Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 15 March 2017 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: David Taylor (Chairman), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Rees, Paul Spooner, Steve Burton, Dave Kesby, Alex Sansom, Katie Cullen, Russell Boorman, Colin Hart, John Letherland, Stephen Crowther, Peter Phillips, Toni Spain and Jeff Lyle ..

Apologies for Absence: Hugh Robertson-Ritchie and Tony Gilbert.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway –presentation by Russell Boorman of KCC**

Russell Boorman, Project Director of KCC, had met with members of Sandgate Parish Council and set out details of the work proposed immediately for Phase 1 of the Cycleway, from the Harbour to the Sailing Club: line painting, additional "go slow" signs and strips, and installation of cycle racks by the Sandgate kiosk; subsequently resurfacing and re-marking of the carriageway, realignment of the kerb line at a pinch point and bus stop, amendment of boundary of the car park at Seabrook and creation of a zebra crossing, all to be completed by the end of April.

Funding had been approved for design work for Phase 2 (to Dymchurch Redoubt), including consultations with Hythe Town Council and the MOD, and this should be completed by mid-April. The bid for construction had been approved for financial year 2017/18. He had hopes that Phases 3 and 4 would continue as a rolling programme approved by KCC Schemes and Planning –total cost estimated at £3million. The overall title "Cinque Ports Cycleway" would be used.

Members acclaimed Russell Boorman's successful work in advancing the scheme. Paul Spooner suggested that the Cycleway should immediately be publicised, and said that he was putting forward a business case to SDC for a Cycling Hub/Cafe on the route along Princes Parade.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway Launch Event**

Katie Cullen set out proposals for an event on 30 May at 10am in Folkestone Coastal Park. She had successfully invited Damian Collins and Matthew Balfour of KCC. Other suggested guests included schools, SDC leader, mayors, Sandgate Council, Folkestone Harbour Company, Hythe Green Preservation Society, Disabled Ramblers, Visit Kent, MOD and John Snow. The launch would be followed by a ride to Sandgate Kiosk.

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 7 December 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 were approved. There were no matters arising which were not included on the current agenda.

1. **Chairman's Annual Report**

David Taylor reviewed a useful and encouraging year, especially with the start of work on the Cinque Ports Cycleway, with financial support from KCC for the stretch from Folkestone to Dungeness and a "great kick-start" from Russell Boorman. However, he reminded members that the ultimate goal was a Cycleway from Sandwich to Hastings.

DT welcomed the appointment of Katie Cullen as KCC's cycling officer who had been working closely with the group. During the year KCC had produced a new traffic scheme in Tontine Street, Folkestone, and teething problems were being addressed. Another new scheme for a Folkestone cycle route from Morehall to The Leas was planned.

At Folkestone West station cycle stands had been installed on the downline under cover, thanks to the efforts of Jean Baker.

A formal request to join the Joint Transportation Board had so far not been acknowledged.

DT thanked his colleagues on his final meeting as Chairman, all of whom reciprocated his good wishes and approved a vote of thanks for his inspirational work over the years.

1. **Treasurer's Annual Report**

Alan Joyce presented the accounts for 2016/17. The closing balance was £1,080.27; main items of expenditure had been £1,000 for setting up the website and £471.75 for publicity material. AJ suggested that flyers seeking donations and support for CySy should be prepared in time for the Cinque Ports Cycleway launch event. This was **agreed.**

1. **Election of Officers**

**Proposed by:** David Taylor **Seconded by:** Jean Baker and

**Agreed:** That John Letherland be elected Chairman;

**Proposed by:** David Taylor, **Seconded by:** Jean Baker and

**Agreed:** That Rhona Hodges be re-elected Secretary;

**Proposed by:** David Taylor, **Seconded by:** Jean Bakerand

**Agreed:** That Alan Joyce be re-elected Treasurer;

**Proposed by:** David Taylor, **Seconded by:**  Paul Rees and

**Agreed:** That Joe Grey be re-elected Vice-Chairman.

John Letherland chaired the meeting from this point.

1. **Town Sprucer's work on Cycleways**

Peter Phillips reported that he and his team had cleared 900m of overgrown pathways. Edward Denne of KCC PROW team had thanked them for their work and given them tools and a map of local rights of way. DT explained that the emphasis of the Sprucer's work had changed from litter-picking (with the exception of Folkestone Town Centre) to the clearance of paths, and that Roger de Haan had donated £8,000 to the scheme.

JL suggested that a map of local cycleways, both existing and potential, would be useful. **Agreed** Joe Grey to prepare a coloured map using Open Streetmap, Explore Kent map and the survey prepared by CySy for the Shepway Cycle Plan.

1. **Members' Activities**

8.1Joe Grey advised members to submit comments to the consultation on the South-East franchise, available on the DoT website.

8.2 Katie Cullen circulated photos of the damaged surface of the cycle track in Park Farm Road Folkestone, caused by HGVs. She proposed that bollards would be installed once the track had been repaired. She had applied for funding to investigate the problems caused by the Morehall traffic lights.

8.3 DT and Paul Spooner had met KCC traffic engineers at Tontine Street, and hoped problems of lights and signage would be speedily addressed.

1. **AOB**

9.1 DT was concerned that access to the Cycleway at Folkestone Harbour was currently blocked by contractors working on Harbour redevelopment. **Agreed** JL to contact appropriate management.

9.2 Alan Joyce said that he could not determine which local authority was responsible for the deteriorated canalside path at West Hythe. **Agreed** Paul Rees to discuss the problem with Sustrans. He commented that the Environment Agency was currently working on Aldergate Bridge and a diversion was in place.

9.3 Colin Hart raised the issue of shingle on the gangway at Sandgate and was informed that there was no local authority provision for regular clearance, although beach nourishment contractors frequently carry out the work. ***(Alex Sansom has since told us that SDC contractors will clear the shingle very soon, and arrangements are in hand to keep the path clear for the Launch event).***

9.4 KC said that Highway Stewards would examine off-road cycle routes starting from 1 April.

9.5 Stephen Crowther advised that he had moved his premises from Shearway Park to the Town Centre. Steve Burton shared his optimism that bike demand was remaining steady, but warned that electric bikes capable of 15mph might present a problem in the future on off-road tracks.

9.6 JL suggested the group might now turn its attention to addressing the next steps in establishing the whole of the Cinque Ports Cycleway beyond the boundaries of Shepway, and queried whether the group had links to similar organisations other than via Spokes who might be allies. JL also wondered whether the scheme for travelling with bikes through the Channel Tunnel was being sufficiently well-advertised. **Agreed** both issues to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 14 June 2017 at 7pm**