

Minutes of Southampton Cycling Campaign meeting held on Monday 10 October 2016

St Denys Community Centre, Priory Rd, St Denys starting at 7.30 pm.

Present: Lindsi Bluemel (Secretary), Jon Bingham (Events Co-ordinator), Sue and Barrie Colborne (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Jim Probert (Minutes Secretary), David Pemberton, Peter Davis, Hugh Davis, Su White, Alan Sharpen, Stephen Edwards (Vice Chair), Angela Cotton, David Thomas (Web-site Manager and IT Advisor), David Nielsen, Claire Nielsen, Tim Wakely, Paul Damant, Alan Sharpen

Apologies: Tina Davis,

Reorganisation of SCC

Stephen opened the meeting and welcomed our three new members to the meeting. Stephen then reported that, David Cooper is sadly (for us) having to relinquish his post as chair as he has a new job in South Wales. He thought it would therefore be appropriate to discuss bringing forward the AGM in order to seek a new chair (and possibly secretary if Lindsi moves to monitoring planning applications). Stephen will not be standing as a potential chair.

Discussions took place on how we can better run formal business and also continue offer informal meetings to members, which prove to be popular and well attended. Hugh suggested having an elected committee who would represent the campaign, take decisions on detailed matters and could coordinate our work. Active member involvement could continue via working groups and as ward monitors. We could then have pub or cafe based informal meetings for members to meet and discuss issues with periodic talks held at public meetings for the whole cycling community.

Jon suggested much of the daily business could be completed by improving communication by email, riseup and possibly using social media closed accounts, such as Facebook, with the provisos that these be controlled by a number of moderators from the committee.

Su commented that we should have more active groups within the wards and David P stressed the need to build up better relationships with councillors. Discussion took place on how many affiliate members we have, and whether we should have open public meetings as Portsmouth Cycle Forum do. Portsmouth have 8 committee members, there is a membership fee of around £10, the forum was original set up and supported by the council. But it is now operated as an independent group in Portsmouth, and have a constitution as to their mode of operation (as we do).

Peter commented that committee meetings should be open, and most grass roots members support what we are doing, and that we need to focus more on having a strategy and focus on objectives such as campaigning for super highways.

It was suggested that we would need a number of identified roles on any new committee, along with a stronger group ID and purpose, links to other groups, regular meetings with ward councilors, clear mission statement and aims, a strategy for membership (and fees) maybe to include affiliates.

Su suggested that we set up a working group to finalize firm proposals with a deadline of 2 to 3 months. An AGM in January could then consult with members and make final decisions. Stephen asked for volunteers to join the working group – with the proviso that anyone not at the meeting would be welcome to participate. The following members volunteered: Jon Bingham, Lindsi Bluemel, Hugh Davis, Su White, David Pemberton, David Thomas. Interim progress reports/discussion envisaged at the November and December meetings.

ACTION Working Group

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: Cyclist code: Has been written by Jon Bingham, and money is still available to be spent on printing the leaflets, PDF to be sent to riseup for distribution to members. This would be a good opportunity to relaunch the new SCC. **Action Jon Bingham**

Itchen Bridge Junction: Pete to arrange a site visit with Balfour Beattie engineer to Itchen Bridge to look at the proposed alterations to the cycle provision at the Saltmarsh Rd/ Albert Rd North/Central Bridge junction. **Action Peter Davies**

Bitterne Triangle: A number of SCC members are meeting with Dale Bostock on 20th October from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm to look at the junction, members to report back. **Action Lindsi Bluemel**

Salisbury Rd: Pete reported that there is still no sign of the University applying for a stopping up order. We want it designated as a RoW for future protection, even if there are no current plans to remove it as a cycle route.

Second Avenue Cycle Lane: The new cycle path along 2nd Avenue is now complete, and is to an acceptable standard, but there were still concerns that no flashing lights have been installed to deter motorists from speeding off Redbridge Road into the path of cyclists crossing Allington Lane.

Court Leet: There were several presentments made about cycling at the Court Leet and Liz Batten's about air quality and sustainable transport plus Lyn Brayshaw's about potholes were accepted by the court, and in theory the council should implement them. These could be followed up at the Cycle Forum. Also discussed was a reduced speed limit on the Avenue, and the removal of the middle lane, to allow room for on road cycle lanes each side of the carriageway. A full report will be published in the next Newsletter.

Bike revival week: Ruth Magentis is still looking for organised rides for bike revival week.

Highfield Road junctions: Work on Highfield Road junctions has now been completed. There is some concern that southbound cyclists are now confronted with a No Entry Sign - this should have been No Entry except cyclists. One main improvement is the removal of parking at the T junction with Highfield Lane, that now has no waiting at this junction. A further order is to make this road 20mph. SCC questions the cost of doing much of this work when money would have been better spent elsewhere.

Bike Repairs: Jon Bingham reported that free bike repairs will be made available by Transitions and bike to basics: Saturday at Aldermoor Farm from 10:30 to 15:00, and at United Reformed Church in Freemantle from 10:30 to 13:00

Our next meeting to be held on 14th November at St Denys Community Centre, Priory Rd, St Denys starting at 7.45 pm. Next informal meeting in November date TBA. David Pemberton to contact two independent Coxford councillors to see what dates they may be available.

Next Ride: Sunday 16th October 9:45 from Woolston Station to the Old Floating Bridge chain ferry cafe at the Elephant boat yard, Bursledon. Those coming to let Lindsi know.

Meeting was closed at 10:00 pm