

# FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

## Minutes of a meeting held on 3 June 2010 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 Ranger), Cllr Carole Waters, Dave Kesby, Cllr Richard Wallace, Cllr Zoe Varian, David Taylor, Hugh Robertson-Ritchie, Mark Tuson (WCCP), Bryan Rylands, Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Mike Baker and Gregory Williams (Spokes)

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Ian Baker, Damian Collins, Stephen Fawke (Spokes), Steve Burton (Activ Sports), Tony Gilbert and Colin Hacker.

**2 Minutes** of the meetings held on 24 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Matters arising from the Minutes of 24 March 2010:**

(Minute 3 -2.1). The “No Cycling” sign on the bridleway alongside Folkestone Sports Centre had been painted out with the approval of the KCC official concerned. On the basis of this advice AJ proposed to paint out the incorrect sign on the bridleway at London Road, Hythe. **ACTION: AJ** (Minute 3 - 2.7) AJ agreed to take up the problem of speed bumps beside the Hythe Canal and in the Lower Leas Coastal Park with Malcolm Dearden. **ACTION: AJ**

(Minute 3 - 4) A successful event had been held in Folkestone Town Centre, thanks to Spokes. GW was progressing the Folkestone Town Map, including cycle Parking, and had updated the Spokes website to include a link to Discover Folkestone. Members were reminded to send news items to Greg for inclusion on his blog: ([gregory.williams@purplegeodesoftware.co.uk](mailto:gregory.williams@purplegeodesoftware.co.uk))

#### **ACTION: GW**

(Minute 3 - 6) The Forum continued to press for the provision of cycle stands under cover at the “down” side of Folkestone West station. **ACTION: JB**

(Minute 3 - 8) The improvement of the route between West Hythe and Aldergate Bridge, and the resurfacing of NCR 2 between Lydd and Jury's Gap had been delayed, but would commence very soon.

(Minute 3 - 9) Malcolm Dearden had invited suggestions for street furniture, and AJ had made suggestions for cycle racks at supermarkets in Hythe. Members added the suggestions of cycle racks near the Public Toilets and the Library in Sandgate and, in consultation with the Creative Foundation and Folkestone Town Council, signage at Folkestone Harbour directing cyclists using NCR2 to the town centre via the Old High Street (get off and push) and Tontine Street. A cycle rack at New Romney School should be provided as part of the Schools Travel Plan initiative. **ACTION: RW (JB TO NOTIFY MD)**

### **4 Shepway's Cycling Strategy 5 Year Plan**

Copies of the latest version of the Strategy had been circulated. Four members of the Forum had met KHS engineers and explained their concerns about the first draft . A detailed response had been received from KHS on 29 April. Subsequently a response to that document had been submitted to KHS (11 May) but only minor amendments had been made by KHS to the latest version of the Strategy. Members expressed concerns about inaccurate mapping in the latest plans, particularly in the Romney Marsh area and Hythe, and the list of congestion spots, which had already been challenged by the Forum. MT was pleased to note that an RMCP route would be adopted by KHS. Areas of controversy were discussed:

(1) **The seafront promenade between Folkestone and Hythe** – ZV reported that Sandgate Council was largely in favour of using the promenade for leisure cycling, provided that it was not actively promoted for large groups (currently it is a route promoted by Cycling England) or used by motorised vehicles such as quad bikes. DK confirmed that the “maintenance gangway” stretch was not a public right of way, but was owned by SDC. RW reported that the Folkestone Town Council preferred to wait until ownership issues had been settled before allocating any funding to improved signage on the route. Members suggested that signs such as “Cyclists please give way to pedestrians” were urgently required along the route. It was agreed that four members should seek a meeting with legal officers and engineers at SDC (Possibly with KCC Public Rights of Way team and Cllr Tim Prater) to discuss the issue, in particular the need to amend a by-law if required.

**ACTION: AJ ZV JB RW.**

(2) **SDC-owned Cheriton Road Sports Ground** (indicated as “aspirational” on the latest Strategy Plan, as the land is not owned by KCC). GW agreed to write an account of Ashford District’s successful use of land owned by Batchelors (for the attention of KCC Cllr Nick Chard). JB reported that Ben Geering of SDC had asked the applicant proposing improvements to the Sports Ground to safeguard the East-West path. As a result the existing informal cycle path linking Cherry Garden Avenue with Cornwallis Avenue is now included in the plans. Members expressed the wish that this arrangement should be formalised and included in the Strategy as a KHS ‘proposed’ route. JB agreed to write to members of the SDC Development Control Committee prior to their meeting to determine the application. RW suggested that the path was important in its own right, not merely as part of the East-West route. **ACTION: JB GW RW**

(3) **The East-West route:** The Forum preferred a route north of the railway line to link schools and other facilities, but not the route via Shaftesbury Avenue, as shown on the latest Plan. More co-operation between SDC and KHS was required, and Cllr Bliss should be informed that few members of the JTB had responded to KHS’s request for feedback on the first draft of the Strategy.

**ACTION: JB**

(4) **The Leas** The Forum regarded The Leas as an alternative to the Sandgate Road “blackspot” for cyclists. JB reported that Charles Evans, on behalf of Lord Radnor, had no objection in principle, although he considered the public should not be excluded from any part of the Leas by the introduction of a segregated cycle lane. He would be happy to discuss the matter with SDC. RW said that FTC expected opposition from residents, which would militate against the amendment of the current bylaw against cycling. In the light of this discussion the Forum decided not to pursue the matter further for the moment.

(5) **Toucan Crossings** The Forum had suggested that funds for 2 Toucan crossings on the proposed North-South route in Folkestone would be better spent on kerb ramps etc as adequate crossing islands already exist on the two sites concerned.

It was decided that the Forum’s response of 11 May would be resubmitted to KHS together with any additional comments received by Rhona since that date. Donna Rixson of KHS had already requested a further meeting with Forum members where all the above issues will be discussed.

**ACTION: RH JB**

## **5 SDC’s Local Development Framework**

RH had been invited to attend a Workshop to discuss SDC’s Core Transport Strategy on 17 June. As she had another commitment that day she agreed to ask for two representatives from the Forum to attend in her place. **ACTION: RH JB AJ**

## **6 Folkestone Harbour Development Plans**

The new proposals included recognition for cyclists, which was encouraging. CW suggested that the Forum should be made an official consultee for the Plan. JB to contact Trevor Minter. **ACTION: JB**

## **7 Councillor Tillson**

JB explained that Cllr Tillson had agreed to be the Forum's "Champion" at SDC, and he would be invited to any future meetings with KHS.

## **8 AOB**

**(1) Wheel of Kent Event** on Sunday 13 June, converging on Dane John, Canterbury

**(2)** Bryan Rylands reported that Police were destroying lost and stolen cycles, and suggested that they should be made available free of charge. This and other Police-related matters should be discussed at the Community Safety Unit at the Civic Centre. **ACTION: ZV BR**

**(3)** Bryan Rylands suggested that the dates of opening of Hythe Ranges should be published  
**ACTION: BR**

**(4)** LL suggested that the problem of "pinch points" should be taken up with KHS especially the proposal for East Cliff. JB agreed to raise this at the next meeting with KHS officials.

**(5)** Liz Timmins of FTC and Ann Berry of Go Folkestone had both contacted the Forum about requests at the local Council office and the Hub Information Centre, Folkestone Harbour for maps of local cycle routes. There being no such map available both were referred to Spokes East Kent website (linked with Discover Folkestone) where Greg's plan of Folkestone Cycle routes can be viewed. The Forum had advised KHS to liaise with Spokes when designing their new Cycle Map, although in other districts this had not happened.

**(6)** David Taylor, appalled at the contrast between Newcastle and Shepway in their provision of facilities for cyclists, proposed to invite a Newcastle Councillor to visit the Forum. **ACTION: DT**

**Nest meeting date – to be arranged**