SPOKES Monthly Meeting

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Date: 5 February 2025 Venue: The Globe, Newbury **Present:** Rob Borthwick, Ed Cooper, Joe Gregson, Gordon Oliver, William Pitt, Paul Rumsby, Clive Tombs **Apologies:** Josh Kerry Ref Item Action **Minutes and Actions Arising from Previous Meetings** Gordon still to obtain footfall data. Gordon confirmed that Outspoken Cycles would provide their own gazebos. William was yet to liaise with Carolyne Lane re balance bikes. Sponsorship opportunities would be pursued once approval for the event had been secured from the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). Newbury Showground had been contacted regarding the temporary cycle parking. They were amenable to loaning the stands and may be able to provide transport. William to arrange payment of the deposit to Outspoken Cycles following the SAG assessment. **Festival of Cycling** The SAG meeting was arranged for 11 February – William to attend. Risk assessments completed. Each organisation to be responsible for their own public liability insurance. William to check the Spokes insurance. There was some uncertainty about coverage at the 'event arena' and between stalls - William to discuss with Newbury Town Council. Potential stallholders include: Sustrans **Canal & River Trust** Velospeed **Banjo Cycles** 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.

Ref	Item	Action
3.	Greenfest	
	 Gordon to forward invitation to William. 	GO
	 William to check insurance coverage. 	WP
4.	Cycle Count	
	 This was confirmed as 11-13 February. 	
5.	 WBC Cycle Schemes Clive reported that the A4 Crown Mead scheme in Thatcham was substantially complete, and the consultation to amend the traffic regulation order (TRO) for the footway parking was imminent. 	
	 Linkway 2 signage had been ordered for the Newbury-Thatcham corridor between Victoria Park and Broadway. 	
	 Civils had been ordered for Old Bath Road. The TRO consultation would follow shortly. 	
	 Options had been drafted for Stockcross Phase 2 and would require consultation with National Highways. This will used the southern side of the A4 as far as Speen Lane. 	
	 The local MP had been lobbied about securing funding for the Theale to Calcot scheme. 	
	 Design was underway to convert Lower Way to shared use – this is currently a cycle track, but is used extensively by pedestrians, so this would just formalise the de facto usage. 	
5.	Eling Way	
	 Highway works about to be ordered for Phase 1. 	
	 Landowner issues remain unresolved. 	
6.	 NCN4 It was confirmed that a fundraising strategy was being worked up, but funds still trickling in. 	
	 A Programme Board meeting was arranged for later in February. 	
7.	 Social Rides William had undertaken a survey of previous attendees, which had not highlighted any fundamental concerns. 	
	 The 2025 rides had been updated on the Let's Ride website (<u>Let's Ride -</u> <u>West Berkshire Spokes</u>) – these will start in March. 	
8.	 Comms and Engagement Joe Gregson had expressed interest in the Publicity Officer role. 	

Ref	Item	Action
	 William proposed that he be co-opted as a committee member. This was seconded by Gordon. At the vote, the motion was carried. 	
	 Gordon / Josh to provide with website access. 	
	 Gordon proposed that Spokes should delete its X account, due to concerns about its ownership, and also due to a lack of use. This was agreed. 	
	 It was suggested that Spokes should consider using Bluesky instead. 	
	 Suggested articles for the website / newsletter included: 	
	 Social Rides 	
	– Couch to 50k	
	 Follow up article on the Cycle Festival 	
	– Cycle count	
9.	File Sharing	
	 William proposed setting up a Google Docs site so Committee members could share documents. This was agreed. 	
10.	Couch to 50k	
	 Newbury Velo had released dates for their beginner rides (<u>Club Group Rides</u>) 	
Next meeting:	Wednesday 5 March @7.30pm	
Venue:	Bacon Arms, 10 Oxford Street, Newbury, RG14 1JB	