

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 2 October 2024 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury

Present: Kevin Bushell, Alan Langley, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, and Clive Tombs

Apologies: Mike Butler and Ed Cooper

| Ref | Item | Action |
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| 1. | Actions Arising from Previous Meetings | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Progress on actions was noted:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– No progress on creating a sign-up form on the website for cycle count volunteers, but it was noted that Newbury Road Club might be willing to help with the counts - William to inform Rob. JK– William had talked to Chris Treacher about Couch to 50k, who in turn is talking to Newbury Velo about beginner rides. Will seek to recruit people over the winter period with possible articles in Newbury Weekly News and Penny Post. WP– The action to lobby WBC Executive Members Cllrs Denise Gaines and Stuart Gourley regarding the Eling Way remained outstanding, but Cllr Carolyne Culver was now taking an interest. It was suggested that Spokes should hold fire for now in lobbying WBC Councillors and Lee Dillon MP. WP– William had reported overhanging vegetation on the A4 shared path, but the Council had indicated that no action was to be taken.– William had also reported overhanging vegetation on the towpath near the back of B&Q to CRT, but he was yet to receive a response. | |
| 2. | Reimagining the Kennet & Avon Canal | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ On 30 September, Spokes attended a meeting with Sustrans, Active Travel England, the Canal and River Trust, the Environment Agency, Greenham Trust, West Berkshire Council, Hungerford Town Council, and others to discuss NCN4.■ A 10-year plan was presented featuring six projects within West Berkshire. Over £20M would be required to create a good surface plus wayfinding, seating, environmental features, bank protection, mooring points, etc.■ The top priority was the section between Northcroft and Faraday Road. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential was identified for NCN4 to be rerouted in future if the sections between Hambridge Road and Thatcham Station, and Marsh Benham to Hungerford were completed. | |
| 3. | <p>Planning Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was noted that Spokes were now being consulted on major planning applications. | |
| 4. | <p>Festival of Cycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was proposed to hold the festival on 14 June 2025, which would be in Bike Week. ■ William was now a member of the Festival’s Steering Group, which also included representatives from Newbury Road Club and Newbury Velo. ■ Victoria Park had been booked, with cyclocross proposed at Goldwell Park, and rides to set off from Northcroft Leisure Centre. ■ Volunteers will be needed to help support the events. ■ Suggested events include social rides, bike try-out sessions, bike jumble, Watt Bike minute challenge, and a cycling treasure hunt. ■ Gordon to get quotes for the bike try-out session. ■ William to highlight the event at the Cycle Forum and ask how Bikeability can be promoted. | <p>GO</p> <p>WP</p> |
| 5. | <p>WBC Cycle Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clive provided an update on the cycling capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A new toucan crossing was proposed for the eastern end of Lower Way. – An upgraded crossing was proposed at Shaw Road / Kiln Road. – Cycle parking was being delivered at Frilsham Village Hall and Hampstead Norreys Village Hall. – Work was about to start at the A4 in Thatcham. ■ William reported that he had received no reply from the Council’s Planning Department regarding the ‘wheel-bender’ bike racks at Sterling Cables. | |
| 6. | <p>Comms and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proposed articles included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Festival of Cycling – Reimagining the Kennet and Avon Canal – Couch to 50k | |

Next meeting: **Wednesday 6 November @7.30pm**

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