

Notes from the Swale Cycle Forum

14 September 2010

Present: John Bayford (Active Cyclist)
Tony Old (Swale Youth Project)
Cllr Nicholas Hampshire
Cllr Adrian Crowther
Cllr J Willicombe
Cllr Alan Willicombe
Simon Allum (Mobility Management Team Leader, KHS)
Adrian Oliver (Cycling Age)
Mark Trott (Action Medical Research)
Liz Wedgwood (Transport Planner, Ashford & Swale)

1 Welcome & Introductions

The Group went around the table and introduced themselves and explained their interest in attending the Forum.

2 Formalisation of Group – Terms of Reference/Funding

LW explained that Adrian Oliver had drafted up a Terms of Reference and that she wanted to circulate this to the Forum so they could read and make comments as to whether the document requires some amendments before being agreed by all. However, as not all of the invitees turned up to the meeting, it was felt that LW should circulate the Terms of Reference document to all invitees and ask for comments asap. LW explained that it is important for the Forum to agree on Terms of Reference for the Group, as this will enable the Forum to apply individually for external funding towards cycle facilities/initiatives for the Swale Area.

It was felt that the number of meetings could be increased when there were any up-coming events.

LW highlighted some of the external funding possibilities for the Forum: for example, the Big Lottery Fund, Sport England and Awards for all. Cllr Alan Willicombe suggested finding out which Members had yet to spend their Members' Highway Fund allocation and Cllr Nicholas Hampshire mentioned that

Swale Councillors also have access to small community grants. Discussions circulated around the Forum approaching Councillors in the future who may be persuaded to pool their resources to help fund cycling initiatives.

It was also suggested that local Parish Councils could also be approached to support local cycle proposals, as they also hold grants for local works.

3 Future Interim Chair and Secretary

It was agreed that in the absence of more cyclists at the meeting, that John Bayford would temporarily stand-in as Interim Chair, and the next meeting would concentrate on agreeing Terms of Reference and electing a Chair and Secretary to take records of the meetings.

4 Contact with Kent Highway Services

LW informed the Group that she would be on Maternity Leave from 6 October 2010. She explained she was keen to ask the Group to consider agreeing the Terms of Reference for the Forum at the next meeting, which once agreed will enable the Forum to apply for external funding for cycle facilities as an individual community group. She explained that although there would not be a replacement whilst she is on Maternity Leave, that the Forum would be able to contact the newly-reorganised team at Kent Highway Services via the inbox: (T&DAshford.Swale@kent.gov.uk). The new Manager for the team (Ashford, Swale, Maidstone & Tonbridge & Malling) will be Andy Corcoran. SA also said he would be happy to support the Forum whilst LW is away on Leave.

5 Future Community Events for Swale to Promote Cycling

LW asked the Forum to consider the idea of hosting an annual family bike ride in Swale, possibly also linked to a charity, to help promote local routes and encourage and increase cycling in the area. KHS held the first family bike ride in conjunction with Pilgrim's Hospice in Ashford this year, which went well and is hoped to improve on for next year. LW suggested possibly using one of the new Sheppey routes for the bike ride next summer. Suggestions were made to inviting people to enter on behalf of different charities, to have attractions at the start such as a display of old-fashioned bikes, invite all local

cycle clubs and bike shops. LW also mentioned some of the local schools who have said they would like to be involved in promoting local routes and events – eg Sheppey Academy, Rose St, Richmond, St Edward's and West Minster Primaries. Cllr A Willicombe suggested that if the event is successful, this could also be tied-in with celebrations in 2010 for the Diamond Jubilee.

6 Any Other Business

Suggestions were discussed for a future route to be made using the old railway lines on the Isle of Sheppey and LW said that these had been looked at for sections of the 3 new Isle of Sheppey Routes, but that they could be investigated further for new future proposals.

The 18th Oct between 7 & 7:30 pm at the Swale Borough Council Offices was suggested as the date of the next meeting. LW agreed to send John Bayford the spreadsheet of Forum contacts and the details for the SBC contact for room bookings.