

SPOKES Monthly Meeting



Date: 8 January 2025 **Venue:** The Bowler's Arms, Newbury
Present: Ed Cooper, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs
Apologies: Rob Borthwick, Josh Kerry

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Minutes and Actions Arising from Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gordon had obtained a quote from Outspoken Cycles and they had confirmed their public liability insurance cover. They had also confirmed that they could charge for smoothies, but did not recommend this. Gordon to follow up about gazebos. GOWilliam was yet to liaise with Carlyne Lane re balance bikes. WPGordon had asked about the use of the outdoor screen that Shaw House used. Initial discussions had suggested that it may be possible to use this, he suggested that screening of a cycling film was probably a step too far given what else needed to be done in organising the festival. It was noted that the Waterside Centre had a screen that could be used if there was still a desire to show a film.Promotion of the event was being discussed with NRC and Velo. A branding had been developed featuring the colours of the three groups.Ed confirmed that Spokes had over £14K of available funds and this would increase further following the next cycle count.Gordon had not managed to update the newsletter with the weblinks. GOWilliam confirmed that Cycling UK offered no real benefits from membership, so it was agreed that Spokes should not renew its subscription.	
2.	Festival of Cycling <ul style="list-style-type: none">The quote from Outspoken Cycles was £4.7K. However, this could be reduced to £4.5K by going from two smoothie bikes to one.Newbury Velo had ambitions to make the event cost neutral through sponsorship / grants, but there were likely to be significant costs associated with traffic management for the parade, St John's Ambulance, etc.It was suggested that Halfords or Evans Cycle could be approached to sponsor the event. CT to get details of other potential sponsors from Cheryl Evans. CTNewbury Velo were interested in arranging a number of associated events (e.g., cycle ballet, cycle stunt display, cyclocross, led rides, etc).	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRC were focusing on the parade of cycles and display of historic cycles. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William to check how much the other groups were prepared to contribute. 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon to obtain footfall data for Newbury town centre. 	GO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that Newbury Community Resource Centre could have a stand and run cycle maintenance sessions. Clive to provide contact details. 	CT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other organisations could be invited to have a presence, including CTC, Sustrans and Greenham Trust, as well as local bike shops. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newbury Velo had indicated that a local all ability cycle group could be approached, which had sponsorship from Shell. Concern was expressed about greenwashing and any requirement to have the Shell logo on any publicity. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Newbury Show had bought some temporary cycle parking stands. Clive to contact Vicky Trentham. It was queried whether the car shaped cycle stand on Station Road could be relocated. 	CT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was expressed that alternative quotes had not been obtained, but it was accepted that there appeared to be very few providers. Gordon had reached out to Cycling UK about who they had used for a previous event, but he had not received a response. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee resolved to accept the reduced quote from Outspoken Cycles of £4,504, subject to the event passing the SAG assessment. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon to check when the deposit would be payable. 	GO
3.	Cycle Count	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William to prepare comms for the February cycle count. 	WP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was assumed that Rob would continue coordination for the next count. 	RB
4.	WBC Cycle Schemes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive reported that the A4 Crown Mead scheme in Thatcham was substantially complete, including civils, the new toucan crossing and most of the road markings. The consultation to amend the traffic regulation order (TRO) for the footway parking was planned to follow. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civils had been ordered for Old Bath Road. This was mostly a footway scheme, with road space reallocation for cyclists. The TRO consultation would take place in 2025/26. Local ward members and the town council were supportive. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various cycle parking schemes were progressing, although the scheme at Wash Common would have to be on highway due to unresolved issues with the landowners at the shops. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signing had been ordered for Linkway 2 between Newbury and Thatcham. 	
5.	Eling Way	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The safety audit for the dropped kerb at Hampstead Norreys village hall was complete and a response was awaited from the village hall committee. ▪ Detailed design had been completed for the Phase 1 extension. A personal visit was planned to try and address local opposition. ▪ Flooding was delaying work starting on site. 	
6.	NCN4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed towpath upgrade scheme would be presented at the Town and Parish Climate Session, with match-funded contributions sought through Greenham Trust. ▪ Counts had been undertaken at Ham Bridge over the summer and in the autumn after the schools had started back. Ground penetrating radar was being used to check utilities. It was recognised that this would be a challenging site to get a crossing installed. 	
7.	Comms and Engagement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ William had written some articles for the website. ▪ Velo to provide information on the rides for Couch to 50K, and William and Chris Teacher were looking at the Couch to 15K aspect. Marketing materials would be developed in due course. ▪ It was agreed that Spokes needed to promote its social rides. 	
Next meeting:	Wednesday 5 February @7.30pm	
Venue:	The Bowlers Arms, Wash Common	