



Campaigning for Better Cycling

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

Minutes of meeting of Cycle Shepway held on 15 April 2014 at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone

Present: David Taylor (Chairman), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Jean Baker (Founder), Jeff Lyle (Committee), Alex Sansom (SDC), Steve Burton (Committee), Simon Barnes (Committee), Tony Smith, Claire Jeffrey, Colin Finch (KCC) and Peter Phillips

Apologies for Absence: Paul Rees (Committee/ Spokes/ Sustrans), Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Mark Tuson and Cllr Martin Whybrow.

1. Minutes: Proposed by David Taylor and seconded by Alan Joyce: the minutes of the Cycle Shepway AGM on 30 January 2014 were confirmed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

Minute 6.2: Jean Baker said that she had received no support from in pursuing the “quick win” path around Radnor Park.

Minute 6.4: Alan Joyce said that the proposal for the cycleway at Martello Lakes would not happen until late in the development at Nicholls Quarry. He said that no application had yet been made relating to land adjoining Peene Quarry.

3. Seafront signage: David Taylor reported that a KCC ward grant of £1,000 for the provision of signs had been promised by Cllr Martin Whybrow, making a total of £3,400 for the signs between Folkestone and Hythe. After meetings with members of the Sandgate Beach Advisory Group (BAG), designs for signs and stencils had been agreed. Sites for “Sandgate Welcomes Careful Cyclists” had been agreed near Coastguard Cottages and the maintenance gangway’s junction with Riviera Road, for “Cyclists Please Dismount at Busy Times” at each end of Granville Parade and for “Respect and Share the Path “ at appropriate intervals along the rest of the Sandgate stretch of the seafront. In addition, 12 stencils would be painted on the pathway. Alex Sansom expressed concerns about proliferation of signs, and Colin Finch warned that new Coastal Footpath signs would also be erected before the end of the year. It was **agreed** that a minimum number of signs would be erected, to be increased if necessary.

Agreed that the stencil would be ordered from Sustrans, details of the fixings for signs to be discussed by Peter Phillips and Alan Joyce (including the purchase of a battery-operated power drill), and Colin Finch arrange for use of a line sprayer. **Action by AJ, PP DT and CF**

Three cycle stands were available for fixing in the district. **Action by SB and PP**

4. Cinque Ports Cycleway: Alex Sansom said that Natural England officers supported the project, and proposed to follow the agreed route through Sandgate for their Coastal Footpath. From Hythe (west end) their proposal was to follow the south side of the Canal.

Alan Joyce confirmed that he had discussed the proposal for crossing Hythe Green with the newly appointed Chairman and minor concerns had been raised relating to the playground near Fort Road. He also warned that, should a crossing be necessary to the north side of the Dymchurch Road, it was unlikely that Section 106 funding would be available until the end of the Nicholls Quarry scheme.

Colin Finch confirmed that the proposed “short cut” from Botolph’s Bridge Road to avoid the dangerous corner beside Dymchurch Redoubt was for a footpath only. He had also received a refusal from the MOD for the CySy proposal to widen a short stretch of pavement on the north side of the Firing Range. **Agreed** that DT would seek support from MP Damian Collins to challenge this decision. **Action by DT**

Shingle had until recently blocked the seawall beyond Dymchurch. Alex Sansom explained that serious blockages were usually cleared by SDC’s contractors or by Community Payback workers. The small annual budget was only spent when the effect would be long-lasting, at the appropriate time of year. She agreed that equipment could be made available to volunteers, but suggested that shingle problems should be reported to SDC using the usual system.

5. Sandgate Bell Stops: AS explained that a suggestion had emerged from discussions with Sandgate BAG that bike bells could be given out at events in Sandgate, and suggested that this could be financed by a grant from the Police Property Fund. Steve Burton offered free bells superfluous to his own needs, and Jean Baker volunteered to co-ordinate the first event at the end of May. **Action by JB**

6. Loss of Cycle Shops: DT reported the unfortunate closure of several local shops, including The Hub. Simon Barnes gave some of the factors leading to his decision to close, and Steve Burton explained how he proposed to revamp Activ Sports.

7. Summer events: Events involving CySy included Hythe Green Fair on 28 June, Sandgate Sea Festival in August and the annual Ride to the Pub, to be arranged by Claire Jeffrey. **Action by CJ**

DT said that it might be possible to join in with Triennial events **Action by DT**

8. AOB

i. Joint Transport Board: Tony Smith described his correspondence with Cllr Susan Carey, Chairman of the Board. He had found her dismissive of his concerns, and had challenged her attitude to cyclists. He said that he was considering seeking a face-to-face meeting. **Action by TS**

ii. Funding: Alex Sansom suggested sources of funding for CySy, particularly to achieve “quick wins” for the Cycling Plan. Colin Finch confirmed that KCC was funding the audit of the Cinque Ports route.

iii Cycling in the media: Members congratulated Cllr Martin Whybrow on his recent appearance on Radio Kent discussing cyclists’ issues. It was felt that he had shown great commitment to our cause.

iv. Aims of CySy: Simon Barnes suggested that more consideration should be given to the wider aims of the organisation, both in the implementation of the Plan and also giving attention to other sports. **Agreed** that this should be discussed at the next meeting. **Action by RH**

Next meeting – Tuesday 10 June 2014 at The Civic Centre, Folkestone