

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 7 August 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury

Present: Ed Cooper, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs

Apologies: Rob Borthwick, Josh Kerry

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">– 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 to follow up with British Cycling about the 'Couch to 50K'. WP– William to chase up Sustrans about the volunteering course. WP– William to write to the planners regarding the 'wheel grabber' visitor cycle parking at the Sterling Cables developments. WP– Gordon to reset the Chairman's email account. GO– Ed and Clive had tried to make contact with the Canal Working Group, but no response.– Clive and Josh to complete an article on the cycle direction signs. CT/JK	
2.	Cycle Forum	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Only four people attended the last meeting.■ Gordon to put the minutes of the last meeting on the website. GO■ An engineer had been appointed to look at concerns raised by Spokes in relation to maintenance / improvement of the markings at the St John's roundabout in Newbury.	
3.	Cycle Schemes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Clive provided the following updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Stockcross Linkway Stage 1: The scheme is complete and was officially launched on 9 July.– A4 Crown Mead, Thatcham: Letters sent to frontagers and construction is due to start in late September. Unfortunately, physical segregation will not be possible, so the scheme will consist	

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	<p>of painted, on-carriageway lanes only, but the existing crossing will be upgraded to a single-stage toucan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old Bath Road, Newbury: Project brief issued - the scheme will involve reallocation of parking bays, on-carriageway cycle symbols, as well as footway improvements. - Theale to Calcot: Feasibility study complete and discussed with National Highways. The bridge replacement would be very costly to implement and could not be delivered in the short-term. National Highways to review the situation again next year when future funding has been confirmed. - Stockcross Linkway Stage 2: Feasibility designs have been discussed with National Highways, since their approvals and land are needed to deliver the scheme. Discussions are also underway with the developer of the site opposite Speen Lane to the north of the A4. - Newbury Manor Hotel: The owners have recently indicated that they intend to sell the site, which has put the scheme in doubt. Alternative designs are being prepared utilising existing highway land only. - A4 Western Avenue Stage 2: Feasibility design complete. A toucan crossing is proposed to the north of the Waitrose roundabout. The designs are to be discussed with Active Travel England. - Pangbourne to Purley: WBC officers have met with Sulham Estate representatives. Work was ongoing on the design and discussions were taking place regarding land ownership. Automatic cycle counters had been deployed, but the resulting data was poor, so they will be redeployed in September. - Lower Way, Thatcham: Consideration was being given to creating a shared use path on the south side. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ William to contact Tony Vickers regarding the Sandleford Park Stakeholder Group. 	WP
2.	<p>Eling Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clive provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 1 Extension: A certificate of lawfulness is being sought to upgrade the footpath to a permitted path. The owner of the land at the western end of the embankment is opposed to the scheme. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future phases: A SWOT analysis has been carried and officers had been liaising with the Executive Portfolio Holder to highlight the issues associated with each of the extension options. 	
4.	<p>NCN4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clive provided the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mill Road / Dewe Lane: Works were completed in April with 380m upgraded. - Ham Bridge to Bull Lock: An event was held with local funders, but there remains a significant shortfall. Options for using Community Infrastructure Funding are being investigated. - Hambridge Road Crossing: A Stage 1 Safety Audit had been funded. CCTV surveys would be undertaken to get an idea of demand. ■ It was suggested that the new MPs could be lobbied to highlight the issues with the route and the need for urgent investment, mentioning the discussions with Greenham Trust and emphasising the potential tourism benefits that would be achieved by upgrading the route. 	WP
5.	<p>Station Cycle Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GWR had been notified about security concerns regarding the racks in the cycle hub and discussions were taking place with the manufacturer. ■ Spokes had been contacted about cyclists with mountain bikes who struggled to use the racks. ■ There were also security concerns with the racks on the north side of the station. West Berkshire Council's Highways Development Control Team had raised this with the developer. 	
6.	<p>Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was noted that the next newsletter was due. Ideas for possible articles included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycle direction signage. - Stockcross Linkway Phase 1 - Station Cycle Parking - Bike lights - A possible bike maintenance class - Social events. ■ All members of the committee to help with writing articles. 	All

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8.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Cycling Festival had been discussed at the Cycle Forum.▪ William to email Rob regarding the Cycle Count.	WP
Next meeting:	Wednesday 4 September @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	
