



*Campaigning for Better Cycling*

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

**Minutes of the Meeting  
held on 18 July 2012 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone**

**Present:** David Taylor (Chair), Shane Record (Deputy Chair), Jean Baker, Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger and Spokes Liaison), Alan Joyce (Treasurer and Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Jeff Lyle, Joe Grey, Steve Burton (Activ Sports), Peter Wallace, Mark Tuson (RMCP), Paul Cowdroy, Dave Kesby, Hugh Robertson-Ritchie and Chris Ainsworth.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Carole Waters and Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Mark Biddis, Emily Ghassempour, Lynne Beaumont, Colin Tomson and Sara Barnes.
- 2 David Taylor welcomed attendees and Chris Lewis, Head of Planning Services at SDC. He reviewed recent events, including a campaign ride from Sandgate to West Hythe, which had highlighted a Petition for a cycleway from Folkestone to Dungeness, and a stall for two days at Folkestone Green Fair. The Petition currently had some 850 signatures. He made wry reference to news of a grant of £1.2m for a cycleway in Ashford's Park Farm.
- 3 Chris Lewis responded to questions from members:
  - a) He assured CySy that, although the Cycle Plan was not specifically mentioned in the Shepway Core Strategy, there were sufficient references in the document to provision for cyclists to ensure that any new developments should fund some improvements to the existing cycle path network and parking provision. A case in point would be the upcoming planning application for Folkestone harbour, which members should scrutinise carefully.
  - b) When pressed for assurances that the aspirations of the Plan would be implemented, he admitted that on existing highways there would be no funding for improvements until a new "levy" system was introduced whereby developers' contributions could be pooled for infrastructure improvements, although competition for priority would depend on lobbying. On specific sites, he warned that developers could not be pressured into extending cycle paths beyond the development boundaries.
  - c) He gave an assurance that the KCC parking standards were required on all new developments, but agreed to circulate the Group's design preferences for cycle stands.
  - d) He was unable to comment on the Parking Strategy, which had been withdrawn for further consideration, although members suggested that transport policy at SDC should be considered "in the round" and include all forms of transport.
  - e) On the topic of funding for "quick win" improvements, including the speed bumps in the Lower Sandgate Road, he warned that there was currently no budget available, and that any provision in the next annual budget could only be allocated to land owned by SDC. He listed schemes funded partly by SDC over the past 5 years, including support for RMCP and WCCP, although the Council had taken the decision to discontinue its budget for tourism.

- f) He commended the Group's aim for a seafront cycleway, and suggested that the Harbour development would provide an opportunity to ensure that the route through Folkestone was safeguarded and improved.
- g) CySy asked for status as informal consultees on significant development applications, but CL suggested that persistent monitoring of the weekly planning lists, attendance at Development Control meetings, raising match funding for schemes and lobbying councillors would eventually produce the results demanded by the Group. He promised to raise the Group's concerns with Cllr Clifton-Holt, Cabinet portfolio holder for economic development at SDC.

David Taylor thanked CL for his time and sympathetic attention to CySy's questions.

**4 Minutes** of the meeting held on 19 April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5 Funding and membership**

David Taylor reported that CySy now had 246 members, and suggested that a new category of "supporters" should be introduced, for people willing to pay a membership fee in return for newsletters and monthly meetings at The Hub.

Grants from councillors, specifically for the waymarking on the proposed coastal path, currently totalled £2,000, and Alan Joyce hoped to increase this amount for the Hythe stretch of the coast. However, recent costs of printing for leaflets and posters exceeded £100 and work on the website would incur a fee of £500. After discussion it was **agreed** to ask members for a minimum donation of £5, payable by standing order or Paypal. **Action by AJ**

AJ requested that the cash being held for future use should be transferred to a Virgin Deposit account for Charities and this proposal, seconded by Paul Rees, was **agreed**. **Action by AJ**

#### **6 Monthly meetings in Sandgate**

Joe Grey suggested that members who paid their fee might enjoy meetings each month, to include beginners' rides, talks on bike maintenance, videos, talks etc. Meetings might also be held in Hythe and the Marsh. DT proposed, seconded by AJ, that meetings for supporters be trialled at The Hub on 6 September, and this was unanimously **agreed**. **Action by JG**

#### **7 Folkestone to Dungeness Cycleway**

Joe Grey volunteered to continue his survey of the route by leading a group of members along the proposed path. **Action by JG**

Rhona Hodges reported that Natural England officers were about to survey the route of their proposed footpath from Dover to the Surrey border, and had agreed to meet members to discuss their organisation's processes and the possibility of co-operation. **Action by RH**

#### **8 Events during Summer 2012**

David Taylor reported that the Folkestone Green Fair event had been successful, and that the Town Centre Manager had invited CySy to use the precinct for a stall later in the summer. **Agreed** to request two Saturday events after 12 August and that all members be invited to help to man the stall. **Action by DT/RH**

The Sandgate Sea Festival on 26 August would include Spokes's stall, and CySy members would be invited to help. **Action by all**

#### **9 South Eastern Rail Franchise Consultation**

Paul Rees invited members to comment on the proposed SE Rail Franchise by 13 September, and to lobby MPs on the banning of full-size bikes on trains during the Olympics. (see:

<http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/>) J Grey advised that operators generally took a pragmatic view, and that this latter proposal would probably be implemented only on crowded

trains. He suggested that the Group should concentrate on facilities at local stations and London termini, and agreed to reiterate concerns about cycle stands at Folkestone West to South East Rail.  
**Action by JG**

#### **10 AOB**

- (a) Website:** David Taylor volunteered to fund work on the website until funds were available, but requested material for publication on the site. **Action by DT.**
- (b) Twitter:** Peter Wallace volunteered to initiate Twitter for the Group, in co-operation with Joe Grey **Action by PW/JG**
- (c) Spokes:** Paul Rees suggested that members could affiliate to Spokes and receive that organisation's monthly information sheet. A checkbox would be required on the CySy membership application form. **Action by AJ**

**11 Next meeting: 17 October - Sustrans will be invited to a Q and A session**