

CycleHerts: Hertfordshire Cycling Groups

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 1st March 2012.

Present: John Metcalf (Chair), Adam Edwards (Minutes), Jim Brown, Mike Waddilove, Jon Raxworth, Dick Field, Aubrey Foddering, Ian Gregory, Chris Whitehouse, Robert Finney, John Shead, Richard Stubbs, Roger Bangs, Anne Nobbs, Kate Jenkins, Tom Spaven, Nick Truran, David Johnson, David Burt,

1. Apologies for absence: Steve Wragg, Bob Jones, Tony Brown, David Calder, Brian Jackson,
 - David Calder: Can't carry on in group as moved to central London. He will do our website for the time being, but will need replacing in due course.
2. Introductions (and identification of the voting member from each Group):

Name:	Voting for:
Jim Brown	Stevenage and N Herts CTC
John Shead	WHCF
John Metcalf	StACC
Richard Stubbs	South Herts CTC; 40 Plus Group
Roger Bangs	Spokes

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2011 and
4. Matters arising
 - CTC has 5 area groups in Hertfordshire, each with 280 members, so affiliation by each group would be appropriate. Jim will be raising this at the next meeting of the groups shortly. **Action Jim Brown.**
 - Website editing rights given to groups. Spam in the discussion forum had been dealt with.
 - Logo: Steve Wragg not present so carried forward. **Action Steve Wragg.**
 - Cyclenation: Form received to enable this, so will be sent soon. Simon Geller to be invited to a future meeting. He is attending the SPOKES AGM on 17.4.12. **Action John Metcalf.**
 - CTC now being more helpful in mailing members and will send a message from us. **Action John Metcalf.**
 - Policies: Suggested CTC policies are used where agreeable to save time. Comments should be posted on the discussion forum.
 - Cambridge Cycling Campaign: Invite to meeting not replied to. Adam to try again. **Action Adam.**
5. Election of Treasurer
 - Ian Gregory has resigned. Chris Whitehouse has volunteered to be Treasurer. Agreed.
6. "*The Times*" cycling campaign
 - Good that it has happened and that it has resulted in a parliamentary discussion.
 - Labour Party is also meeting on how to take this agenda forward. They have admitted to previous mistakes. CTC and others will be present. They are showing a willingness to do things.
 - A letter has gone from the Transport Ministers to encourage councils to do things.
 - Lots of helpful changes to rules are coming. New roads in developments are being designed to slow to traffic to 20 mph. David to send John the HCC paper on this and offered a speaker on the topic for our next meeting. **Action David Burt, John Metcalf.**
 - New HCC Chief Exec is the former head of environment, so likely to be more pro-cycling.
 - Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid success is also good news.
 - Road markings: Please report them where missing to Herts Direct.
 - HCC now have permission to add trixie mirrors to junctions to enable lorries to see cyclists in blind spots.
 - Lorry upgrades not due until 2014 could be imposed now via HCC contracts requiring the use of updated lorries as is the case in London for Crossrail.
 - Lorry drivers can now do a 2 day course to Bikeability level 3 to enable them to understand cycling.
 - Agreed local campaigns should pick up on the Times campaign generally.
 - Rural underused pavements: These could be shared use to get cyclists off main roads, e.g. Redbourn to St Albans.

- A cycling commissioner for Hertfordshire is needed as there is currently not a single point of contact for cycling issues within HCC.
- HCC staff will be attending a meeting organised by Transport for London on 13/3/12 to discuss cycling in and around London.

7. Dangerous junctions for cyclists in Hertfordshire

- CTC asked for a list. This has been done and sent in.
- Hazardous sites list for the whole county are based on statistics and ranked by severity. E.g. Lemsford Road roundabout Hatfield. A consultation document is coming to WHCF soon.
- Agreed a county wide list of hazardous locations could be produced for Cycle Herts. **Action David Burt**
- Ideas for improvement welcomed, including where potential use is inhibited by perceived danger.
- A review of cycling in St Albans by consultants acting for the county council is underway and should report soon. STACC have been involved.
- Agreed Cycle Herts should count cyclists to measure use. Use statistics are not shown on the HCC web site and should be. **Action David Burt to find out if this is possible.**

8. Meeting with Stuart Pile, HCC Executive Member for Highways and Transport

- Nothing really promised, but an interesting discussion.
- £90k per county councillor is available for roads and cycle paths as part of localism agenda. Likely spend is £60-70k on roads maintenance, so not much for cycling.
- All groups should compile a list of simple measures, e.g missing dropped curbs, and bid for these works from these funds. The scheme was trialled in Broxbourne and a new pedestrian crossing was paid for.
- Noted May 2013 is re-election year for county councillors.
- Gritting of cycle ways still needs looking at for Stevenage. Some routes in Stevenage, if also shared use, count as footpaths and therefore not done rapidly as it is a manual task. If not being done, this should be reported to Herts Direct.
- Problem of how to get planning information, e.g. Stevenage football ground expansion, which have an impact on cyclists without getting every minor thing. Local Access Forum has to be consulted on access, so would get some issues referred on, but so far none seen. David to ask if there a way of using the online system to filter applications and send them on. **Action David Burt.**

9. Cycle Training

- 5000 children trained on road last year. Lots of money up to 31/3/12 which then ceases.
- £100,000 secured for the coming year and bids in for more.
- Aim is to increase to 6000 children per year. Can use this money for level 3 training. There is a problem that secondary schools are not interested until children become young drivers.
- Aim is to offer funding for every child at 50% cost, across the county. Level 2 is over £40.00. So grant cuts this to £20.00 per child (and further reduction to £10.00 for poor families). This enables it to be more afforded for parents and schools.
- Access to training and sustainability of funding are the priorities. There is a big push on to get more to Schools join in. Some schools have dedicated volunteers and they can be supported directly. At present HCC cannot meet the demand and training is booked up to 2013 already. Studies being done on the effect of training at primary schools and impact on secondary schools they feed into (Cheshunt and Broxbourne). The results suggest it increases numbers cycling to secondary school by 30-40%.
- Young driver training does not include cycling as HCC cannot make this compulsory. However, the theory part of the test has cycling and other non-motorised user questions.

10. HCC Cycle Forum meeting January 2012.

- No minutes available yet.
- An update from HCC on LSTF, routes, plans and road safety issues was tabled. An electronic copy will be sent to us for circulation. **Action David Burt.**
- An HCC organisational chart with named key contacts would be useful so member groups know who to contact about local issues.

11. Issues and updates from District areas/campaigns

- We need a list for local contacts for each part of Hertfordshire. David to tell us the key contacts for each area. **Action David Burt.**
- Stevenage: Good network being degraded. Additional give ways being created even for tiny entries. Cyclists not consulted on these changes. Some sections can be used by mopeds under a law from the 1950s which is a concern as mopeds now much faster than they were. Locality budgets might help fund improvements.
- Local Access Forum: London Colney footpath issues should be discussed with STACC.

11. SkyRides in Hertfordshire

- Part of LSTF bid to work with British Cycling to run led rides in Hemel, St Albans and Watford. Target is new or lapsed cyclists and for them to learn/relearn local routes. Aim is 25 rides in each town each year. Summer 2012 and then 2 more years if funded. Dates not yet known but starting mid-June 2012.
- British Cycling lead and are recruiting local leaders. Leaders are employed at £45 or £30 per ride, so long as they join British Cycling. Dates for training courses are on the web site. See: <http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/recreation/article/rec20111212-Train-to-be-a-Sky-Ride-Leader-0>
- There is an opportunity for local groups to get involved in the programme so as to get to future members. Figures show it works. Kate Jenkins is CycleHerts contact for this.
- British Cycling is very conscious of the risk that they may be treading on other groups areas.

12. Bike Week 2012

- Suggested there could be publicity in local District magazines and at county level to support this. David to ask HCC marketing. **Action David Burt.**

13. CycleHerts Website

- Need person to help/ take over from David Calder. Site is up and running. Needs content more than the design. Ian Gregory can do word press, so can help. Ian to contact David via Roger Bangs. **Action Ian Gregory, Roger Bangs**

14. Any other business

- Money: Tonight's meeting free. Will have to find funding to enable us to fund further meetings.
- Future meetings: A joint with WHCF might be possible in May or July, but not June. Stevenage may be able to help as have CTC members on the council. **Action Adam Edwards, Jim Brown**

15. Date of AGM

- July 2012.