

FOLKESTONE/SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 9 June 2011 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: Jean Baker (Chair), Rhona Hodges (Shepway FoE), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger), Dave Kesby, David Taylor, Jeff Lyle, Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Shane Record and Gregory Williams (Spokes)

1 Apologies for absence were received from Alan Joyce (Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Brian Turner (Sustrans Ranger), Mark Tuson (WCCP), Mike Baker, Sara Barnes, Jan Wickham and Stephen Fawke (Spokes).

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes of 24 February 2011:

(Minute 3 -3.1). No action yet on the promised sheltered cycle stands at Folkestone West Station.

ACTION: JB.

(Minute 3 – 3.2) Sara Barnes had reported a confrontation between participants in a led cycle ride and an aggressive walker on a bridleway near Lympe Zoo. Members agreed that Sara be advised to report the incident to the police.

4 Shepway's Cycling Plan

Jean Baker reported that the Plan had been adopted in the face of opposition from several SDC councillors. The Plan had not yet appeared on the SDC website and officers had been unwilling to include it. However, Steve Darling had urged SDC to provide a link to the Plan, currently available on the KCC website:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/getting_around/travel_by_bike/cycling_strategies.aspx

Steve Darling had suggested that a meeting be arranged with the Forum and SDC officers to investigate “quick wins” ie simple engineering initiatives to implement parts of the Plan. He had circulated details of a Government initiative for local authorities to relax bylaws in order to facilitate cycling on seaside promenades: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1912929>.

KHS was currently undergoing a staffing review, and it was not yet clear whether Steve would remain responsible for the Shepway Plan. However, members would continue to press for the suggested meeting. **ACTION DT**

Members suggested that informal contacts with District and County councillors could be useful in widening support for the Plan. The publicity generated by the Ride on 18 June would increase public awareness and provide evidence of the need for better facilities. Shane Record suggested that activities such as bike hire could be publicised during the period of the Folkestone Triennial. SDC would be publishing the draft Local Development Framework for consultation in July.

Members were urged to examine the proposals carefully to ensure that the Plan was included, in particular relating to the chapters on Green Tourism. **ACTION: ALL**

5 Future of The Forum

Jean Baker confirmed her long-threatened decision to resign as Chairman of the Forum, and suggested that it might change its purpose following the adoption of the Plan. David Taylor argued for the continuation of a local pressure group to ensure that the aspirations of the Plan were implemented, and volunteered to serve as Chairman of the Forum for a year, suggesting that Shane

Record be confirmed as Vice-Chairman. Both proposals were agreed unanimously. DT volunteered to prepare for the Forum to adopt a constitution based on the model used by Spokes, and to consult Alan Joyce who had volunteered to act as Treasurer. Rhona Hodges agreed to remain as Secretary to the Forum. **ACTION: DT, SR, RH**

6 Cycle Day

Jean Baker thanked all members who had worked to prepare for the event on 18 June. Arrangements for the day were discussed, in particular the mass cycle ride organised by the Forum. Paul Rees reviewed the Health and Safety arrangements, which required a number of marshals; Jeff Lyle, Jean Baker and Liz Lonkhurst volunteered for this responsibility, and it was agreed that the main road crossing to The Bell be marshalled by police. **ACTION: JL EL JB**. Paul Rees agreed to confirm the arrangements for public liability insurance. **ACTION: PR**.

David Taylor reported on publicity for the event. Flyers had been widely distributed and all councillors invited. Damian Collins would launch the ride. Shane Record agreed to include information on the ride at a KM photoshoot, and to co-operate with David on interviews for Academy FM, KMFM and possible TV coverage. **ACTION DT SR**

At The Bell, recruitment and Plan information would be on display. **ACTION: JB RH**

7 AOB

(1) Volunteers were needed to man the Spokes stall at the Folkestone Green Fair on 2 and 3 July.

ACTION: ALL

(2) The Forum thanked Jean Baker for her tireless and tenacious work over four years to achieve the adoption of the Shepway Cycle Plan..

Nest meeting date – 8 September 2011