Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 14 September 2017 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

 Present: John Letherland (Chairman), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), David Taylor, Jean Baker (Founder), Alex Sansom, James Hammond, Katie Cullen, Damian Cock, Hugh Robertson-Richie, Bernadette Bell, Emma Bell, Heidi Hammons, Jeff Lyle, Colin Hart, Dave Kesby, Joe Grey, Paul Rees, and Tony Gilbert.

Apologies for Absence: Alan Joyce (Treasurer) and Paul Spooner.

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2017 were approved.

 2. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Minute 2:** Cyclists were using the Boardwalk across the beach, although there were "No Cycling" signs and concerns that it would be covered in shingle in the winter months. Final arrangements for crossing the harbour area were still unclear.

**Minute 4:** John Letherland said that he had circulated a first draft of his presentation to a limited audience for comment, and would complete it by October for the benefit of cyclists from organisations in neighbouring districts**. Agreed** to circulate the draft presentation to everyone present.

**3 Chairman's Report**

JL asked for input for the presentation. Joe Grey **agreed** to prepare maps showing his preference for an inland route between New Romney and Lydd, to be surveyed at a later stage by KCC.

A meeting had been arranged on 28 September to discuss the route across Hythe Green, involving Martin Whybrow and Hythe Cycle Club. Members of the Hythe Green Preservation Society had previously agreed to a slight widening of the existing footpath and additional signs.

Damian Cock confirmed that negotiations continued with the MOD to create a 3m wide footway beside the Ranges. He had designed the route from Reachfields up to the Nickolls Quarry housing development, and would be costing it very soon. Responsibility for acoustic fencing requested by the MOD at certain points was still under discussion, and it was possible that the A259 road could be narrowed to achieve the necessary width of track.

**4. Cinque Ports Cycleway**

Damian Cock, recently appointed as KCC Project manager for the Cycleway, explained that work on the Sandgate Esplanade had been delayed until November. The next phase, from the Esplanade to Hythe Green, awaited approval from Hythe Town Council. He hoped that the route from Reachfields to Nicholls Quarry Housing would be designed and built early in 2018, but confirmed that no funding had been forthcoming from the housing developer, and the approved funding would run out at that stage. James Hammond pointed out that DoT offered 60 days of technical support as the start of their policy for developing and supporting walking and cycling schemes. Dave Kesby highlighted the tensions between pedestrians and cyclists on the Esplanade; one solution would be to encourage the use of bike bells, stocks of which are still available. **Agreed** DT to seek approval from the Environment Agency and Parish Councils to erecting "Respect.." signs along the proposed cycleway route from The Redoubt to Littlestone.

5. **SDC's Sustainable Transport Strategy**

James Hammond explained that he was working on the Local Plan, the Core Strategy and Otterpool Town. In consultation with the KCC's PROW team he was investigating the possibilities of opening up the Elham Valley railway route for walking and cycling. Initial approaches to landowners, including the Golf Course, had been encouraging. Should the bid for support from the DoT be successful, he hoped to involve CySy in the detail of the route between Peene and Lyminge. Other suggestions for schemes to improve connectivity included links to Hawkinge, Shorncliffe Barracks housing site to Folkestone West station, Folkestone harbour and Sandy Lane in Seabrook. Katie Cullen confirmed that plans were being prepared for the route from Harvey Grammar School to The Leas, and **agreed** to ensure that Damian Cock (who had left the meeting) would consult with CySy before finalising the proposal.

6. **Bike Hire**

Bernadette and Emma Bell gave details of their new Bike Hire company, located in the former Skate Park at Folkestone Harbour. They aimed to promote leisure cycling for residents and tourists unused to riding bikes, and had worked with Activ to select a bike which would be easy for a novice. Supported by the Harbour Arm, they proposed to offer 7-days a week bike hire, simple repairs and information. **Agreed** JL to include information about the company in the presentation.

7. **Members ' Activities**

1. Katie Cullen had circulated details of a series of videos being filmed by Linda Simon to promote off-road cycling, which might include the Cycleway. **Agreed** to circulate the video when it is complete.
2. KC said that the lights in Tontine Street had been adjusted to react to cyclists. The street continues to be dangerous and contentious, and there was no clear signage.
3. Colin Hart thanked DT for directing the Sprucer to clear Smallpox Hill. DT said that the team worked 2 or 3 days each week on path clearance, with the support of Ed Denne of the KCC PROW section.

**8. AOB**

1. Paul Rees, on behalf of Sustrans, asked everyone to email time and date details of motorcylists on paths near Lydden Spout (between Dover and Capel-le-Ferne): paulrrees@btinternet.com.
2. Colin Hart and Dave Kesby complained about the poor road surface at Shuttlesfield.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 7 December 2017 at 7pm**