*Campaigning for Better Cycling*

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

**held on 7 December 2016 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone**

**Present:**  David Taylor (Chairman), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Cllr Stuart Peall (SDC Cycling Champion), Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Spooner, Steve Burton, Cllr Ashley Tanton, Lynne Sims, Geoff German, Dave Kesby, Alex Sansom (SDC officer), Katie Cullen (KCC officer), Marjorie Findlay-Stone and Tony Gilbert..

**Apologies for Absence**: Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Paul Rees, Hugh Robertson-Ritchie, John Letherland, Cllr Martin Whybrow and Jeff Lyle,

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2016 were confirmed.

**2. Chairman's Report:** David Taylor warned that with the significant number of new developments being proposed in Shepway, it was vital to ensure that cycling facilities were included in plans at an early stage.

Stuart Peall urged all members to respond to the current consultation on Otterpool Garden Town. He reassured members that, since SDC owned the land, it would be in a position to ensure that good infrastructure was installed. He said that the consultation process provided an opportunity to apply to be an official consultee, thereby offering CySy's expertise early in the planning process.

**Agreed** that CySy should submit responses to the Otterpool consultation as a neutral participant in the process.

SP confirmed that development at Folkestone Harbour was progressing. Other housing developments included small infill in Folkestone and the Officers' Mess in Hawkinge.

**3. Cinque Ports Cycleway:** Work on Stage 1 of the Cycleway had been delayed to allow for engineer Russell Forman to make amendments to Amey's scheme. Marjorie Findlay-Stone warned that Sandgate residents would have concerns about conflict of use at narrow points along Granville Parade and asked to be consulted on the final scheme.

Jean Baker asked whether the memorial benches on the path would be affected by the works. Paul Spooner advised that, although the timetable was now short, it would be prudent to build in at least two weeks for local consultation.

**Agreed** to arrange a meeting with Russell Forman, having first received details of the amended scheme.

Lynne Sims and Geoff German expressed reservations about the plan to widen the path across the Green, because of increasing access by other users; Ashley Tanton suggested that, when the proposed development of the Portex site was complete, an alternative route would be available to bypass the Green. Meanwhile it was **agreed** to plan to widen the path across the Green to 1.5 metres maximum and to design control at each end of the path. **Agreed** Joe Grey to draft a solution to the route across the Green for Katie Cullen to present to Hythe Town Council in consultation with AT, Alan Joyce and Martin Whybrow.

**4. Signs in Sandgate:** Marjorie Findlay-Stone reported that with the success of the "Respect and share the path" signs, additional signs were not needed. She asked, however, for the message: "Cyclists dismount at busy times" to be painted on the path by the slopes at each end of the well-used section of Granville Parade. She described her efforts to prevent car parking along this area, which had proved to be unregistered land. She proposed to install cycle racks there, subject to approval from KCC.

**5. Cycle Hub at Princes Parade**

Stuart Peall explained that the proposed Leisure Centre site would be an ideal site for a Cycle Hub. **Agreed** that PS consults SB and JG to prepare a proposal for a Hub and send it to SP before the next meeting.

**6. Cycling infrastructure in Folkestone**

Jean Baker was pleased and relieved to report that secure parking had been installed on the northern side of Folkestone West station. Efforts, however, to license cycle stands at Cheriton Library had stalled. **Agreed** JB to send details to SP, copied to John Collier. JB asked to see details of the scheme, reported in the local press, for cycle paths from the difficult Beachborough Road junction to the seafront. KC suggested that the plan might include a toucan crossing at the Harvey Grammar School.

**7. Two-way Cycling in Tontine Street**

DT reported ongoing problems with the recent arrangement for two-way cycling, caused by the fact that cycles did not activate the traffic lights. Cyclists continued to encounter hostility when travelling south against the flow of traffic. **Agreed** KC would arrange a site visit by traffic engineer Jamie Watson.

**8 Members' activities**

* Paul Rees had reported (by email) a temporary diversion of the path to allow improvements to the junction with Union Street at Dover Harbour;
* Tony Gilbert reported on improvements made by his team on Castle Hill; he drew attention to the poor state of the track on Park Farm Road. JB suggested that the path between Homebase and Linksway was also in need of improvement.
* JB asked for advice on securing representation on the Joint Transportation Board. **Agreed** to send a request to the Board Chairman.
* Dave Kesby complained about the state of the path from Westenhanger to Postling Wents.
* Steve Burton commented that many older people were buying electric bikes.

**9 Any Other Business**

DT reminded members that he would resign his post as Chairman at the next meeting.

**Date for the AGM meeting – 15 March 2017**

**Special meeting to be arranged to present the amended Cinque Ports Cycleway Phase 1 scheme**.