

# Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum: Minutes of meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Present:**, Roger Moulding (RM), Chris Whitehouse (CW), Ian Gregory (IG), Bryn Jones (BJ), John Shead (JS), Jeremy Payne (JP), Cathy Wilkins (CWi) (minutes)

## 1 Apologies for absence: Adam Edwards, Chris Cooke, Tom Morley

## 2 Update on “BikeWatch”, Jay Patel, Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator, WHBC, Ben Satchfield, PC and Nish Chelvachandran PCSO.

Nish explained to the forum a bit more about how the OWL system works and how he sees Bike Watch fitting into this. Jay Patel is now trained to use the system. Its all about 2 way communication. The Forum will only cover the Welwyn Hatfield area, we can use the system to send details of rides and events to those signed up. The Forum agreed to go ahead and become involved in this scheme. The amount of traffic is about 2 or 3 messages per month, the co-ordinator adds these, users have lower access to the system, the co-ordinator has higher access. Chris Whitehouse volunteered to act as Administrator. He and Nish to contact each other direct to set some training up, once this is complete we need to agree a “go live” date and possibly a launch event, this could include bike marking.

At the last meeting it was asked if there was any mapping of problem spots, Jay reported back that there were no specifics so mapping was not worthwhile at the moment.

Signage for Cycle Watch / Bike Watch **Action: Jay to send pdf of First Capital sign to Cathy for adapting,** WHBC Partnerships would pay half towards signage if we could get Herts Highways to contribute.

Bike Marking proved to be successful with 100 cycles marked over 2 days in Hydeway. Other events have been held at schools which were also successful, and 100 homes have been visited for marking of valuable items including cycles.

## 3 Minutes of the previous meeting held 11.1.12 and matters arising

- Kings Mead Easter egg hunt, **This event has now been removed from the events list**
- De-Havilland events, **Action: Cathy to try and find a new contact at the council ongoing.**
- Ian had sent a response to Richard Cuthbert regarding the incinerator route and this has been acknowledged.
- **Minutes agreed**

## 4 Planned Events

- There was a discussion and agreement on the various routes and events planned with changes to be made to list.
- JS has registered the Forum with the BBC website. He needs to add a picture to all events - we must use Cycling action photos of 608 x 342 pixels (landscape format) just send John the original file (no static group shots please)
- Community Fun Day 10<sup>th</sup> March **Action: RM to contact Matt Rayner ([m.rayner@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:m.rayner@welhat.gov.uk))**
- WHBC have produced a public and council events list for 2012, CWi has added the forum events to this.
- Ideas needed as a replacement for the Easter Egg Hunt ride, Easter Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Suggestions made: South Mymms (for chips), an Open Garden ride, Capel Manor, Mosquito Museum, Whitewebs Museum.
- IG asked for contact details for the University Green Day event. **Action: RM**

## 5 Any Other Business

- **Locality Budget:** The forum has received a response from Welwyn, the budget is spent but they are doing some of things we had asked for anyway.
- CW mentioned a Rail/Cycle working group who had £15m to spend nationally, Split between sustainable transport and Rail/cycle. **Action: CW to find and circulate details.** Possible monies to join up French Horn Lane route and improvements to cycle access at stations.

- **Action: JS to send email regarding “New paths for communities” (Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire Paths Grant) <http://www.cdaforherts.org.uk/funding/environmental/>**
- Ian gave feedback on his 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. The consensus of those that visited was that there should be more access points, and an east / west and north / south routes open to cyclists and horse riders. The Access Forum are pressing for more before quarrying finishes in 3 years.
- Big Lottery grant of £1100 has been approved conditional on accounts, bank details etc. a copy of the contract will be sent to Chairman and Secretary. We have to publish that we are “lottery funded” once grant is confirmed.
- Cycle Nation – affiliation should continue it was agreed.
- CW introduced “Fresh Ways to Travel”, sustainable travel for Herts County Council. **Action: CW to email details to AE to invite them to attend a meeting.**
- RM suggested that Doctor Bike attends as many events as possible and we ask for donations for any works carried out, this is to raise funds. **This was agreed.**

**Next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Acorn Suite, Campus West 7pm.**

**Events 2012**

Date	Destination or Event	Objective	Start time/point	Route	Distance	Leaders
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Great Amwell Nature Reserve	Winter Migrant Birds	10:00 Morrisons AL7 1RY	NCN61	28km 17.3 miles	RM
Sat 10 March	Community fun day	Stall	Campus West			RM (WHBC contact Matt Rayner)
Sun 25 March	Shaw's Corner Ayot St Lawrence	Visit	13:30 Campus West AL8 6AE	NCN12	12km 7.4 miles	RM
Sun 6 May	Colney Heath	Miniature Railway	13:00 Howard Centre 13:30 Wrestler's Bridge	NCN61	14 miles 22.5 km	AE
Sun 10 June	Oaklands Steam Fair	Steam fair	10:00? Wrestler's Bridge	NCN61		JS
Sat 16 June <i>(Bike week)</i>	Welwyn Festival Stall	Dr Bike & bridle path ride	Stall only?			CW
Sun 24 June <i>(Bike week)</i>	Event with STACC???					JS
?? July	Wheathampstead Festival	Ride only	11:00? Campus West AL8 6AE			RM
Sat 7 July	Kaleidoscope Stall & Dr Bike	Festival plus Olympic Torch				CW
??	Woolmer Green	Charity Pub Ride				
Early Aug	Treasure Hunt	CW has clues	10:00? Morrisons AL7 1RY			CW
Mon 27 Aug	Burnham Green Festival		10:00? Waitrose car park			
Sept 9th	Mixed Group Charity Ride					
Late Sept	Tour de Havilland	With Salisbury Village Day				
Mon 22 Oct?	UH Environment week	UH	Stall only			

	stall					
Sun 18 Nov	Bridle Path Tour		11:00 The Forum, UH, AL10 9AB		25-30km 15-18 miles	RM

**Ride descriptions**

**Amwell Nature Reserve**

Sunday 26 February Start Morrisons Car Park, Black Fan Road, WGC, AL7 1RY 10h00.  
 Come with us to visit this nature reserve, internationally important for wintering wildfowl. Three hides allow you the chance to see many rare water birds and possibly some of the resident otters. Don't forget to bring a pair of binoculars. Full details on Ride approximately 28km there and back generally along off road cycle tracks. Facilities minimal on site. Be prepared for cold weather and muddy paths around the reserve. Lunchtime pub stop on return leg. Return before dark.

**Shaw's Corner**

Sunday 25 March Start Campus West Car Park, WGC, AL8 6AE 13h30.  
 This is the first day of BST (don't forget to get up an hour early!) Route approximately 12km there and back generally along well surfaced off road paths, with short sections on minor roads. 2012 entry charges to Shaw's Corner not available at present, but likely to be around £3.00 for cyclists. Return before dark.

**Colney Heath Miniature Railway**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May Start Howard Centre front entrance, WGC, AL8 ??? 13h00 and Wrestler's Bridge Hatfield, AL10 ????, 13h30  
 Our annual favourite ride to the miniature railway. The ride follows quiet roads and off road cycle paths to Colney Heath where we will enjoy the rides on the live steam railways round the North London Society of Model Engineers site. Normally two lines are in operation plus café. Charges are made for each ride. £1.00 each in 2011. Return will not be led so you can leave when you wish. More information on the railways at: <http://www.nlsme.co.uk/>

**Bridle Paths Discovery**

Sunday 18 November Start The Forum University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB 11h00.  
 Circular tour to discover local bridle paths, off road cycle paths and generally quiet lanes. Route 25km to 30km depending on condition of bridle paths. Lunchtime pub stop. Return before dark.