



*Campaigning for Better Cycling*

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 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, Andrew South, Mark Biddis, Si Ralph (Sustrans Ranger), Joe Grey, Alan Lague and Emily Ghassempour (SDC)

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Stuart Peall, John Collier and Marjorie Findlay-Stone.

**2 Minutes** of the meeting held on 26 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Matters arising from the Minutes of 8 September 2011:**

- a) **Minute 7 - Funds:** Members discussed proposals to set a membership fee for Cycle Shepway. It was **agreed** to charge £8 per household per annum, and to pay a proportion of the income as an “affiliation fee” to Spokes. A lower charge could be agreed for supporters at the discretion of the Committee, who would organise the details of the scheme. **Action by: Committee**
- b) **Minute 8 – Signage:** David Taylor displayed some examples of signage from other districts giving advice about sharing paths to cyclists, pedestrians and dog walkers. In addition to the £1,000 received from Cllr Prater for Sandgate, similar sums had been promised from Cllrs Capon and Tolputt to fund signage in Hythe and Folkestone. Alan Lague advised that SDC would not grant permission for any signs on the “seawall” section of the promenade encouraging its use by cyclists or pedestrians, since it had not been designed for that purpose. He added that the existing signs on NCR 2 were not approved by SDC, who preferred the path on the landward side of the road, considered inferior by CYSY members. He suggested that CYSY instigate co-operation by the Environment Agency, KCC, the MOD and SDC members to seek approval to upgrade the route between Folkestone and Dungeness, an ambition for CYSY supported by Damian Collins. **Agreed** to continue discussions with AL and to prepare a petition for display at upcoming local events. **Action by: Committee**
- c) **Minute 12 – JTB:** **Agreed** to continue to press for CYSY to be represented at the Joint Transport Board in view of the increasing level of interest in cycling at national and regional levels **Action by: DT**
- d) **Minute 10 – Bikes and Kites event:** David Taylor reported that the application for funding for the event from the De Haan Charitable trust had not been approved.
- e) **SDC Core Strategy Hearings:**  
David Taylor reported that he had been granted a slot at the upcoming hearing to put forward a case for prioritising cycling and implementing the Shepway Cycle Plan. **Action by: DT**

#### 4 Events during Summer 2012

- a) **Hythe Spring Bank Holiday event:** Paul Rees reported that all available pitches had already been booked. Members **agreed** that the Plant and Seed Fair on 28 April was too soon for any activities by CYSY.
- b) **Folkestone Green Fair: Friday 6 and Saturday 7 July:** Arrangements had been made to attend, making use of a stall provided by the Town Centre manager. Leaflets to be collected from Spokes **Action by: Committee**
- c) **Sandgate Sea Festival: 26 August:** Spokes had arranged to have a stall at this event.
- d) **Bike Week Ride: 16 June:** Members suggested a route from Seabrook to Botolph's Bridge, to be registered as an official Bike Week event. **Action by RH**

#### 5 Cycling Safety Campaign

Rhona Hodges reminded members of the details of The Times campaign, and asked that danger spots eg the turning point by Waitrose in Hythe, be identified and sent to The Times via Paul Rees. Alan Lague pointed out that dangerous left hand turns should be reported to KCC, so that Trixy mirrors could be installed. **Action by PR**

#### 6 Improvements to Local Cycling Infrastructure

Alan Lague assured members that he regarded cycling as a significant form of transport, but warned that it was difficult to make large-scale provision for cycles on the existing road network. However, some key routes in Folkestone could be used, possibly being organised through the Quality Bus Partnership. Currently lack of funds meant that aspirational schemes were referred back between KCC and SDC. Jean Baker pointed out that the Shepway Cycle Plan had been prepared by CYSY members in co-operation with KCC officers to include cheap and easily engineered solutions to problems throughout Shepway, and assured AL that details of these routes were held by KCC. AL confirmed that bids had been made for routes along Shorncliffe Road and Earls Avenue. Members **agreed** to meet AL to continue the discussion. On the topic of speed bumps, AL suggested that CYSY approach SDC Grounds Maintenance with the support of Cllr Barker to explain that speed bumps were no longer required in the Lower Sandgate Road. **Action by Committee**

#### 7 AOB

- a) **Grants:** The DfT had announced £37m walking and cycling improvements, focussing particularly on station "cycle hubs".
- b) **SDC:** Jean Baker appealed for a member to stand for election to SDC to represent cyclists.
- c) **Big Ride:** Si Ralph suggested that an event similar to the upcoming Big Ride in London would raise awareness of the presence of cyclists locally.

**Next meeting – Thursday 19 July 2012**