

Minutes of the CycleHerts meeting held 1st November 2012

1. Apologies: None received.
2. Present (vote): John Metcalf (Chair), Adam Edwards (Minutes), John Shead (WHCF), David Burt, Trevor Mason, Chris Whitehouse, Ian Gregory, Richard Stubbs (South Herts CTC & 40 Plus Cycle Club), Jim Brown (Stevenage & North Herts CTC), Roger Bangs (Spokes), Bob Jones (CTC East Herts), Kate Jenkins, Jim Chisholm.

3. Campaigning for cycling:

Jim Chisholm, Cambridge Cycling Campaign presented a witty and informative talk on the lessons they have learned in campaigning. The presentation is available as a pdf from the Secretary and is attached with these minutes. Things for Cycle Herts to consider at future meetings are:

- i. Produce a newsletter to be sent to local councillors and other key stake holders. Copies should also be distributed to local doctors surgeries and to large employers.
- ii. Affiliate to the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group for £15.00 per year.
- iii. In discussions and communications obey Chatham House rules and do not name council officers lest we lose their goodwill.
- iv. Refer to “those who cycle” and “those who drive” rather than “cyclists” and “drivers”. This is less divisive language.
- v. If asked to comment on a report, do it quickly as councils are often working to 5 day deadlines. This should ensure your comments go in to documents before they reach councillors.
- vi. Use Cyclescape to email to target areas. <http://www.cyclescape.org/>
- vii. For some issues, the persistence of one individual is often more important.
- viii. Monitor local planning applications in detail and follow up on them.

4. Minutes and matters arising from the 28th June 2012:

- Planning information and how to get it: No easy solution to getting key information.
- St Albans Cycle study publication date: Not yet known.
- Maps: Members should inform David Burt which maps are needed, tell him what supplies are left and what numbers of copies are required.
Action All.
- Verulamium Park cycle route: The north – south route opened on 31st October 2012 and the east – west route should follow in 3–4 months. A diversion of NCN6 to use part of these paths is likely.
- DfT Consultation on fixed penalties for careless driving: John Metcalf had sent in a response from CycleHerts and copies had been circulated with the agenda.

5. Update from Hertfordshire County Council

- Herts Highways is now back as a department of HCC. It consists of a team of officers supported by network management services providers Opus

Arup, a joint venture¹. Repairs to potholes and other issues has been contracted out to Ringway Eurovia². All other activities will also be contracted out. A consortium called Eastern Highways has been formed with 9 other local authorities³.

- David Burt is the lead officer for cycling strategy. Faults should be reported to Herts Direct. There will be Integrated Transport Project Managers for local areas. David will send a list. **Action David Burt.** David also has a list of who owns which cycle route which he will circulate. **Action David Burt.**
- Trevor Mason introduced himself to the meeting as the manager for Safe and Sustainable Journeys. He will be responsible for the promotion of walking and cycling as sustainable travel and the promotion of road safety. He manages teams responsible for Bikeability cycle training, school journeys, marketing campaigns, driver training and safety cameras, rail travel including station parking and school crossing patrols. From 1/4/13 his remit will include public health and it is planned that sustainable transport will be linked to public health issues.
- Sustainable transport strategy is being branded as **Active Travel** as this fits with the government funding stream.
- Lessons have been learned from the previous campaigns promoting cycling. There will be a focus on Local Sustainable Transport Fund areas and promoting cycling generally. Local groups will be involved and some funding may be available to them.
- Integrated works programme: Strategy is to ensure road resurfacing is combined with other safety works more often.
- There is more money than ever to support training in schools.
- Local decision making is shifting from area panels to individual county councillors. We are advised to lobby individual county councillors for small schemes.

6. Little used footways for conversion to shared use for cycling

- The list compiled from suggested routes had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- David Burt had advised the Secretary that many of the suggestions might now be taken forward as DfT guidelines have changed, see Local Transport Note 1/12⁴. The best way to do this would be as comments from us on the HCC Inter-Urban Route Study. **Action Adam Edwards to write a response to this by end November.**
- There is also a new DfT cycle safety fund. A bid is to be made for cycle paths along the A414 south of St Albans to reduce accidents.

¹ http://www.arup.com/Home/News/2012_07_July/19_July_Opus_and_Arup_sign_up_for_seven_year_contract.aspx

² <http://www.ringway.co.uk/news-115-eurovia-heads-to-herts.html>

³ <http://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/four-named-for-75m-eastern-counties-highways-framework>

⁴ <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/ltn-01-12/shared-use-routes-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists.pdf> "7.31 It might not always be possible to meet the minimum recommendations for the route as a whole. In this case, practitioners need to consider whether a new sub-standard facility is better than none. For example, on lightly used routes, especially rural shared use routes that avoid high speed roads which have no specific provision for pedestrians or cyclists, a narrow route might represent a considerable improvement on existing conditions."

7. County council elections 2013: Cycling policies for candidates

- We need statements we can get candidates to sign up to. These need to be headlines and will be needed soon. Roger will circulate a draft for comment after the meeting. **Action Roger Bangs.**

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8. Police and Crime Commissioner elections

- STACC have sent questions to all the candidates. John to circulate their answers when they are received. **Action John Metcalf.**

9. HCC Cycle Forum, 7th November 2012 – items for the agenda

- Carriageway narrowing creating pinch points
- Speed limits: Concern that the rules using the 85 percentile rather than average speeds is encouraging limits to be increased not reduced.

10. Reports

- Cyclenation conference 13.10.12: No one had attended this.
- Skyrides: These had been very successful and led to above average participation. Watfords rides had been in the top 5 nationally including a short ride in Cassiobury Park which attracted 56 participants. There is a bid to the LSTF to extend these rides for 2 more years. Success had been helped by Watford BC advertising the rides in bus shelters across the town and by support from local sports centres who have received money to encourage cycling by target low participation groups. The results of a survey to find out more information on the success factors is being analysed at the moment.
- Noted that Stevenage CTC attracted 397 riders for its end of season Emitremmus ride

11. Organisational matters

1. Website: Minutes have been posted. Members were invited to add extra information to the blog.
2. Funding: STACC and Spokes have both voted £50 to be donated to Cycle Herts. A bank account therefore needs to be opened. **Action Chris Whitehouse.**

12. Any other business – None

13. Dates of future meetings – To be circulated.

AE 13.11.12

Actions from the meeting held 1.11.12

Minute	Action by	Outcome
Maps: Members should inform David Burt which maps are needed, tell him what supplies are left and what numbers of copies are required.	All	
Integrated Transport Project Managers for local areas. David to send a list.	David Burt	
Circulate list of who owns which cycle route.	David Burt	
Comments on the HCC Inter-Urban Route Study.	Adam Edwards	First draft circulated for comment 11.11.12.
Cycling policies for candidates: Circulate draft for comment.	Roger Bangs	First draft circulated.
Police and Crime Commissioner elections: John to circulate their answers when they are received.	John Metcalf	
Bank account to be opened.	Chris Whitehouse	