



CycleHerts Hertfordshire Cycling Groups

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Apologies: Jim Brown, Bob Jones, Trevor Mason, Nick Truran, Daniel Tancock
Present: John Metcalf (Chair), Adam Edwards (Minutes), Roger Bangs (SPOKES), Phil Cook (Stevenage and north Herts CTC), Kate Jenkins (Watford Cycle Hub), Cathy Wilkins (WHBC), Chris Whitehouse (Treasurer), Ian Gregory (Web Site), Jez Cox HCC, David Andrews (HCC).

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2014: Approved
2. **Matters arising**
 - The **Cambridge specification on cycle parking in developments** has been sent to St Albans and Three Rivers District Councils. Joh is looking to influence Dan Tancock and to get HCC policy updated along similar lines. **Action John Metcalf, cc Jez Cox**
 - **Off road cycling:** A recent St Albans Local Access Forum meeting discussed concerns about the clash between mountain bikers and equestrians/pedestrian. There is a need to provide specific MBR challenge routes to get them out of ancient woods. A possible trial may happen in St Albans reactivating a 1990s route off Cottonmill Lane at Marlborough. St Albans DC are keen on this idea. Also Finesse Leisure are keen to develop a route in a specific area of Stanborough Park, Welwyn GC. A third possible route in Batchwood Hall woods, St Albans. This would operate at specific advertised times. A meeting with Lord Verulam to progress this had been held.
 - **UK Cycling Delivery Plan¹:** HCC has submitted an official expression of interest to the DfT to be part of the project and it waiting for a response.
3. **Space for Cycling Campaign - progress**
 - Only 6 HCC councillors are signed up. David suggested John email Kate Lowan to forward the campaign email to all county councillors. **Action John Metcalf.**
 - STACC are looking at each Space for Cycling theme and suggesting local actions under each heading, so as to have a ready-made plan for action. This could be a model for other groups and is good timing given government asking for bids to a £50m national pot. John circulated copies at the meeting and will email to the local groups. **Action John Metcalf.**
4. **Hertfordshire Year of Cycling**
 - **Hertfordshire Cycling Map:** This will include all recommended traffic free routes, safe roads between them and rural routes. However, it is not a comprehensive map of all possible routes. Pindar, who are creating the map, are adding in QR codes for phones for additional information. The draft map is coming to the Hertfordshire Cycle Forum on 11th March 2015 to enable those attending to make comments and give feedback.
 - **Tour of Hertfordshire series:** Four cycling festivals are planned, 2 in June and 2 in July. The Women's tour will take place in between these dates. Location and dates to be confirmed once the Police have given their permission for road closures. Local groups will be asked to lead rides to each event and then go round the road circuit for the first hour. Then people can stay to watch the races which will include disability cycling, a scootathlon for kids, folding bike races and then more competitive races into evening. There will be free stalls for cycling groups at each event. Jez will help manage and coordinate the local rides. It was suggested groups should use the BCF Ride Social website to manage the linking rides.
 - **Prescribing cycling by GPs:** Working group progressing this idea. It will also cover outdoor activities generally and the Year of Walking.
 - **Girl Can campaign:** The Year of Cycling is linking in where it can using social media. Billie Fleming was noted as an example. In 1938 she rode 29,603.7 miles in one year². This is still a record.
5. **County Council**
 - **Cycling Delivery Plan:** Already discussed above.
 - **HCC ranking of cycling schemes:** Disappointing that there has still been no response from Dan.
 - **Future growth and transport plans for urban areas:** UTPs coming slowly due to lack of money to do anything which they recommend. Watford's plan is nearly ready.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364791/141015_Cycling_Delivery_Plan.pdf

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billie_Fleming

- **SkyRides 2015 onwards:** Rides are still happening in Watford, St Albans and Hemel. Districts may confine funding once national funding ends.
- 6. CTC Road Justice Campaign**
 - Little response to John's requests for incidents: Seven cases supplied. John is going to the CTC Campaigning training this weekend on this very issue.
 - Reporting Police by to HCC: Noted that this is often inaccurate which does not help HCC plan safety improvements.
 - John will go and see the Police and Crime Commissioner when ready: **Action John Metcalf.**
- 7. HCC Cycle Forum - proposed date 11th March 2015: Items we would like to be discussed**
 - Ranking of HCC schemes
 - Generic email to report cycling issues irrespective of route owner, with HCC then forwarding messages to District Councils (e.g. Alban Way) or DfT (e.g. M25 underpass). For example cycling@herts.gov.uk could be used. This could be added to the new map and to the new HCC cycling web pages.
 - Standards for new cycling infrastructure: Push for adoption by HCC of one of the published guides. E.g. TfL or Wales.
 - Any others to John Metcalf asap. **Action All.**
 - A cycle simulator has been bought by HCC and will be at the meeting for trial use.

8. Cyclenation/CTC conference (November 2014)

The following principles have been adopted by Cyclenation and CTC:

- I. When cycling people should be able to access all key destinations, in conditions which are safe and comfortable enough for everyday cycling.
- II. When cycling in built up areas, people should not be expected to share space with motor vehicles moving above 20mph.
- III. When cycling, people should only be expected to share space with motor traffic where volumes are low. On key routes this should not exceed the Dutch maximum for main cycle routes, 2,000 Passenger Car Units per day.
- IV. Where current motor traffic speeds or volumes are too high we expect improvements to either:
 - (i) ensure that motor traffic volumes and speeds are at levels acceptable for sharing;
 - or (ii) provide high quality protected cycle infrastructure.
- V. Provision for cycling should be universal, and of a high quality, suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

Meeting agreed to endorse these.

9. **Treasurer's report:** No activity since the last meeting. £141.00 is in the account.
10. **Website:** Latest minutes are up. Noted that the minutes show we have not had an AGM since 2013! Agreed April the meeting therefore should be an AGM.
11. **Dates of future meetings:** Tuesdays 28th April, 14th July, 27th October.
- 12. Any other business:**
 - CTC campaigner's conference this weekend in London: John circulated details.
 - UK Cycling Alliance Big Cycling debate to hear the Conservative, LibDem and Labour policies and plans: Monday 2nd March 2015.
 - East Herts Sustrans are doing more working parties and keen to link up with WHCF little picks.
 - Borehamwood bike recycling event: The Police took in 35 bikes and gave out 55+ either from their pool of unclaimed bikes or by recycling from the 35 handed in.
 - Watford family sports day: Health checks were offered and people were then sent over to cycle groups for advice.
 - Waltham Abbey will be first location for health referrals by GPs, discussed above.

Adam Edwards
8.2.15