



Campaigning for Better Cycling

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

**Minutes of the Meeting
held on 10 July 2013 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone**

- **Present:** David Taylor (Chair), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Jean Baker, Alan Lague (SDC) Colin Finch (Senior Project Officer KCC) Cllr Martin Whybrow, Tim Prater and Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman).

- 1 Apologies for absence** were received from Paul Rees (Sustrans Ranger and Spokes Liaison), Alan Joyce (Treasurer and Sustrans Liaison Ranger), Cllr Russell Tillson, Jeff Lyle, Sara Barnes, Steve Burton, Si Ralph, Peter Wallace, Hugh Robertson-Ritchie, and Cllr Lynne Beaumont.

The Chairman welcomed recently elected Kent Councillor Martin Whybrow, who would be co-opted on to the Cinque Ports Cycleway Working Group in addition to his membership of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB). He also welcomed Colin Finch and Alan Lague, officers from KCC and SDC with responsibility for transport issues.

- 2 Minutes** of the meeting held on 10 April 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
- 3 Cinque Ports Cycleway and Shepway Cycling Plan implementation**

David Taylor (DT) reported that the Working Group had met and agreed joint chairmanship between himself and Cllr Russell Tillson, who had been enthusiastic in recommending “quick wins” along the route of the Cycleway. Jean Baker (JB) reported that the JTB had approved the principle of the Cycleway, and she hoped that the Cycling Plan would be speedily implemented. She pointed out that the Three Hills development had included a cycle path, but that so far no signage had appeared. She had been quoted a price of £8 for appropriate signs, and that Cllr Lynne Beaumont had volunteered to fund them from her budget. **AGREED** that AL ask SDC planners to clarify whether the developer intended to carry out the signage work in the near future.

Alan Lague (AL) pointed out that recommendations from the JTB required approval from the appropriate Cabinet member at KCC, and he suggested that the Cycling Plan had possibly not yet received this authorisation. **AGREED** that Colin Finch (CF) and AL pursue these approvals from KCC and SDC.

AL explained that although the sea wall between Folkestone and Sandgate was maintained by SDC, the landowner was Radnor Estate, who would need to be consulted. The Environment Agency had responsibility for work on the sea defences along the whole route, and their contact in SDC was Colin Paine.

CF advised members that cyclists could use any footpath not beside a thoroughfare, and that a footpath could be converted to a cycle path. In north Kent Canterbury Council had amended

bylaws to allow the “promenade” to be used as a cycle path, and he suggested that the new sea wall might be treated in a similar way. **AGREED** that AL would consult officers at Canterbury CC.

AL reminded members that the official route of the Sustrans cycle path along Princes Parade was wrongly signed on the seaward side of the road, and that the Environment Agency would need to give approval for re-routing it. He suggested that CySy should volunteer their services to clear the shingle following stormy weather. CF gave an assurance that the “Marine Walk” section of the route should be approved by SDC without difficulty, and members confirmed that beach huts along the Folkestone shore were separated from the path by low walls.

CF explained that Natural England was negotiating access for a Coastal footpath with landowners between Folkestone and Rye. **AGREED** that Joe Grey (JG) ask Natural England to include a request in their negotiations for cyclists to be included. If this request was refused, Martin Whybrow) MW would identify a contact at the Environment Agency.

CF advised that the minimum width for a cycle path around the north side of the Hythe Ranges should be 2.5m. Any improvement works might affect drains and culverts, and the MOD should be consulted (Richard Brooks). Section 106 conditions for the development of Nicholls Quarry could include a Toucan crossing to the cycle path on the southern side of the A259. **AGREED** that JG would submit a detailed proposal to AL.

AL explained that Richard Heaps had given an undertaking at the recent JTB meeting that KCC would undertake a scoping survey of the whole route in the financial year 2014-15, and explained that an independent survey would not be accepted. DT said that since MW had obtained a seat on the Board he was not pursuing his application to become a non-voting member, although Cllr Tillson was nevertheless recommending to the SDC Leader that a seat should be allocated on JTB for Cycle Shepway.

4 Parking

JG had attended recent Parking Forum meetings, but so far issues discussed did not materially affect cyclists. However, JG **AGREED** to discuss with AL possible sites for additional cycle stands in Folkestone. Members suggested that racks were needed at Folkestone and Cheriton libraries.

AL held Section 106 funds for carriageway works and cycle parking in the main Hythe area. **AGREED** that JG would send Alan Joyce’s schedule of sites for cycle racks to AL.

5 Cycle Ride on 14 July

AGREED to continue with an informal ride to Botolphs Bridge Inn, subject to weather conditions, and Cllr Tillson had agreed to start the event..

Next Meeting – Wednesday 9 October at 7pm at the Civic Centre

Next Cinque Ports Working Group meeting: Monday 19 August 2013 at 6pm at the Civic Centre