

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 1 May 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Mike Butler, Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby
Apologies: Rob Borthwick, Josh Kerry, Alan Langley, Clive Tombs

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Progress on actions was noted:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Gordon to ask Vicky Trentham about plans for Greenfest. GO– Mike to talk to Cheryl Evans about covering the cost of new Bikeability instructors' time while shadowing existing instructors. MB– Josh to create a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers. JK– William was waiting on further correspondence from British Cycling about the 'Couch to 50K'. WP– William waiting to hear back from Sustrans about the volunteering course. WP– Alan to follow up with local ward Members to secure their support for the Eling Way scheme. AL– Gordon had submitted a response on behalf of Spokes to the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan.– Clive to report back on the review of the cycle count sites. CT– William to write to the planners regarding the Market Street and Sterling Cables developments. WP– Gordon had completed the newsletter and this had been circulated to members.	
2.	Eling Way <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Mike confirmed that consultation had been started to inform the pre-application planning advice, but affected landowners were yet to respond.	
3.	Cycle Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ No further updates in Clive's absence.	
4.	NCN4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It was noted that there were multiple locations where towpath repairs were needed.	

Ref	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that Spokes should write to the Canal Corridor Working Group to ask about plans for local repairs. This would inform discussions with Greenham Trust about the funding shortfall. ▪ It was suggested that a holistic approach was needed to the maintenance of the towpath rather than piecemeal, localised repairs. 	EC
5.	<p data-bbox="331 465 678 499">Suggestion from Stan Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gordon read out an email from Stan Green. He was concerned that Spokes was catering too much for ‘sporty’ cyclists. He found it safer to cycle on the footways rather than on the carriageway, and believed that all footways should be designated for shared use by default He felt that this would work if everyone learned to share the space. ▪ It was note that there was already a clear user hierarchy within the Highway Code, with motorists required to give priority to cyclists and pedestrians. ▪ While it was recognised that some cyclists did use footways illegally, they tended to be in low numbers. ▪ The Committee felt that the Active Travel Schemes were not aimed at sports cyclists and that joining these up to provide a comprehensive network should be where attention should be focused rather than encouraging cyclists to use unsuitable footways where conflict was likely to occur. 	
6.	<p data-bbox="331 1153 395 1187">AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 9 June @ 3pm. ▪ Ed to book the Canoe Club. ▪ It was suggested that the Committee should review the actions from the workshop. 	
7.	<p data-bbox="331 1422 638 1456">Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was suggested that Spokes and Newbury Road Club could have a joint stall in the town centre one weekend. William to contact the Road Club. ▪ It was also suggested that Spokes could post leaflets in local cafés. ▪ Suggestions for future newsletter articles included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Automatic cycle counters – Stockcross Active Travel Scheme, Phase 2 and opportunities related to the redevelopment of the Covered Reservoir site at Speen. – The experience of people who have attended the social bike rides. 	WP
8.	<p data-bbox="331 1921 391 1955">AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other items of business wer raised 	

Next meeting: **Wednesday 5 June @7.30pm**

Venue: **The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common**
