

Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum: Minutes of meeting, 14th September 2011

Present: Adam Edwards, Chris Cooke, Chris Whitehouse, John Shead, Cathy Wilkins, Ian Gregory.

1. Apologies for absence: Tom Morley, Roger Moulding, Jeremy Payne, Bryn Jones.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held 13.7.11 and matters arising

- Lost railways information boards: There is no news of one on the Alban Way so if one is seen please tell her! Action All. **Found at Roe Green. Cathy is discussing errors with the producers.**
- Monks Walk School: Chris C is to meet the deputy head and we discussed issues for him to raise. **Action Chris C. No reply from the school yet.**
- What's on listing in *WH Life* was noted but concern expressed that the image of a lycra clad racer was unhelpful. Cathy has already raised this with WHBC Communications who ask that we send a better picture next time. Action Cathy. **Comms team are happy to use a photo we supply. The picture of the Wheathampstead ride taken from the bridge was suggested as a good one to use. Action Adam to ensure this is on the Yahoo site. [Done]**
- The Mixed group have organised a fund raising ride on 11/9/11. Agreed we should take part so it will be added to the events list, but with a colour to indicate it is not our ride. Action Chris W. **Roger had ridden for us with a number of sponsors.**
- Ellenbrook Fields: Chris C will email about the conditions of the paths. **Action Chris C. Carried forward. Cathy to advise on who to contact at St Albans DC.**

3. Hertfordshire Cycling Forum meeting – report (AE)

- The HCF meeting had been sparsely attended.
- There had been a talk on traffic lights and crossings. Until recently crossings have been set to favour road users but this is now changing. If there are crossings which regularly delay cyclists these should be emailed to David Burt for action. **Action All.**
- There was a discussion of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid. Hertfordshire has done well and gained funding for a more detailed study and quick wins. The aim is to improve links and reduce congestion between Watford, Hemel and St Albans. In the first round of funding this includes better signs for NCN6 to Harpenden and then 57 on to Hemel. There were sceptical comments as to the value of this as a route between St Albans and Hemel as it is indirect. Should HCC gain the second bigger tranche of money, this will fund the St Albans Greenwheel, a ring route round the city including links across Verulamium Park. The whole bid had been put together rapidly by amalgamating pre-existing plans.
- David Burt had given Adam a CD of the official photos of the Broadwater Road opening. **Action Adam to check if we can use them on our web site.**
- David had also made Adam aware that WHBC are apparently going cold on the cycle route from the station where it crosses the town centre and we may end up with an incomplete route. Adam had drafted a letter to HCC and WHBC which members had improved and corrected. **Action Adam to post the letter. [Done]**
- Skyrides: Sustrans reps reported that the local rides are run by parachuting in members of British Cycling who run them. This has led to some unfortunate tension with local groups who are not consulted and some poor choices of routes.

4. Events discussion

- The recent ride to Earthworks had attracted 1 adult and 1 child in addition to members.
- Skyrides are not likely to be a way forward.
- Agreed next year we should aim for only one ride per month, that the rides should be made longer with dropping off points. For example, the ride to Colney Heath should start back in WGC. We should ride to Hertford with cake at Serendipity as an aim point and with more advanced riders then heading on towards Hartham Common. Younger riders could leave the ride at Cole Green.
- Sunday rides get more riders, so we should run them on this day.
- The Bike Week barbecue ride will not be repeated.
- We should aim to set dates earlier to allow for inclusion of rides in local guides.
- Assuming it runs, we should have a stall at Kaleidoscope and also lead a ride. Suggested we start from the railway and head to Mill Green before a loop through either Hatfield or WGC and return.

- Members are encouraged to find out dates of events that might make good destinations for us. **Action All.**

Date	Destination	Start from	Route	Miles	Lead	Riders
17/4/11 Sun	Potters Bar via South Mimms Services	Hatfield Station, 11:00	12 GN Way	7 x 1	Adam	2A/2C
08/5/11 Sun	St Albans Signal Box and Clarence Park	Wrestler's Bridge, 13:00	61 Alban Way	2 x 5	Adam	1A/2C
21/5/11 Sat	Earthworks Hill End open day	Wrestler's Bridge, 13:00	61 Alban Way	2 x 3	John	0
18/6/11 Sat	Welwyn Festival	Welwyn, 10-13:00	Stall and bike checks		Roger Cathy	n/a
18/6/11 Sat	St Albans Festival, Verulamium Park	Ellenbrook Lane Hatfield, 12:00	61 Alban Way	2 x 5	John Adam	0
23/6/11 Thurs	Earthworks barbecue for STACC	Wrestler's Bridge, 18:30	61 Alban Way	2 x 3	John Bryn	0
10/7/11 Sun	Wheathampstead Village day	Campus West, 11:00	57 Ayot Greenway	2 x 6	Adam Roger	6A/10C
10/8/11 W	Pub ride	Meet at pub at 19:00			All	
21/8/11 Sun	Colney Heath railway	Wrestler's Bridge, 13:30	61 Alban Way	2 x 3	Adam	4A/4C
03/9/11 Sat	Earthworks Hill End open day	Wrestler's Bridge, 12:30	61 Alban Way	2 x 3	Ian	1A/1C

5. Any other business

- Nettles on the Alban Way:** Cathy still chasing this work. Fly tipping has not been cleared by SERCO for safety reasons.
- Alban Way signs:** Chris W will do a photo and GPS survey for Cathy. **Action CW.**
- Slope and steps of Alban Way:** These works to pacify a resident will happen shortly.
- Resurfacing west of Ellenbrook:** This should happen in October. (At the HCF David Burt had repeated his offer to the St Albans DC rep to help fund works their side of the boundary.)
- University of Hertfordshire green week transport day, 24/10/11:** Roger, Cathy, Chris, Ian and Bryn will cover this. Roger is fixing the display boards. Basic bike checks will be offered.
- Streamwoods Path:** Slippery after leaf fall. **Action Cathy to find out if this can be swept.**
- Hatfield station bike thefts:** One had been reported to the Chair who had advised the rider to check with FCC about CCTV as the station has 24/7 cover from a control room in Enfield. A member commented that there are so many taxis queuing for business that access is being blocked. **Action Cathy to ask the taxi officers if they can check this.**
- Web site:** Agreed we can list local cycling instructors, but with a line to say we do vouch for any particular instructor.

6. Dates of next meetings

- 12/10/11, 9/11/11, 14/12/11, Proposed thereafter: 11/1/12, 15/2/12, 14/3/12, 11/4/12, 9/5/12, 13/6/12, 11/7/12, 8/8/12 (pub ride), 12/9/12, 10/10/12, 14/11/12. 12/12/12.