



Campaigning for Better Cycling

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting held on 26 January 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), Hugh Robertson-Ritchie, Matt Senior, Sara Barnes, Jeff Lyle, Dave Kesby, Mark Biddis, Marjorie Findlay-Stone (Sandgate Council), Si Ralph (Sustrans Ranger), Joe Grey, Mark Tuson (White Cliffs Countyside Project) and Emily Ghassempour (SDC)

1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stuart Peall, Cllr Hugh Barker, Cllr Carole Waters, Cllr Roland Tolputt, Sarah Anderson. Peter Cobbett, Paul Lentz, Gaz Roberts, Liz Tulloch, Alan Duncan, Gillian Bond, Andrew South, Jenny Coleman and Dawn Shoard.

2 David Taylor welcomed members and explained that the meeting would be the inaugural AGM for Cycle Shepway, continuing the work of Shepway Cycle Forum. He described a number of initiatives, to be explained more fully later in the meeting, and reported that he had met SDC Cllrs Robert Bliss and Rory Love, and had held constructive discussions with Alan Lague, highways engineer at SDC. He welcomed the support of Emily Ghassempour, and invited her to speak to members.

3 Emily Ghassempour, Culture and Communities Project Officer at SDC, gave an update of the Cycle Shepway's proposal for a Kites 'n' Bikes event in the Folkestone harbour area. She had supported the application for a grant from the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, which would be determined at a meeting later in the evening. She suggested that a lower amount than the amount applied for might be granted, and warned that the event might take place later in the year than the proposed date of May Bank Holiday. She welcomed members' suggestions for future activities, and offered her email address: emily.ghassempour@shepway.gov.uk

4 .Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Matters arising from the Minutes of 8 September 2011:

David Taylor reported that a meeting had taken place with Richard Heaps, KCC traffic engineer with responsibility for Shepway, at which members had described their ambitions for "quick win" implementation of the Shepway Cycle Plan. DT had also met Alan Lague of SDC, who had been encouragingly supportive of improved cycle infrastructure for Shepway which included several fresh ideas of his own.

6 Election of Officers and Committee of Cycle Shepway

David Taylor explained that a new Constitution had been adopted for the organisation, which required an elected Committee. He volunteered to serve as Chairman of CYSY (Cycle Shepway) subject to the approval of members.

Proposed by: Paul Rees

Seconded by: Jean Baker and **agreed unanimously:** That David Taylor be elected as Chairman of CYSY;

Proposed by: David Taylor

Seconded by: Hugh Robertson-Ritchie and **agreed unanimously:** That Rhona Hodges be elected as Secretary of CYSY;

Proposed by: Jean Baker

Seconded by: Paul Rees and **agreed unanimously:** That Alan Joyce be elected as Treasurer of CYSY;

Proposed by: David Taylor

Seconded by: Hugh Robertson-Ritchie and **agreed unanimously:** That Shane Record be elected as Vice-Chairman of CYSY;

Proposed by: Alan Joyce

Seconded by: Paul Rees: and **agreed unanimously:** That the following members serve on the Committee of CYSY: Paul Rees, Jeff Lyle, Simon Ralph, Joe Grey, Sara Barnes, Mark Tuson, Mark Biddis, and Matt Senior. Other members who were unable to be present could be co-opted to the Committee as required.

7. Constitution and Charitable Status

Alan Joyce explained that CYSY was a non-registered charity with a constitution and the enhanced power to raise funds in the future. A bank account had been opened with Nationwide, in preparation for receiving a cheque for £1,000 from KCC, thanks to the good offices of Cllr Tim Prater, specifically for signage along the promenade. He suggested that an Affirmative Deposit Fund could be used for the deposit of surplus funds in the future. Members discussed the possibility of a membership fee to cover administrative expenses and publicity costs (ie flyers), attendance at events, stalls etc. **Agreed** that the amount of the fee should be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Seafront Signage in Sandgate

David Taylor showed members a design for a dual-use sign: “Cyclists slow down and give way” which had been approved by KCC when the grant for £1,000 had been discussed. SDC controlled the seawall and “maintenance gangway” and would have to approve and implement any signage. Paul Rees confirmed that Sustrans would approve the sign for Cycle Route 2, but were awaiting the outcome of discussions with SDC to re-route the section that currently runs through the children’s play park. Marjorie Findlay- Stone supported the design, and agreed to pursue its approval by Sandgate Council, subject to Shane Record preparing a list of possible sites for the signs, either on posts or as a logo on the pathway. Different designs might be more appropriate for the open stretches and the narrower section of the seawall, where sharp bends threatened more dangerous confrontations between cyclists, walkers and their dogs. Members agreed to ensure that the track would be preserved during the redevelopment of the Folkestone Harbour area, particularly at its junction with the Coastal Park. **Action by: MF-S, SR**

9 Shared Space

Members discussed the pros and cons of Shared Space, recently trialled in Ashford. The system was successful in Holland, where users of all kinds of transport expected to be mutually considerate, but members who had used Shared Spaces in England reported that they had felt unsafe. The junction of Sandgate Road with West Terrace was suggested as a possible trial area for

such a scheme in Folkestone. **Agreed** to discuss the proposal again at the next meeting, and that members should experience the Ashford Space for themselves.

10 Bikes ‘n’ Kites

David Taylor and Sara Barnes listed the proposals for the event in the Harbour, currently under discussion by the De Haan Charitable Trust. The emphasis was on family participation, and suggested elements included Rollapaluzza, a grand parade in period costume astride vintage cycles, a treasure hunt, cycle races, a “village” for retailers, caterers and cycle organisations, a courier cycle race, a BMX competition and a substantial kite-flying section. If the event succeeded, it might become an annual fixture.

11 Website

Members congratulated Matt Senior on the construction of an excellent website and David Taylor thanked Jasper Ryman for the design of our new logo. Suggestions for the website included a “Donate” feature to encourage supporters to boost our funds, links to maps, addresses of local cycle shops, and, subject to discussion with Shane Record, the development of a Twitter function. David Taylor commended Greg Williams of Spokes (the umbrella cycle campaign for East Kent) for forwarding relevant local planning applications, which had been commented on by several members, and suggested that these should be accessible from the website, together with Greg’s useful responses on behalf of Spokes. **Action by: MS, SR**

12 Joint Transportation Board

David Taylor had attended the last meeting of the JTB and was able to press for bikes to be included in the proposed KCC contraflow system in Tontine Street, Folkestone. This had been favourably viewed by members. A later request, however, for CYSY to be a regular member of the Board was refused by the Chairman. DT intended to repeat his request, and attend the next meeting on 19 March.. **Action by: DT.**

10 AOB

(1) Hythe Swimming Pool

Matt Senior suggested that new cycle racks were badly needed at the Pool. Alan Joyce **agreed** to follow up the request via the Hythe Section 106 Fund. **Action by: AJ**

(2) Churchill Avenue, Folkestone

Matt Senior asked whether trees had been cleared from the cycle path along the bypass section of Churchill Avenue. Members confirmed that this work had been done

(3) Car Parking in Enbrook

Matt Senior **agreed** to instigate a scheme to encourage commuters to Saga to cycle, following the extension of yellow lines in the Enbrook area. **Action by: MS.**

(4) Folkestone Academy

Matt Senior suggested that the Travel Plan for the Academy, which had been prepared in co-operation with Tony Gilbert, should be re-assessed to take into account the redevelopment of the Park Farm site. David Taylor **agreed** to ask all schools to give details of their Travel Plans to CYSY for inclusion on the website. **Action by: DT .**

Next meeting date: 19 April 2012. Please note that this is provisional, depending on the availability of Alan Lague (SDC) to attend the meeting.