

Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum  
Minutes of meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**1 Present**

Adam Edwards  
Roger Moulding  
John Shead  
Cathy Wilkins

Ian Gregory  
Chris Whitehouse,  
Richard Balawender  
Alison Ewington

Chris Cooke  
Neil McMillan  
David Burt

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Tom Morley, Bryn Jones

**3 Hertfordshire cycle route plans – David Burt**

David Burt was welcomed to the meeting and pressed into making the prize draw used to gain additional email addresses for our contacts list, which now has 93 names on it. Cathy will contact the lucky winners. **Action CW.**

**Stanborough:** The contra flow path is complete, has received favourable comment and resulted in a 50% increase in use of the completed route.

**Cycle parking:** 20 racks have been installed in Hyde Way to the rear of WGC station, but these are now always full. The removal of the remains of damaged bikes is the responsibility of Durk Reyner, WHBC, who is attending our next meeting. A few more racks may be fitted on the town side.

**Broadwater Road, WGC:** Under construction and should be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> September. A traffic island in Holwell Road is the major remaining work to be done.

**French Horn Lane, Hatfield:** Removal of the final lampposts is delayed awaiting disconnection of the power by EDF. Noted there are a number of snags such as vegetation growing through the new surface which the Chair had sent to David. The Chair is however very pleased with the route he uses every day.

David agreed a request to revisit the use of the subway under the Great North Road for NCN12. **Action DB.** This link to old Hatfield had been excluded from the works as too low for safe use, but the view of WHCF members is the risk of injury is much lower risk than the current route round the Great North Road roundabout. The Chair noted there is a much lower subway in use in Bedford. [4' 9" high see <http://www.cyclestreets.net/location/20729/>]

**Hatfield Station to Airfield, Phase 2:** David showed plans for a toucan crossing over Queensway which we had lobbied for, which will take cyclists over to the town centre. David confirmed a route round the north east corner of the town centre to Wellfield Road is in the planning permission for the town centre rebuilding works. A meeting is being held on 6<sup>th</sup> October to discuss progress.

As yet there is no agreed route across the town centre should redevelopment be further delayed, but a temporary route should be possible which will run directly from Queensway to Wellfield Road passing to the front of the former Pizza Hut.

David showed us detailed plans for works on Wellfield Rd which start at the corner of The Common, with a better crossing of that road. Continuing along the south side of Wellfield Rd the path will link to the Alban Way at the over bridge. Along this section works will be

needed as the pavement is higher than the road and there are services buried under it, not least a gas main.

At The Airfield options are being evaluated on how to link the new path to the route north parallel with Comet Way to Tesco and WGC. This section has to cross Wellfield Road and Birchwood Avenue close to the roundabout on Comet Way and a major issue is the speed of traffic leaving the roundabout. Agreed that a crossing of Wellfield Road before Lemsford Road, with cycle path on both sides of Wellfield Road would be safest. The Chair noted that on West View (which links Wellfield Rd to Birchwood Ave) the western pavement is marked as a cycle path, but usually blocked by parked cars as the kerb is sloped.

The route should soon go to public consultation when members support will be welcomed. The route should be built in 2011.

A member raised Hatfield Avenue (across Comet Way from Wellfield Rd) where going west the pavement is signed end of cycle route but going east as shared use. Photos were given to David to enable him to investigate further. **Action DB.**

**Black Fan Road, WGC:** Detailed plans were shown of this Mundells to Morrison's route which will link the Cole Green Way (NCN61) to the Bessemer Road path. It will link to the existing path on Panshanger Drive and will have a branch down Ridgeway to the NCN61 crossing point.

Members made the following suggestions:

- The proposed island in Ridgeway could move south to be safer from fast turning cars. However, there could be a width issue.
- The new development at Watchmead (?) could be used as an opportunity to create a direct link to Knella Road as current footpaths are heavily used by children cycling to Sir Frederic Osborn School.
- The new Black Fan Road path should be extended using the cut off stub by Mundells to link to Tewin Road.
- That signing in the route under Mundells needs to be much better as visual directional clues are lost below ground.
- That there be a better connection from Hens Way to the off road path thence to Black Fan Road.
- That signs out side the school be included ????

**Local Transport Plan:** Despite the name, this is the Hertfordshire wide strategy for all transport issues for the next 20 years. There will be a Hertfordshire Cycling Forum meeting in October to discuss this. A first draft will be available soon and David will send us the web link. **Action DB.** The HCF meeting will also look at revisions to the Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy. The Chair asked if the promised update on cycle routes county wide could be circulated, as it had been dropped from the meeting due to lack of time. David agreed to do this. **Action DB.**

**Other route issues:**

- Can white lines be used across junctions to make clear to motorists there is a cycle route crossing, as used in Stevenage? David said current Department for Transport guidelines do not allow this so as to reduce confusing visual clutter and he has to follow them.
- Alban Way: WHBC has found £20,000 to address maintenance issues and at the next meeting WHCF will be asked to identify priority tasks. WHBC however does not have the capability to handle signs. David agreed Hertfordshire Highways would be able to help WHBC with this.

#### 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July were accepted. Matters arising:

- John Shead and Ian Gregory have done first aid training.
- Roger Moulding is attending cycle maintenance training later this month. Chris Whitehouse to do the same course if it is considered good value for money.
- Adam Edwards had yet to find a suitable child protection course so it was agreed to buy a self study training course for the group.
- Photos taken by members are being added to the Yahoo site and Chris had given Richard a CD of photos and video from the recent Steaming Cyclist ride.
- Richard has more photos to use for the web site. Agreed the team photo taken at the first Tour de Havilland should be replaced with something newer. **Action RB.**
- Items from cycling web sites: Agreed to amend the minutes to ask members to circulate the items by email rather than bring them to meetings.

#### 5 Events feedback

- **Kaleidoscope:** This went well with Cathy using a form system to note names and contact details for all people parking bikes. Those who wished had their names entered into the draw. Richard raised the issue of personal data use. The Chair noted that no emails taken from the public at events are used for any purpose other than occasional emails about events. The email addresses are not kept as part of any other data and therefore should not need registering as they are not organised. Cathy offered to check the rules with WHBC. **Action CW.** Concern was raised at emails sent to supporters including everyone else's email address and the Chair was advised to find a way round this.
- **Hertfordshire Cycling Forum:** Tom and Adam had attended. Minutes normally only come out with the agenda for the next meeting, so will not be available for some time. Circulation of the routes update had been requested, noted above.
- **Summer pub ride:** This had been attended by a few of the group and had been an enjoyable evening out, even if Chris got the wrong food.
- **Steaming cyclists:** 19 participants and 5 WHCF members took part meeting up with 6 or so from STACC.

#### 6 Blacks and Millets 15% discount card

Agreed this should not go to the supporters mailing list. Adam to give them the emails for the following members who would like discount cards:

Cathy (work email), John, Chris W, Roger, Chris C.

#### 7 CTC membership cards

CTC membership cards had still not been received by John and Roger. The best action is for each person to phone CTC direct as they will only deal with each person about their cards. **Action JS, RM.**

#### 8 Any other business

Cathy asked that the Chair send to members his list of Alban Way faults for discussion and prioritisation with Durk Reyner at the next meeting. **Action AE.**

#### 9 Dates of next meeting:

Next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 19:00 with Durk Reyner, WHBC.

The Chair to set dates for 2011. **Action AE.**