

## Minutes of the CycleHerts Meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 2014

Present: John Metcalfe (Chair), Cathy Wilkins (WHBC), John Shead (WHCF), Kate Jenkins (Spokes), Adam Edwards (Secretary), Peter Bate (Sustrans)

1. Apologies for absence: Nick Truran, Chris Whitehouse, Bob Jones, Jim Brown, Jeremy Buckman, Anne Nobbs, David Burt.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and matters arising:
  - All actions completed unless otherwise noted
  - Rob Smith, Head of Highways, HCC, has yet to be invited to speak to us. **Action JM.**
  - To ask David Burt to send the Cambridge specifications to Districts as a model of good practice. Still to be done. **Action JM.**
3. Role of Sustrans in route development and promoting cycling in Hertfordshire: Peter Bate – Area Manager Beds and Herts. Peter's presentation is available as a separate pdf which will be sent with the minutes. Points of particular interest were:
  - The new ramp to the Nicky Line at Ambrose Lane opens on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and will be officially opened on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.
  - Tarmac is always Sustrans' preferred surface and noted that it can be colour coated.
  - DfT cycle safety fund: Noted that this had been run to a tight deadline based on KSI data.
  - The St Peters / Hatfield road scheme in St Albans has been lost.
  - The A414 scheme is being worked on and is designed to link to NCN6 in future.
  - Bridge Road East scheme was very cash limited.
  - Peter is working on quiet way links from London in to Hertfordshire.
  - Royston tunnel is on the site of a former level crossing and is designed to be seen right through as you approach. A bridge over the by pass is being looked at for the A10 to Cambridge.
  - Sustrans strategy focuses on sub 5 mile journeys particularly in urban areas.
  - It is hoped that NCN6 will be diverted via Verulam Park. Work needs to be done on the bridge at the entry to the park from King Harry Lane and the near by toucan crossing.
  - Requests to divert NCN routes should first go to HCC. Sustrans prefer to create new numbered routes to avoid costly changes to existing signs and maps. For example the Luton – Dunstable busway will have a new number and NCN6 will stay as is.
  - Thermoplastic numbers on the surface of paths are good as they save the costs of pipe surveys before signs can be put in.
  - Money for schemes is now controlled by the Local Enterprise Partnerships which are at the regional or sub regional level. Hertfordshire has it's own LEP so we should get them to come and talk to us. **Action JM.**
  - Highways agency is beginning to understand the idea of community severance, following Sustrans contacts.
  - Cycle counters on routes: Modern versions are solar as the older type have batteries which only last 6 weeks, hence them ceasing to work.
  - DfT use a modelling system called Web Tag to assess some routes but this excludes under 16s from the data, the very people Sustrans would like to use cycle paths!
6. a. Update from Herts County Council (HCC):
  - David Burt had sent his apologies plus the news that he is no longer responsible for cycling highways issues and this has now been taken on by Daniel Tancock. [Note: This email was received by the Secretary after the meeting.]
  - Need to know when the next HCC Forum is planned for so we can add dates to diaries. Trevor Mason should be asked to attend to update the meeting on the Year of Cycling. **Action AE.**
  - Noted that a crucial document we need to see an updated version of is the priority projects list. **Action AE to ask for this.**
6. b. Hertfordshire Year of Cycling 2014:
  - This will be officially launched at the County Show which runs 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

- Trevor Mason is interested in events for this and it was suggested there could be a cycling films event at Campus West WGC once the cinemas are back from refurbishment.
- Requested that the Year of Cycling information be resent to members. **Action AE.**

7. Women's Tour

- Welwyn GC: WHCF and Sustrans are running a stand. Watford Hub's Dr Bike will also be there.
- Broxbourne: John will speak to those present interested in setting up a local group. Anthony Collier from the district council is being very helpful with this.

8. Cyclenation – consultation on future organization

- Cyclenation has decided it is not viable long term and is consulting on the best group to merge with. Possible options include the CTC and London Cycling Campaign.

9. CTC/LCC Space for Cycling campaign

- Emails sent via the CTC website go to County Councillors in Herts who are not up for election this year. In London they go to the Borough Wards. The boroughs do control cycling spending.
- John is going to the Leeds campaign meeting and will report back. **Action JM.**

10. Other events:

- Local SkyRides 2014
- St Albans Charity Cycle Ride
- Bike week: STACC: Little is planned as take up in previous years has been poor. There will be Harpenden – Rickmansworth and vice versa Sustrans rides
- Noted that groups rides can be easily added to the Countryside Management Service web site<sup>1</sup>.
- Suggested that Trevor Mason should be lobbied to ask local doctors to prescribe cycling.

10. Treasurer's report

- None.

11. Website

- Agreed Ian should be asked to add the talk on Section 106 given to WHCF to the Site. **Action JS, IG.**

12. Dates of future meetings

*Tuesday 15/7/14*

*Tuesday 28/10/14*

*All meetings will be held at Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council offices at Campus East*

13. Any other business

- None.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.hertsdirect.org/ufs/ufsmain?ebz=1\\_1399227763067&ebd=0](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ufs/ufsmain?ebz=1_1399227763067&ebd=0)