

Horsham District Cycle Forum Minutes of Meeting 2 February 2015

Present: Neil, Peter, Francis, Ruth **Apologies:** Mark, David Algar

The meeting reviewed progress over the last month and discussed future actions required.

Communications

It has been a busy month with an increasing number of supporters. Communication is becoming more important.

Steering Group –those who want to be most actively involved will form the Steering Group. At this stage, there is no need to have a limit on numbers and the Steering Group is open to anyone to join or leave as they choose. Meetings will continue to be open to all. The Steering Group will continue to work together to ensure decisions take account of all views. Neil agreed to continue as Chair. It is open to anyone to call for a more formal vote at a later date. Currently the Steering Group is Neil, Francis, Peter, Mark, Ruth.

Email info@hdcf.org.uk now up and running. Peter will also set up a group email address for supporters. The aim is to keep everyone regularly informed and able to contribute views without being overwhelmed by constant emails containing details of ongoing discussion and copies of correspondence between the steering group.

Peter

Website www.hdcf.org.uk –Thank you to Peter for updating this and responding to comments received there.

Twitter @CycleForumHorsh –this is proving successful for two-way communication with the public and public accountability. We are tweeting key issues, letters, reports and minutes and have around 90 followers. Any steering group member can tweet.

Facebook- we are not actively using this; Francis will put up a holding page, directing viewers to other sites

Francis

Yahoo Groups –we are not actively using this and it is poor for attachments and photos. Peter will cream off the useful information and put up a holding page

Peter

Horshaminformation.com This could be useful to direct new supporters to us; it does not lend itself to regular updates or detailed information. Ruth to liaise with Doug about putting up a page

Ruth

Horsham Town Community Partnership –the forum has had an ongoing connection via the Riverside Walk project. Neil will send off our formal application and will be our contact. As a member organisation, we will report via their AGM.

Neil

West Sussex Cycle Forum

Ruth attended the meeting on 7 Jan which was very positive with a large attendance and agreement to: raise the forum's profile, actively engage with WSCC and the LEP (CDP work apparently outsourced to Ian Neville), engage in the planning process to obtain s106/CIL and get involved in pre-application discussions for planning matters. Some key points:

At the WSCC Environment and Community Services Select Committee meeting on 25th Feb, the county's cycling policy will be scrutinised (in order to receive Government Cycling Delivery Plan

funding through the LEP, there needs to be a plan to double cycling levels). WSCF will put forward questions that councillors may wish to ask.

WSCF will apply to join WSLAF (West Sussex Local Access Forum). This is a statutory body which has to be consulted on major planning matters –this should give transport cycling a voice. [Edit: Geoff Farrell is now a member of WSLAF]

Local forums were asked to copy minutes to WSCF and to councillors.

WSCF will set up a website [Edit: Anthony Cartmell has now set it up:

<http://westsussexcycleforum.org.uk/> HDCF can add to the website –contact Ruth]

WSCF are looking for a Press Officer

In April Highways cuts and reorganisation will mean that each area will have a designated contact – local forums will need to make contact with their area’s designated officer

Next WSCF meeting: 6.45 for 7pm, Beechwood Hotel, Worthing

It was agreed to continue supporting WSCF including inviting WSCC PCOs to our meetings [No reply from Dean and Frankie for February], distributing minutes more widely, contributing to the 25th Feb ECSSC scrutiny process and sharing contact email addresses.

All, Ruth

HDPF, North of Horsham and A264 Crossings

Despite our responses to the Planning Inspector and attempts to engage with a range of councillors and officers in HDC and WSCC, there had been no acknowledgement of the problem of a complete lack of planning for cycling in the HDPF. There was no progress on our proposal to strengthen Policy 39 on Sustainable Transport or to modify the HDPF to allow a cycling SPD. The transport reports contain very little detail and, alarmingly, claim that crossing the 45,000+ vpd A264 dual carriageway at-grade will be “more attractive” than grade separation. We were told that it was too soon to engage on this.

Since building the five A264 junctions will require major design and civil engineering works, the forum was concerned that cycling provision needs to be considered urgently. It is core infrastructure and needs to be an integral part of all planning and viability assessments; it is impossible to ‘tack it on’ afterwards. The following actions were taken:

- Letters were sent to Francis Maude, the West Sussex County Times.
- A presentation was given to The Horsham Society Planning Committee –with a positive response, including support in their WSCT column.
- Individual councillors were contacted with a letter, background information and telephone calls. Councillors were generally unaware of the A264 junction proposals or how underpasses could greatly improve crossings and integration of the new community. Generally the response was very supportive (although some of those actively opposing North of Horsham did not want to engage in any process that might be seen as accepting the possibility of North of Horsham). Councillors offered to raise this at PPAG and ECSSC and to discuss it with officers. Frances Haigh has asked for the forum, and other groups such as N Horsham PC, to be represented on a North of Horsham group to be set up by Tom Crowley.
- The issue was raised during conversations with officers
- The North Horsham CLC was contacted and Brad Watson supported putting the issue on the agenda.

- The issue was publicised through Twitter and via ADCycles.

The meeting agreed to continue to press for cycling improvements to both the HDPF and any planning application from Liberty.

All

Horsham Parking Consultation –The forum put in comments on the proposals for Copnall Way and Causeway with the aim of preventing parked cars from blocking the LSTF cycle route.

Cycling Byelaws Clarification – Evan Giles confirmed that the byelaws had indeed eventually been changed a number of years ago. This means that cycling is permitted in any of Horsham’s parks and green spaces, except where the council specifically prohibits it: *‘...no person shall without reasonable excuse ride a cycle in any part of the ground where cycling is prohibited...’* This means that cycling is legal throughout Horsham Park except for a short stretch of path near the bandstand. Evan will contact Anna Chapman about putting up notices in the parks to tell the public that cycling is permitted.

Travelwise Cycle Map Andy Mouland had requested comments on the draft map that is being produced with LSTF money. The draft had many inaccuracies and issues that prevented it being useful. Andy wrote to thank us for our input and will be getting it revised.

Horsham Cycle Racks Frances Haigh sent us some information about of the plans for new cycle racks in the town centre. Ruth responded with a brief outline of our ideas on how the cycle parking could be improved. Nigel Bird replied that the town centre cycle parking budget from LSTF money has increased to £30,000 and that proposals are currently being firmed up by a consultant, Peter Hayward, who will only contact us after the work is done –our involvement does not appear to be welcome.

Despite numerous assurances, the much-needed £35,000 LSTF-funded double decker cycle parking in front of Horsham station will not happen. The railway will apparently use separate funding for a cycle hub at the rear.

Novartis –the recently announced plan for a Brighton University campus on the old Novartis site was discussed. Good cycle infrastructure will be very important for this.

Missing Link –on the Horsham Crawley Cycle route

Background: The WSCC-Sustrans Horsham-Crawley cycle route was never completed because of lack of access between the railway underpass and Wimland Rd. Although this land is now part of the development, it appears that the consultants did not understand the issue, so it is not part of the HDPF or in WSCC’s or Horsham’s Infrastructure Delivery Plans. Caroline West from WSCC suggested nothing will happen without evidence of community desire.

HDCF and the Riverside Walk team have been working together supporting each other as the routes overlap and both projects have similar needs. We have shared documentation and Ruth met Jane Apostolou and David Searle. The RW team are contacting Liberty about rerouting the walk and will keep us informed.

We will respond formally to support the RW grant application consultation and will also prepare further details on cycling requirements along the proposed route

Peter

Ruth and Peter will walk the Warnham Rd-Guildford Rd section and try to see where the suggested boardwalk would be and whether there is a better solution for cycling

Ruth, Peter

Phil Burroughs from WSCC/Sustrans made a site visit with Francis and Ruth. Phil is supportive and will see if he can get the local school involved

Sustrans are supporting us

Peter has drafted a leaflet about the 'Missing Link' –needs a few more tweaks

Peter

We will hold a campaign photo shoot at the underpass [Edit; confirmed for 28th Feb]

Ruth, All

Claire Vickers was briefed and said she will look into it

Southwater Neighbourhood Planning Ruth has been working with the parish council Neighbourhood Planning Infrastructure Group to develop questions on cycling for their parish questionnaire.

Horsham LSTF route Despite earlier assurances, we have not heard back from the team with the latest details. Work is due to take place in Feb/Mar to be complete by the end of the financial year

A24 Broadbridge Heath cycle bridge The new 3m wide cycle bridge is in place. It was a complete surprise and disappointment to see that it has zig-zag barriers and hairpin bends on the slope. These are poor practice for cycling generally and cause particular problems for those with shopping(!), non-standard bikes, children's prams/buggies or who are disabled.

New A264 Broadbridge Heath and Mill Lane bridleway Malcolm Curnock confirmed that he is aware that the bridleway north of the bypass has still not been improved; he has been pushing for this but there is a dispute about who is responsible for the next step. He says he will look into getting the pavement by the Pegasus crossing sorted to prevent the deep puddle there.

Cycling Delivery Plan The possibility of central government money for authorities with a strategy to double cycling was raised with HDC at the beginning of November. We now know this will be handled via WSCC via the LEP. We have suggested that, with the large quantities of strategic development going in North Horsham, there should be a bid for cycling infrastructure for Horsham. We have offered to assist with local knowledge. The emails have circulated around but no one is taking up the offer.

Horsham Football Club DC/14/1090 and Holbrook Club DC/1091

We summarised the changes needed to improve cycling/walking provision for both sites, suggesting that they should be made a condition of any planning permission granted. We contacted HDC councillors, Southwater PC and the local school. Councillors discussed the matter at their briefing

with officers and, at committee, nine councillors spoke for improved cycling access, including 3 who voted in favour of the new football ground. Disappointingly HDC and WSCC officers continued to assert that potential for cycling was so limited that there was no need to make any improvements. There was no move to discuss adding planning conditions before the vote was taken. The application for a new football ground at Hop Oast was refused (13 to 9) and, therefore, the Holbrook Club housing was also refused.

Next Meeting 7.45pm Monday 2nd March 2015, 30 Ashleigh Rd –all welcome