

Minutes of CycleHerts Tuesday 15th July 2014, St Albans District Council Offices

Present: John Metcalf (Chair), Adam Edwards (Secretary), Roger Bangs (SPOKES), Jez Cox (Hertfordshire Year of Cycling), Graham Figg (South Herts CTC), Ian Gregory (WHCF), Kate Jenkins (Watford Cycle Hub).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jim Brown (Stevenage CTC), John Shead (WHCF), Chris Whitehouse (Treasurer), Peter Bate (Sustrans), Tina Filby (A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign), Daniel Tancock (HCC highways)

2. Introductions

- Graham was welcomed to the meeting. He explained that South Herts CTC is now independent of the other groups in Hertfordshire, i.e. West Herts CTC, Stevenage and North Hertfordshire CTC and Bishops Stortford (Stort Valley) CTC group.
- Jez Cox is project manager for the Hertfordshire Year of Cycling. This is a one year post and he has been in the role for 4 weeks. Previously he managed the cycling legacy of Olympics with the London boroughs. The Big Herts Cycle Challenge is the major project at the moment.
- As the whole year of cycling is funded by public health budget, Jez wants to have local doctors recommending cycling as a way to lose weight via 121 with cycling instructors, rather than spending this money on gym membership.
- His tasks have to have legacy built into it. The aim is to give people options and get them in with cycling groups. There is also an aim to get more racing happening as this creates a focus for the tie in of non-competitive groups e.g. led rides to the events, stalls.
- There will be a Fete de Velo at Redbourn on 17/8/14. This will become the model for other such events, for example the Tour of Britain finish in Hemel Hempstead. The aim is to have ancillary events, for example folding bike races or a kids duathlon with scooters and bike.
- There is a grass track in Ashwell run by Ashwell CC: Jez wants exhibition races to get interest.
- Hertfordshire Police are supportive. There is a senior officer keen on cycling so Herts Police will support road events. Jez is not keen on big races. He wants small in town circuits. The Women's Tour will come back to WGC next year.
- Web site is being revamped with updated mapping. The plan is for maps for phones with embedding into the HCC web site. *yearofcycling.com* will be a separate URL.
- HCC working on reissue, updating and reprinting of maps which are not part of Jez's remit. He suggested we contact Trevor on this issue. More ideas will be discussed at the upcoming Hertfordshire Cycling Forum meeting.
- Jez can be contacted by email: Jez.cox@hertfordshire.gov.uk

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2014 and matters arising

- Minutes approved.
- The Cambridge specification for infrastructure has been received and will send to all districts.
Action JM.
- John has asked for meeting with HCC to discuss updating of ranking of routes. **Action JM.**
- Other actions completed.

4. Agenda for HCC Cycle Forum on 31st July 2014

Jez has invited all county registered cycling clubs to the meeting. There will be a limit of one representative per club. The idea is to widen the forum. Herts Police are also attending. Daniel Tancock is chairing the meeting. The agenda will cover:

- Hertfordshire Year of Cycling: Jez will be presenting on this.
- The Public Health Challenge and Cycling:
- Developing the new HCC Cycling website
- Cycle Provision at Railway Stations

Additions requested are:

- Update on infrastructure developments (Roger Bangs).
- Space for Cycling (John Metcalf). The key themes of this are

- Protected space on main roads
- Removing through motor traffic in residential areas
- Lower speed limits
- Cycle-friendly town centres
- Safe routes to school
- Routes through green spaces

5. Cyclenation – future organisation and developments

- The AGM had agreed Cyclenation need to exist and they need better communications. They will create clusters of local groups and develop a new understanding with CTC. Cyclenation think they should take over Right to Ride issues from CTC. However, Cyclenation recognise that CTC and London CC have more resources and they will have to have the larger role.
- Consultation on highway schemes: Currently HCC send details of schemes which they judge to be of interest to cyclists to CTC HQ who then send them to local CTC Right to Ride representatives. HCC also sometimes send details to local cycle campaign groups. Any local group which also wishes to be consulted about schemes in their areas should send details of the area covered and whom to contact to Jez Cox. Jez will forward the details to the relevant people in HCC. **Action: All groups**
- Noted that there is a list of member groups on the Cycle Herts web site, plus a list of all known cycling groups in the county. Jez is using this for invitations the Herts Forum.

6. HCC ranking of cycle schemes

This is scheduled for discussion by John with Daniel Tancock and others. John will discuss the evaluation criteria as the 2010 version did not show any cost benefit analysis. We should be looking for the most impact for least cost. Jez noted that public health money can be used for cycle routes if it can be shown to have a significant impact on health. This is offered via the district councils.

7. Events

- Local SkyRides are happening in lots of places, but little in Hemel as there is no local group. Noted that the County needs plan for when the money runs out at end of three years. The web site will continue and groups can add any rides. There will be a legacy of route planners and trained leaders. HCC should be able to continue this, but the issue is sustainability as people change. Noted that ride leaders have CRB checks, which adds to their credibility. Watford find links to Skyrides work. If rides are not mentioned on the Watford site, attendance is poor.
- 17 August 2014: Fete du Velo, Redbourn.
- 27th July 2014: Opening of the new BMX track and skate park in Hatfield
- 12th September 2014: Hemel finish for the tour of Britain.
- Agreed we should organise a site ride and visit to see the A10 and what achieved by the group. **Action IG.**

10. Treasurer's report:

- Agreed the Treasurer can pay Ian Gregory £7.88 for the webhosting fee.

11. Website

- A contact form has been set up. Ian will forward messages received to the appropriate people.
- The Section 106 presentation given to WHCF is also on the site.

12. Dates of next meeting: Tuesday 28/10/14 in Welwyn Garden City.

13. Any other business

- Meeting places and costs: We were invited to propose how costs and venue to Jez and Trevor for discussion. **Action AE.**
- Agreed John Callaghan, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership should be invited to the HCF meeting. **Action JC.**
- Woodland trust: Heartwood Forest has an access meeting. Jez is interested off road cycling in the forest. Also the Local Access Forum should hear about the about year of cycling. **Action IG to email JC.**