Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 16 June 2017 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: John Letherland (Chairman), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), David Taylor, Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Spooner, Alex Sansom, Katie Cullen, Stuart Peall, Colin Hart, Stephen Crowther and Ben Bartlett

Apologies for Absence: Joe Grey, Paul Rees, and Tony Gilbert.

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 15 March 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2017 were approved. There were no matters arising which were not included on the current agenda.

1. **Chairman's Report**

John Letherland reported that after some negotiation the access to the western (car park) end of the seafront development had been opened up for cycles, buggies etc. However, he had not received satisfactory answers to queries regarding cycling provision on either the viaduct into the Harbour Arm (ex rail-line) or the newly constructed boardwalk to the west. There appeared to be no planning or building control obligation to provide access at the northern end of the viaduct, although it was assumed there would be wheelchair access. **Agreed** Paul Spooner to arrange a meeting with Trevor Minter, to include Cllr Peall, Alex Sansom and JL.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway**

Katie Cullen reported on behalf of Damien Cock, schemes engineer at KCC, that Phase 1 of the Cycleway work had been split into two sections. The second section, including resurfacing work on the A259 and a pedestrian crossing near the Sandgate Hotel, had been designed. Consultation was in hand on the second section, ready for commencement on site in September.

Phase 2 was planned to commence, again in sections, in March 2018. KC confirmed that Damien Cock would consult the Hythe Green Society, who had concerns about the extent of work required and the treatment of the Fort Road area. KC assured members that funding was in place for the first two phases of the route.

**Agreed** that the Launch Event planned for 30 June be postponed until Phase 1 was complete, and KCC be urged to complete the second section of work as soon as possible, certainly to start no later than 1 September.

1. **Dungeness to Lydd Road**

Members discussed a request from Tom Bostock for support from the Group to create a cycleway along the dangerous Dungeness Road. Problems to be overcome included the need to negotiate with landowners and obtain agreement and funding for using land in the SSSI. It was suggested that cycling organisations in areas beyond Shepway should be contacted in order to further discussions about implementing the Cinque Ports Cycleway beyond Shepway, and to co-ordinate efforts to improve cycling in the wider south east area. **Agreed** that members invite their contacts in cycling organisations to attend the next meeting, when JL will give a presentation of the progress on the initiative to date. Members to send relevant visual material to JL to assist him in this.

1. **Bike Hire Suggestions**

A number of suggestions for refurbishing old bikes and a bike hire scheme were discussed. KC said that KCC was sponsoring a scheme in Ashford for repairing and selling donated bikes, and that Canterbury University sold unwanted bikes to students. Members considered that the right position for hiring bikes would be at the harbour, probably for seasonal ad-hoc hire arrangements, possibly to include E-bikes. **Agreed** JL to thank Claire for her suggestions and advise her that we would support a bike hire initiative once the harbour development is in place.

1. **Members' Activities**
2. Colin Hart described the Sustrans route between Dover and Folkestone as unfit for use on a normal road bike. Alan Joyce said that Sustrans's finances had reduced so the route is not maintained, and that the route had been damaged further by off-road motor bikes, a source of continual complaint to Dover District Council. **Agreed** Paul Spooner to contact Dover District Council to discuss our concerns.
3. KC circulated copies of photographs of the newly refurbished cycle path in Park Farm Road (Copy attached). **Agreed** JL to send a message of thanks to KCC for responding to our request.
4. David Taylor confirmed that the Sprucers would clear the cycle path between Shorncliffe Road and Cheriton Road very soon. Jean Baker suggested that a donation to the Sprucers would be appropriate, given that he had recently turned his attention to clearing bridleways. **Agreed** that a donation of £580 be made to the Crowdfunding scheme to support the work of the Sprucer.
5. **AOB**
6. DT said that the traffic lights in Tontine Street were still not responding to bikes. **Agreed** KC would ask Jamie Watson to re-examine the problem.
7. JB asked about the redesign of the traffic lights at the junction of Cherry Garden Avenue and Cheriton Road. KC assured members that the junction was being redesigned, and that JB's comments about the "Three Hills Route" were being examined. **Agreed** that KCC traffic manager will give an update at the next meeting.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7pm**