Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Notes of a Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 10th January 2019 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: John Letherland (Chairman), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Jean Baker (Founder), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Colin Hart, Cllr Stuart Peall (F&HDC Cycle Champion), Paul Rees, Joe Grey, Steve Burton Dave Kesby, Andy Jarrett (F&HDC), Alex Sansom (F&HDC)

Apologies for Absence: Katie Cullen (KCC) Miranda Palmer (KCC) Damien Cock (KCC), James Hammond (F&HDC)

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 27 September 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2018 were approved. There were no matters arising which were not included on the current agenda.

1. **Chairman's report**

None

1. **Otterpool and Princes Parade Development**

Andy Jarrett (Aja) updated the group on the background to the Otterpool development. Folk and Hythe district is constrained geographically by the coast to the south and the Eurotunnel to the north which means that options for expansion are limited. The development at Otterpool is seen as having good transport links. The intention is for Westenhanger station to be a high speed stop. The plan is for up to 10,000 homes which meets the criteria for a garden town (rather than a garden village). The first planning application will be for 8,500 homes. There will be an average of 2.3 residents per house. The plans include opportunities for local housebuilders and 5-10% self build. 22% will be affordable (social housing). 60/40 split shared ownership and rental. The plan is to submit the outline planning application by the end of February. However things might change over the project timeframe which is 30-40 years. The scheme includes six primary schools across the different localities and one secondary (close to town centre). The intention is for 50% open space including a new town park (improving the setting for Westenhanger Castle), country park and structured planting through the site. There will be a range of playing fields close to schools. Final population expected to be 23,000 people.

The group were shown a map of proposed footpath and cycle connectivity.

Priorities included a decent link to Hythe and down to West Hythe. Cycle Shepway were invited to submit ideas in the early stages.

The outline planning application will be determined towards end of 2019. There will be a consultation period for people to comment on the application.

The intention is to establish the routes to get to Westenhanger station from existing villages upfront so that local people can benefit straight away.

Phase 1 will focus on the town centre and area to the west of the site which is lower density. The final garden town will be bigger than Hawkinge and have a population greater than Hythe. The site covers 1,800 acres. The town will be approximately half the population of Folkestone.

GP services. Discussions are taking place with the Clinical Commissioning Group with regard to GP services and other health provision. Land and funding will be made available.

The commercial areas will be designed for digital and creative industries financial services. There will be an innovation centre. Not being too selective but large scale distribution businesses are not the target market.

Once the Otterpool Park outline planning application is submitted and out for public consultation, **Joe Grey (JG)** to coordinate the group’s input into the cycling provision. An early response is requested.

1. **The Princes Parade Development**

Following on from the Princes Parade update provided at the last meeting

**AJa** confirmed that there is no plan to close the promenade to cyclists during the construction phase.

**Jean Baker (JB)** pointed out that the group were opposed to the development in principle but, on the assumption it is now likely to go ahead, the group were prepared to offer constructive advice on cycling-related matters to achieve the best possible outcome for cyclists. The group requested that consideration be given to linking the seafront promenade cycle path with the north side of canal path – creating a circular route

**JG** to email **AJa** with suggestions how this can be done.

**John Letherland (JL)** requested the group be involved with future meetings. **JG** was nominated as main contact.

Agreed the way forward was to focus on Princes Parade now and then Otterpool in February on submission of planning application

Princes Parade application has been to planning committee. The council have committed to constructing a leisure centre on the site. Phase 1 will be to remediate the land and realign the road. The decision has not yet been made but likely the council will seek a development partner for the rest of the site.

The group to consider working with other groups across the county to influence KCC to include cycling infrastructure in Design Briefs for the use of housebuilders across the district as a way to influence larger developments.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway**

Updates from KCC were provided by **Alex Sansom** (**AS)** on behalf of **Miranda Palmer (MP)** and **Katie Cullen (KC)** who were not able to attend. Construction of the next phase of the Cinque Ports Cycleway from Hythe to Palmarsh School (TBC) has been approved and is due to start in February. The work is expected to last for 25 weeks.

Assessment of the Hythe Village Green application has been postponed to February.

**Alan Joyce (AJ)** to monitor progress and maintain contact with HGPS to encourage them to accept the Cycleway proposals.

**AS** to clarify with MP on the exact end point of 4th section. Also what the impact is if Hythe Green gets village green status or not.

1. **Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan**

**AS** provided an update on the Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan on behalf of **James Hammond (JH)**.

**AS** to send link to Propensity to Cycle online tool to **JG**

1. **Cycle Friendly Deal**

**AS** to advise when Coastal Communities Fund round 6 reopens.

1. **Website**

Cost to review £300 and annual domain hosting. £70 per year.

**JB** to contact Railie to find out if she has a contact for the website.

**AS** to contact the domain name registration company, Heart, to find out who has access.

**Rhona Hodges (RH)** to include an item on whether to keep website and facebook on the next meeting agenda

**AS** to look into whether there can be a cycling page on F&HDC.gov.uk

1. **CySy Funds**

**AJ** reminded members that the annual subscription is £5 per year pp from all members and reported that there is currently £576 in the kitty.

The group agreed to donate £200 to The Town Sprucer. **AJ** to transfer the funds.

Discussion whether CySy should become a registered charity. **AJ** to look into. **RH** to put on agenda for next meeting.

**5.**  **Members' Activities**

**AS** advised that she had added the group to the new online community directory Spotlight . AJ agreed that his contact details can be added to the listing.

**Tony Gilbert: TG** reported he had been working with the Sprucer team, clearing paths and tracks around Castle Hill and his tasks included maintaining their tools. He also continues to organise monthly cycle rides.

**Colin Hart: CH** had previously reported the problem of mud and manure on roads near Shuttlesfield Farm, in the neighbourhood of the Cat and Custard Pot pub. He had complained to Fiona Dawson of KCC and it was subsequently cleaned by the MoD. Unfortunately conditions have deteriorated again after the improvement reported at the last meeting.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 4th April 2019 at 6.30pm**