*Campaigning for Better Cycling*

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

**held on 6 September 2016 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone**

**Present:**  David Taylor (Chairman), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Paul Rees, Cllr Stuart Peall (SDC Cycling Champion), Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Spooner, John Letherland, Jason Brittin, Rebecca Gardner, Jeff Lyle, Alex Sansom and Laurence Hickmott.

**Apologies for Absence**: Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Hugh Robertson-Ritchie, Christopher Houghton-Budd, Steve Burton and Tony Gilbert.

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 17 May 2016 were confirmed.

**2. Chairman's Report**

David Taylor was pleased to report good progress on the Cinque Ports Cycleway. Phase 1 was programmed to start in the next month (October) and planning for Phase 2 had been made easier following successful negotiation with the MOD for the route alongside the Hythe Ranges. Problems, however, continued to mar the introduction of two-way cycling in Tontine Street, Folkestone.

**3. Cinque Ports Cycleway**

In the inadvertent absence (mixed dates) of Katie Cullen, KCC Transport Planner (Cycling), SDC officer Alex Sansom confirmed that the MOD had affirmed their support for the route along the Hythe Ranges, subject to soundproofing barriers and adequate signage at pinch points on the route. Members hoped that eventually there would be an opportunity to walk and cycle along the beach boundary of the site. Phase 1 would start on site very soon, subject to local consultation on the loss of parking spaces. Members discussed the relative benefits of segregated lanes and shared paths and **agreed** DT would meet campaigner Marjorie Findlay-Stone with a view to supporting Sandgate Council's recommendation to KCC that additional signage was required to slow cyclists through the village.

**Agreed** to ask for a "catch-up" meeting with Katie Cullen to ensure that CySy's recommendations had been included in Phase 1 works and to urge maximum publicity for the whole project. (This was subsequiently fixed for September 28 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone). Alan Joyce had warned that Hythe Town Council objected to the proposed route across The Green. **Agreed** that Cllr Peall would seek to negotiate with Hythe councillors, in consultation with AJ.

Paul Spooner commented that KCC were committed to funding design work, but additional resources should be sought from EDF and Folkestone Harbour Company to fund publicity initiatives.

John Letherland explained that although cycle paths were not at this stage included in plans for the railway, cycling was not precluded. He noted that access from Folly Road and the Lifeboat pub area would be welcomed and suggested that in the long term the area around the Burstin might be improved for cyclists. **Agreed** DT to send a plan of the route in the Harbour area to JL.

**4. Cycle Pitstop Scheme**

Rebecca Gardner circulated details of her proposal for a cycling hub at Folkestone Harbour, comprising a building housing facilities for minor cycle repairs, secure bike lockups, a café and/or toilet facilities. Members commended the scheme and PS suggested that he and Cllr John Collier (SDC economic development cabinet member) could progress an extended proposal, at an estimated cost of £90k, for 3 or 4 sites in Shepway via KCC.

**5. Shepway Sports Trust**

Laurence Hickmott explained the activities of his charity, the encouragement of sports at all levels, including the 3 Hills Centre, the Urban Sports Park, the Paddleboarding Club and schools throughout the district. Members stressed the need for safe routes for everyday cycling for adults and schoolchildren and asked for the trust's support in raising the profile of cycling, including the use of social media, and to endorse the group's requirements for safe and secure cycle parking in the towns and primary and secondary school sites. (See visual strategy document attached.)

**6. Cycling infrastructure in Folkestone**

Jean Baker recalled that Katie Cullen had promised funding for "quick win" work in Folkestone, including linking 3 Hills site with Shorncliffe Road, Earls Avenue and Radnor Park. She warned that efforts to progress the "flagship" route of the Cinque Ports Cycleway should not be at the expense of relatively straightforward improvements to the urban cycleways and safe routes to schools. DT explained the problem with the design of traffic light priorities in Tontine Street, and suggested a need for traffic calming. **Agreed** to consult with SP.

**7. Cycle parking**

JB reported lack of progress on the installation of sheltered parking on the northern platform of Folkestone West station. **Agreed** to send details to PS. She had similarly been frustrated in her efforts to get permission to install a cycle stand at Cheriton library. **Agreed** to send details to SP.

The cycle park at Sainsbury's West Park Farm was out of sight of customers.

DT reported that pressure from higher management had been brought to bear on the local manager of Hythe Waitrose and he hoped to see new cycle stands installed very soon.

**8 Members' activities**

* Paul Rees described a strenuous day at the Sandgate Festival where CySy had a stall to interact with cyclists and hand out bells;
* Joe Grey had been cycling in London, including using "Boris bikes";
* Alan Joyce had sent a report on topics discussed at the meeting and advised that funds stood at £1000???;
* JB publicised "Art in Romney Marsh" events at weekends in September and October – details online at [www.artinromneymarsh.org.uk](http://www.artinromneymarsh.org.uk);
* DT had received a quotation from Sam Milne to revamp the website at a cost of £500, and to maintain it at a cost of £200 pa. **Agreed** to accept the quotation;
* PS had been working on a project to include walking and cycling facilities in Ebbsfleet.

**9 Any Other Business**

**Agreed** AS to examine the list for benefits from the Community Infrastructure Levy and ensure that CySy is included.

**Date for the next meeting – to be arranged at the beginning of December**