

# Minutes of CycleHerts meeting 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## Present

John Metcalf (St Albans CC) (Chair)  
Adam Edwards (Welwyn Hatfield  
Cycling Forum) (Minutes)  
John Boielle (Tring and  
Berkhamstead CC)  
Jim Brown (Stevenage CTC)

Jeremy Buckman (T&BCC)  
David Calder (Spokes SW Herts)  
Ian Gregory (WHCF)  
Kate Jenkins (Spokes)  
Pauline Roby (CTC Bike Club  
Officer)

John Shead (WHCF)  
Tom Spaven (StACC)  
Richard Stubbs (S Herts CTC)  
Stephen Wragg (StACC)

## 1 Apologies

Gerhard Weiss (LCC), Chris Whitehouse (WHCF)

## 2 & 3 Minutes of the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

- **Letter to Stuart Pile:** Adam read out the reply from Stuart Pile. Noted that the planned Bikeability audits might help identify quick wins rather than grand schemes. The South West Hertfordshire plan is online but SPOKES want to see if the work is of a good enough quality. Concern that in Stevenage the local Cycling Strategy has not got into the Urban Transport Plan and the quality of the on road works has got worse, not better, e.g. changing priority from bikes to cars.
- **4 Effects of spending cuts:** Noted that David Burt is only part time on cycling matters and is now covering others vacant posts. Agreed we should ask to meet Stuart Pile as a group to press for more staff time to be devoted to planning cycling. **Action John Metcalf.** Maps. A base map exists on HertsDirect. All routes documented and recorded. A journey planner has not yet been done for Herts. Cycle towns done, but not other towns. **Action SW to check cover for Hertfordshire..**
- **7 Formation of an HCC as umbrella group:** John had contacted LCC and Gerhard Weiss had been due to speak but he sent apologies the day before. Action on groups who would like to join and membership deferred pending more work on arrangements for the group. Constitution on the agenda.
- **9 Petition:** 252 people signed making it one of the larger responses at the time.

## 4 Presentation by Gerhard Wiess, London Cycling Campaign

In his absence there was a brief discussion about the LCC. Its name is changing to London Cyclists as the word Campaign is seen as too political. It has roughly 16,000 members, with a small central team of professional staff. There is a local group for each of the 32 London Boroughs. The relationship between LCC and appears fairly loose. LCC helped TfL with the free maps and the design of the super highways. Blackfriars bridge north junction is currently a major campaign issue.

## 5 Formation of a Hertfordshire Cycling Campaign as an umbrella group

- Agreed the group should be a federation of local groups. The groups can be any local groups with an interest in cycling issues but will need to have some form of formal organisational basis and agree to the aims of the umbrella group. The group will not be open to individual membership.
- The group will assist with and campaign for the establishment of groups in those parts of the County where no such groups exist.
- The group will also promote cycling, liaise with Hertfordshire County Council on cycling issues and support campaigns in all parts of the county.
- The membership will be one voting representative member per group. However, meetings will also be open to others and the public.
- David Calder offered to host a web site for free. Steven Wragg has the URL <http://www.cycleherts.org.uk> ready for use. **Action SW, DC to set up an embryo web site.**
- Agreed to use the name CycleHerts for the group. On the basis of the details above Adam and John to draft a constitution for discussion at the next meeting. **Action John and Adam**

- Once set up, we may be able to get funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund second tranche, for example to establish a post of county cycling champion. CTC might have knowledge of possible funding/help/contacts. Important that we are seen to support this bid, see below.
- Need to involve all groups such as CTC and Sustrans. Sustrans have a Bikelt officer for St Albans, Luton and Bedford, but this person is having to try to support too many projects.

## **8 Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid**

A copy of the bid summary had been circulated prior to the meeting. The full detail is on HertsDirect. This is an opportunity for us to ensure our voice is heard and wheels are not reinvented. HCC contact is Ian Thompson. News on the bid is expected in July. The bid was a very rapid cobbling together using pre-existing plans and studies. We should be ready to publicise the money gained via our web site and the press and to comment things that then should be happening.

## **6 Hertfordshire Cycling Forum**

As yet there is no news of the date of the next meeting which will either be on 26/7/11 or 6/9/11. Noted that the up to date minutes for the HCF are not on HertsDirect. Comments on the minutes from January 2011:

- Item 5: Concern that the *Roads in Hertfordshire* design guidance may imply a focus on segregated paths rather than road use which is the vast majority of use in the County.
- Item 3: The collection of 3 mile statistics rather than 5 miles is to ensure we get a higher percentage figure for short journeys. The 5 mile figure makes cycling use look lower than it should.

## **7 Priorities for investment spreadsheet:**

This had been circulated along with the St Albans priority local list. It was suggested that members put photos onto the [www.cyclestreets.net](http://www.cyclestreets.net) map to log things that need improving.

### **9.1 Policy on speed limits**

Concern that district council such as St Albans are not consulting and not following their own policies. There has been a recent case where a limit has been proposed for raising from 30 mph to 40 mph as then compliance will be higher.

### **9.2 Understanding Walking and Cycling study**

This recent study looks at who cycles most and why. Their conclusion is that the growth in cycling is being driven by white middle class affluent men who have got beyond the use of the car. Working class riders are people who are too poor for cars but aspire to own them. Working class people have no wish to cycle and regard it as dangerous. This group are much more likely to cycle on pavements due to their fear of roads and cars. A summary of the main issue can be found at <http://www.bikehub.co.uk/news/sustainability/save-our-cities-build-for-bicycles-not-cars/>

## **10 Any other business**

- Pauline Roby: Please can people contact her about children's groups she may be able to work with. [Pauline.robby@ctc.org.uk](mailto:Pauline.robby@ctc.org.uk)
- Hertfordshire Local Access Forum: The Hert Rights of Way group needs a cyclist member and Ian Gregory has applied to do this.

**11 Date and location of next meeting:** To be arranged once date of HCF is confirmed.