

SOUTHAMPTON CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on February 9th 2015

Most of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by Phil Marshal of Solent Transport, a body concerned with transport strategy for the urban area comprising Southampton, Portsmouth, Fareham, Havant, Gosport, Eastleigh and Waterside. We learnt that the funding for roads and other major projects such as HS2 was enormous and increasing whereas funding for sustainable transport was tiny. Bids for funding were only viable if linked to economic growth. Not a positive message for cycle campaigners but at least we are now better informed as to the financing of transport schemes and the difficulties facing local authority transport planners.

Brief business meeting following the presentation:

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

- 1) The statement in the minutes that “Dec minutes were not available” was clarified. Minutes were produced and distributed by Liz but there were no copies at the mtng.
- 2) Tina wished to amend the comments about the new Church Street cycle facility. The minutes did not make clear that Campaign members thought the two-way lane was a waste of money. She thought it appeared to drivers to give excessive space to cyclists.
- 3) Cycle Forum on 17th Feb. A number of members said they would be attending. It was agreed better to submit any issues we would like discussed beforehand and Tina agreed to submit to Dale the list drawn up in Jan with the addition of maintenance and buses stopping in ASL boxes.
- 4) Lindsi raised the return of the No Right Turn at the top of West Park Road. John Lawrence suggested the best way forward would be to ask Highways to look at all the No Right Turn Except Buses signs in the city centre as they seem to be increasing and he could not identify anywhere their use was justified except Lances Hill.

Action Line: There was a brief discussion about Action Line, including the length of time taken to respond to reported problems, the need to contact several times and write letters, and the referring of reported problems to Highways rather than dealing with them. One member had experienced prompt and helpful responses from Action Line.

AOB: Mike W expressed concern with one of the points of the Cycle Code which says Lights must be used after dark. He would prefer ...after dark and before dawn. David C said that we had aimed to keep the code as concise as possible and suggested as an alternative ...when it is dark. This was agreed.

Pete spoke about Portsmouth Cycle Forum’s request for ideas to improve cyclist safety on some of the routes into Portsmouth. He intended to submit a proposal (drawn up by another member) that safe cyclist margins should be marked on all roads by white painted dots. Cars could enter the space at any time unless there was a cyclist in it.