

Minutes of the Meeting of the Waverley Cycle Forum 21 July 2009

Present:

David Moxon (DM)
Jane Bowden (JB)
Roger Newnes-Smith (RN-S)
Maurice Byham (MB)
Thomas Lankester (TL)
Alec McCalden (AM)

Chris Meeks (CM)
Ralph Holmes (RH)
Richard Cleaves (RC)
Jenny Barnes (JBn)
Roland Seber (RS)

Chairman
Waverley Borough Council
Witley Parish Council
WBC Councillor
Cycle Rights Network (Farnham)
Voluntary Cycling Coordinator &
Godalming Cycle Campaign
Friends of the Earth
Cranleigh Initiative
Ewhurst Parish Council
Godalming Town Council
Godalming Cycle Campaign

1. Apologies were received from Peter Jeans, Diane James, Ralph Holmes and John Hilder. Concern was expressed about the absence of anyone from SCC as their role in implementing improvements for cyclists is vital to the work of the Forum.

Additional item: Discussion of ATOC proposal rail line reinstatement from Guildford to Cranleigh

The proposal is controversial and would have implications for the Downs Link route which is very popular with cyclists, horse riders and walkers. ATOC did not consult parishes, borough council or South West Trains before making proposal. Bramley PC have invited ATOC to speak at a parish meeting. ATOC are seeking comments by 31 July. The Forum supports green travel but any changes must not affect the provision for cyclists. Trains using the line should have good provision for carrying bikes for commuting and leisure cycling/round trips. There should be good cycling links to any stations along the route and station cycle parking plus additional links to local villages.

Cost-benefit analysis suggests that re-opening the rail line could be worthwhile. However, no early decision is expected, and the sources of funding is uncertain.

AM will write a response to ATOC commenting on the proposed Cranleigh line.
(Action AM)

2. Matters arising

New cycle racks have been installed at Burton Pavilion in Milford. Racks at Secretts have not been done – to be chased up **(Action: AM)**

Speed bumps at Broadwater Park entrance to Leisure Centre – convenient gap caused by damage has been repaired. Suitable cycle route needs to be incorporated into plans to rebuild Godalming Leisure Centre **(Action JB)**

Signing of Greenways – Forum to adopt design proposed by TL for Greenway signing which has been proved to be acceptable under DOT guidelines. SCC to be requested to use this design **(Action TL & JH)**

Weydon Lane – no action yet on advance stop signs. **(Action JH)**

Mousehill Lane – new signage should be installed to allow cyclists to turn right. Cyclists can go straight across the road at this point and then turn right, but on principle the signs need to legitimise a right turn. **(Action JH)**

3. Report from Alec McCalden (Voluntary Cycling Coordinator)

Godalming Healthcheck report launched on 24. This report is supportive of cycling and should be well-received by Forum members. A `community interest company` will be charged with taking the proposals forward.

The problems with the speed cushions on Brighton Road remains unresolved after numerous attempts to get the problems rectified. A formal complaint has been raised with SCC and a response is awaited **(Action JH)**.

An email discussion group exists on 'Yahoo', but the 'owner' cannot be contacted making it impossible to control. A new email group has now been started at 'waverleycycle@googlegroups.com'. It's hoped this will become a useful way of continuing discussions between actual meetings. People are asked to mail this address asking to be added to the group, and invitations will be sent out as well. The group will be controlled to avoid spam mail **(Action All)**. GP exploring link from Waverley website to Cycling Forum through www.wey2go.org.uk.

Local papers had been informed of the Forum's meeting. Renewed efforts will be made to raise the profile of the Forum, and the production of a revised version of the Plan could provide a useful opportunity for publicity.

Problems with emails to Forum members would be tackled urgently. **(Action already taken by JB)**

AM had offered a presentation to the Local Committee task groups, to be done jointly with DM.

4. Review of Waverley Cycle Plan

The current Plan was published in May 2005. Much of it remained valid but it needs updating:

- to incorporate various plans and guidance produced over the past four years eg Rights of Way Improvement Plan published by SCC in November 2007 which has significant implications for the cycling infrastructure.
- to review the Action Plan and list of schemes (due annually)
- to consider how implementation of the Plan might be improved

It was agreed that AM and DM would have an initial go at a revised Plan and would encourage email discussion between Forum members with a view to producing a revised version for the next meeting. Considerable input would be required from SCC, not least in providing costings which would be crucial to prioritising the various schemes. **(Action AM/DM & JH initially, then all members)**

List of schemes

A Progress Report on schemes was circulated in advance of the meeting. In most cases there was no progress to report and discussion was confined to schemes on which there had been some movement or where changes were needed to the report. Add in separate column for cost effectiveness indicated by High, Medium, Low. Division of schemes to replicate Local committee groups to bring in the rural areas.

Cranleigh area

Dunsfold development on hold awaiting outcome of public inquiry. RH emphasised the need for definitive rights of way rather than permissive routes.

The proposed Cranleigh-Ewhurst scheme (number 6) has strong support which is not reflected in the relatively low score in the current Plan. This will be rectified and this scheme will be accorded the highest level of priority - score 15. RC believes there is scope for doing section 3 of the route quickly, but the middle 200m section 2 may be more difficult and could require compulsory purchase of a strip of land. Options will be considered further before the next meeting.

(Action: DM will be discussing with Diane James in the first instance and the importance of this scheme will be reflected in the revised Plan, RC to contact landowner of section 2)

Godalming area

Scheme 27, the Godalming Marshall Road access, requires widening of the footpath next to Jewsons, which calls for Jewsons to give up an unused strip of land. An initial approach was positive, but more recently Jewsons have said they will not give up this land. The reasons given are unconvincing and the matter will be pursued further. This is a key route, achieving the maximum score of 15 and a mention in the Godalming Healthcheck report. The existing footpath is regularly (but illegally) used by cyclists because the alternative road route is circuitous and unsafe.

(Action: AM)

Farnham area

Following discussion about the signage of Greenways at the previous meeting TL produced compelling evidence that the Farnham schemes met the criteria for being badged as Greenways in the style adopted by Natural England. It is hoped SCC will go along with this.

(Action: John Hilder to confirm SCC is content to go with this or explain why they are not)

Future speakers

Suggestions were: Simon Pratt from Sustrans and/or Donald Hirsch from the Guildford rangers group; Roy Benson from Woking; someone from the East Hants Cycle Forum to talk about Bordon/Whitehill; James Taylor on rights of way; someone from Agenda 21 group

(Action: AM/DM to approach potential speakers)

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 13 October 2009, at 18:30