1 (Minute 2.1) The question of signage on the bridleway alongside the Sports Centre still remained unresolved. Dave Kesby agreed to ask KCC's PROW officer for clarification. | DK |
| 2.2 (Minute 2.2) Mark Tuson reported that it would be possible to create a route from Greatstone to New Romney via Mountfield Road. Cycle racks might be provided at schools if funding were available.. | |
| 2.3 (Minute 2.3) A Road Traffic Order had been made to prevent lorries parking at the Kingsmead entrance to Folkestone Academy. Tony Gilbert agreed to ask the Academy to encourage parents to use this entrance. | TG |
| 2.4 (Minute 2.5) Jeremy Whitaker of SDC had promised to notify the Forum of any future bid for the development of Tontine Street. David Taylor agreed to monitor all the problems of cycling along Tontine Street. | DT |
| 2.5 (Minute 2.7) Alan Joyce hoped that the application from Sainsburys to build at the former Portex building would provide an opportunity to raise the problem once more of speed bumps beside the Hythe Canal. Anna Michalska-Dober suggested that the design of speed bumps was a matter of debate between engineers, and that Alan could approach a Community Liaison Officer, mentioning the implications for disabled drivers' vehicles both at the Canal and in the Coastal Park. | AJ |
| 2.6 (Minute 4) Cycle stands had been installed in Folkestone, although they were not yet well used. Greg Williams suggested that a slogan of "Free to park in the Town Centre" might be suggested to the Town Centre Manager to encourage more cyclists. He was continuing to work on the Town Map. Paul Rees was in negotiation with Sandgate Parish Council to find sites which were not controlled by SDC. Members suggested sites by the library and behind The Ship pub. Detailed estimates of installation cost could be obtained from Liz Timmins of FTC. | JB
GW
PR |

3 Jacqueline Mcleod (KCC)

In sending apologies for the meeting, Jacqui had said she hoped to post a copy of a map of proposed routes for development in 2010-11. Members expressed their concern that the Strategy was still not available. Anna Michalska-Dober explained that she was responsible for 12 districts in Kent, and suggested that in Ashford progress had been faster because cash had been available from developers and “Ashford’s Future” funding. Ashford politicians had also been pro-active. Jacqui had suggested a “Cycle-about” to examine new routes. Members favoured 19 October in the afternoon, although Ian Norman hoped to meet Jacqui with his Media Studies students on another date.

JM
AI
IN

4 Precinct Event with Spokes and Sustrans

The stall in the Folkestone precinct on 12 September had been very successful, and had attracted considerable interest. Survey forms had been completed for Jacqui Mcleod, and new members had joined the Forum. Thanks to a donation from Shepway FoE, a new banner had been produced for this and future events. Steve Fawkes promised to repeat the joint stall in Folkestone in Spring 2010.

SF

5 Seafront Promenade

Alan Joyce reported that David Young of Sustrans had agreed that the long-distance route through Sandgate could be redesignated to the promenade, subject to consultation with SDC, although Dave Kesby pointed out that parts of the route might be closed occasionally as a maintenance gangway. When the rerouting takes place, clear signage on the tarmac would be necessary; most users of the promenade had indicated (at the Precinct event) that they preferred demarcation lines where possible, and members agreed that “Consideration “ notices would be necessary, for which funding might be sought from Folkestone Town Council. Alan agreed to consult Julie Tuplin, Sustrans Co-ordinator, and SDC.

AJ

6 Folkestone West Station

Paul Rees had written to Lord Adonis about the route under the station but had not received a reply. He was also pursuing the matter with KCC. The issue of covered cycle stands was discussed, and Anna Michalska-Dober suggested that it might be possible to “recycle” some stands from another station.

AM

7 Publicity

Spokes gave the Forum web publicity on its site, and Tom Weatherby agreed to provide more material. He also agreed to prepare a letter to The Herald, for consultation with Jean Baker as the launch of a publicity campaign for the Forum.

TW
JB

8 Sandgate and Hythe

Following meetings with landowners, Sustrans was preparing a scheme for a regional route from Hythe to Rye via an improved path from West Hythe to Aldergate Bridge.

AJ

9 District, Town and County Councillors

In the absence from the meeting of any elected councillors, members discussed ways to “enthuse” the politicians alongside the publicity campaign (see item 7 above). Members agreed to target members of SDC, in particular Development Control Committee members, and local KCC members.

ALL

10 AOB

a. Young people cycling

Ian Norman said that the current training available to Year 6 pupils did not give them sufficient confidence to ride to school. Anna Michalska-Dober pointed out that School Travel Plans were required by 2010. Meanwhile Ian had undertaken a “Gifted and Talented” programme of cycling training at weekends working towards an event in 2010. He appealed for volunteers to help him, and agreed to give more details of the event at the next meeting.*

IN

b Cycling along A20 and A260

Dave Kesby suggested that minimal engineering work could upgrade footpaths alongside A roads, and agreed to send details to Anna.

DK

c Spokes

The Spokes AGM – 28 October at 7pm Friends Meeting House in Canterbury – all welcome.

11 Date of next meeting to be arranged following the “Cycleabout” with Jacqui Mcleod.

*Volunteers can contact Ian at i-norman@sky.com