

Horsham District Cycle Forum: 2 March 2015

Present: Neil, Peter, Mark, Ruth, David (welcome!) **Apologies:** Francis

The meeting reviewed what has happened since last meeting and agreed next actions

Outstanding actions from last month

Email changes –basically done, but still improving it

Peter, Ruth

Deliver HTCP membership form (also ask Jane Apostolou for any useful feedback from today's HTCP 'Our future together' partnership conference)

Neil

Riverside Walk Response –to complete by Friday

Peter plus all

HorshamInformation website –do a short write-up for Doug

Ruth

How are we doing? It has been a positive month with an expanding number of supporters. Our website, Twitter and email lists are now giving more people a chance to contribute their views and to inform them of what we are doing.

We are in touch with Denne NC and may attend meetings.

Marney Lowe, a WSCC Community Officer for Horsham North, has got in touch and may attend our meetings

Nicola Debnam is the new head of Highways and Transport at WSCC. We wrote to her outlining the key issues for Horsham and were pleased to see her at the cycling discussion at the WSCC Environment and Community Services Select Committee meeting

West Sussex Cycle Forum

This is currently very active with participation from Horsham Forum. WSCF new website: <http://westsussexcycleforum.org.uk/local-forums> The forum will be commenting on the LEP sustainability bids and attending the meeting on 25th March of the decision-making body, the Local Transport Body. Their next meeting is **13th March Beechwood Hotel, Worthing 6.45 for 7pm** to follow up from ECSSC and consider response to LEP funding bids.

WSCC Cycling Plan

WSCC has realised that it lacks a good enough cycling plan to secure either CIL money from new developments or external funding –in particular from the government's Cycling Development Plan. A '[Cycling Update Report](#)' was scrutinised by councillors at the ECSSC Meeting on 25th Feb.

West Sussex Cycling Forum members, including from Horsham, contacted councillors with questions for scrutiny and 11 WSCF members attended the meeting. A number of councillors strongly challenged the lack of a plan to provide cycling infrastructure and the lack of an influential figure to lead on cycling within WSCC. Pieter Montyn said that there is limited resource available even to identify and prepare bids for external funding of cycling infrastructure projects. WSCC wishes to

make more use of cycling forums, including helping to identify potential infrastructure projects. A Task and Finish Group will develop a new cycling plan by the end of this year.

To assist the Task and Finish Group, we could put together some information, pictures and videos of good infrastructure design, safety data etc and explore the option of finding a professional expert who could give a briefing to councillors.

Mark

North of Horsham and A264 Crossings

Our campaign has had an effect in raising awareness and shifting the terms of the debate with Pieter Montyn (Cabinet Member for Highways) and Darryl Hemmings now asking us to engage in pre-application discussion. We met F Maude on Friday and he gave us a good and supportive hearing and said he will write to the council. A number of HDC members raised the A264 crossings at the PPAG meeting –but discussion was postponed until ‘later’. We have had very strong support from the Horsham Society which has raised this in a letter to Liberty and in WSCT articles.

This is on the [agenda](#) for **CLC Meeting on Monday 9th March**. An email has been sent to Brad Watson and Nigel Dennis noting our concern that the latest [position statement](#) still does not commit to funding cycling as core infrastructure. We need to attend the meeting.

ALL

This week’s artist’s impression from Liberty shows no sign of improved cycle crossings or of a positive approach to cycling within the development. We need to write to Liberty and to the WSCC, HDC and PBA contacts about A264 crossings, cycle infrastructure within the development and cycle links to Horsham, Warnham, Crawley and Dorking.

Ruth

Parking Consultation and TROs – no news, keep a watching brief

LSTF Horsham Station Forecourt and Station Cycle Parking

The LSTF station forecourt works have now been completed. Despite an allocation of £35 000, the much-needed double decker cycle racks at the front of the station have not been provided. It is not clear where this money has gone. Separate funds will be used for a cycle hub at the rear of the station (which already has adequate cycle parking spaces). Mark will contact Southern to ask about their plans

Mark

The original HR2 Station forecourt budget was £195 000 and the scheme was not presented as a cycling scheme but mainly for bus passengers and pedestrians. The WSCC press release shows that the actual spend was only £70 000. It is not clear where the rest of the money has gone. Many of the bus and pedestrian elements were dropped, and the cycling benefits of the scheme were being promoted. The pedestrian crossing has been upgraded to a toucan, which we welcome, and a section of pavement has been widened and made shared-use. Benefits to cycling are minimal: the changes only address approaching the station from the south; the transition to the jug-handle is still extremely poor; the shared-use section will be over-crowded and using this approach requires cyclists to give way three times. The original scheme plan included cycle parking for Littlehaven

station which has also not happened. Cycling on-road has actually been made more dangerous by the creation of a pinch point on a bend. WSCT published an article.

Town Centre Cycle Parking

Peter Hayward showed us the final plans for town centre cycle parking. These are very disappointing. Money is being wasted on double decker cycle racks which are inappropriate for these locations. Extra capacity is tucked away in poor locations (behind Piries Place car park and between the CAB and the Forum). The lack of capacity in Medwin Walk and the Bishopric area does not seem to be being addressed. There is an ambition to exclude cycling from the 'core' of the town –this will have a negative effect on town centre trade and further discourage the use of a safe, space-efficient and non-polluting form of transport for access to and across the town.

Further follow-up via CLC/LSTF 'lessons learned' meeting (and elsewhere?)

Ruth

Planning Applications

DC/14/0590 Passed. There is much concern within Southwater about traffic issues, especially along the Worthing Rd within the village and going north. Is there still a chance to be involved in consultation on the detail of the highways designs?

Novartis , Horsham Football Club/Holbrook Club: no news

New Planning Applications The following applications probably need HDCF comment:

DC/15/0284 Broadbridge Heath community hall. Layout plans indicate no cycle route along old A264. It appears to block car use by ensuring that buses use the whole road width. Investigate and send in comments.

DC/15/0282 Flats QueenSt/Queensway -affects town centre parking provision

DC/15/0290 Southwater Worthing Rd houses –no requirement being placed on developer to make contribution to safe cycling along Worthing Rd

DC/15/0367 Car park in Billingshurst

ALL

Horsham's Missing Link –Completing the Horsham-Crawley Cycle Route

A great leaflet and poster completed (thanks, Peter!) and distributed to supporters and council contacts.

Riverside Walk, Sustrans, CTC, CEoGB, the Cherry Tree and ADCycles are supporting our campaign.

We had a [strong turnout](#) of 40 people on a cold and windy day demonstrating strong support from throughout the community for both commuting and leisure. WSCT ran a short article prior to the photo shoot and plan a further piece. Further action needed after Thursday's article.

WSCC prototype Journey Planner

We gave WSCC some feedback as requested and tweeted it to our followers again after the resultant debugging.

Riverside Walk

Ruth and Peter walked the route between Warnham Nature Reserve to Guildford Rd. Although there were a couple of places in need of better drainage, we did not see any sections where boardwalk was obviously needed. We will need to follow this up with the RW team.

Formal response to RW team by Friday

Peter, All

Campaigners' Highways Design Seminar

Sarah Sharp of Chichester forum is trying to set up a seminar open to anyone who wants to learn more about infrastructure for cycling. The more people that come, the cheaper it will be. If you are interested, contact her sarah.ccc@virgin.net

Neighbourhood Planning

At the ECSSC meeting it was emphasised that cycling needs to be in Neighbourhood Plans, but WSCC have limited resource to help any but the largest parishes with this.

Blueprint's designation has been delayed. Watching brief for involvement with them.

Southwater Neighbourhood Planning Infrastructure Group: Ruth assisted with drafting questions; their steering group has now taken over.

Horsham LSTF Route HR4 Due for completion this month. No sign of any work starting yet.

HDPF HDC will vote on this on 18th March

West of Horsham Transport Package

WSCC has made several bids for government sustainability money via the C2C LEP including a £3.1m combined 'sustainability and resilience' bid for work on 4 major A264/A24 roundabouts that is planned as part of the current 2000 home West of Horsham development. The cycle forum considers that the actual cycling 'sustainability' aspects of this bid are minimal and ineffective and are being overstated. Money that is intended for sustainable transport is ending up being used on road schemes which have no 'cycle-proofing' and actually worsen cycling conditions.

We need to respond to the LEP public consultation by **19th March** and, probably, attend the public meeting of the Local Transport Body on **25th March**.

Next Meeting Monday 13th April 7.45pm, 30 Ashleigh Rd RH12 2LF –note this is a week later than normal due to Easter.