

Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum: Minutes of meeting held 11th January 2012

Present: Adam Edwards, Roger Moulding , Chris Whitehouse, Ian Gregory, Bryn Jones, John Shead, Jeremy Payne, Cathy Wilkins (minutes)

1 Apologies for absence Chris Cooke, Tom Morley

2 Presentation: "BikeWatch", Jay Patel, Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator, WHBC.

The Police, Fire Service & Welwyn Hatfield Council are all concerned about the increase in bicycle thefts in the last 2 month, both in Welwyn Hatfield and other areas. There is no set pattern as to why bikes are being taken. People are not locking bikes when leaving them outside shops, or in gardens. The PCSO is carrying out a mapping exercise for the locations of thefts.

There are a number of initiatives being looked, such as **targeted bike marking**, outside the Howard Centre and in Hydeway, Welwyn Garden City on 20th and 25th January from 7am onwards. Marking will also be carried out in schools if requested. Adam suggested Stanborough School as there are 130 to 150 children who regularly cycle to school. Marking is done by way of a tamperproof sticker with owners postcode and door number written in UV pen. Stickers are placed twice on the bike as a deterrent, although marking is only in one place. It was suggested that this could also be carried out in the bike park run by the Forum at the Kaleidoscope Festival, we would hope to advertise this with the Kaleidoscope publicity.

The main initiative is "**Bike Watch**", this will succeed if the process and structure are correct and with the right support. The idea is that the Forum would be the overall advocates of Bike Watch as we already have a structure in place, we would become the management group for this scheme.

People signing up to Bike Watch could also join the forum. There should be an official launch and a member of the forum will have the administrator rights on the "Online Watch Liaison" system (OWL). People signing up only need to give their email address and door number and live in the area, they will then receive email information on suspicious activity.

Action: Jay is to clarify how the system works and its background and send details to Cathy for onward issue to the Forum.

There is budget available for crime prevention issues, flyers etc. Funding is by Welwyn Hatfield Partnership and Herts County Council. A poster produced by First Capital may hopefully be taken as a base and re-produced as a sign to be placed on cycle racks, a laminated version could be placed in shop windows where cycle parking is located. In London, "Trojan" bikes are used with trackers attached. There is also the possibility that the stock of cycles held by the police that are un-claimed, could be re-conditioned and passed on.

Action: Jay is to ask PCSO to attend next meeting to give more detail of the scheme.

After discussion by the group the consensus was that we should go ahead and become involved in this scheme. A volunteer to act as Administrator is required.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting held 14.10.11 and matters arising

- Kings Mead Easter egg hunt, **Action: John is still to get date.**
- De-Havilland events, **Action: Cathy to try and find a new contact at the council as Terry has left.**

4 Planned Events

- There was a discussion on the various routes and events planned.
Action: Roger, blurb and risk analysis to be carried out for Amwell and Shaws Corner rides.

Action: Chris to put details of rides on website, NB the date for Kings Mead is 8th April, and Kimpton festival ride is withdrawn.

- John may use the Sustrans thumbnail picture for Life magazine, but requests that any photos taken on the Amwell ride are sent to him.

5 Any Other Business

- **Locality Budget:** details of both Welwyn and Woods Avenue had been sent out by Roger and Adam.
- **Action Ian to send out details of the incinerator route.**
- **Action: all to send Ian feedback on the incinerator route so that he can respond to the Access Forum.** Various suggestions were made at the meeting, Ian is to copy them to Adam.
- Ian is to attend a visit to Panshanger Park with regards to routes for walkers and cyclists for when the park is returned to public use after gravel extraction has been completed.

Next meeting: 15th February 2012, Acorn Suite, Campus West 7pm.