

Southampton Cycling Campaign meeting – on Zoom due to lockdown Monday 13th April 2020

1. Apologies

Pete Davis, Tina Davis, Lindsi Bluemel.

2. Attendees

Lyn Brayshaw, Johnnie Dellow, Colin MacQueen, Jim Probert, Jon Bingham, Angela Cotton, Ceri Dunn, David Thomas [Tim Wakely & Bhav Sheth (?) tried].

[Steve Shaw, Martin Hodgson, Sue Colborne, Barrie Colborne, Hugh Davis, Su White, Liz Batten, Eric Reed, Chris Brown, Stephen Edwards, Eleanor van der Hoest, John Heath.]

3. Previous Minutes - here: www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk/document-archive/meeting-minutes/

(SCC team are: Wade - Transport Delivery Team Leader - Greg, Tony & Dale.)

Minutes agreed.

Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and we admired each other's wall colours (Jon's was brightest).

Reminder - join mailing list by emailing sotoncycling-request@autistici.org & join on our web page for newsletters.

4. Past events

Most events cancelled due to lockdown.

5. Future events

Our stalls

Tbc depending on lockdown. Most events have been cancelled:

Sat 13th June – Cycle UK mass Cycle Day – Ruth and Lyn sorting a ride, and hope to have a cargo bike ride included.

Sat 20th June – So'ton Sporterium – Ruth and Lyn trying to sort a cargo bike 'show-off' and a Kidical Mass.

This event has two sportive's standard (~100km) or a short (~60km) ride, and a 1.72km Criterium around the city parks. The 'Spin City' will be based near the start line inside East Park, with bike stalls, activities, cycle clubs as well as the best view of the Criterium Series Event! <https://www.sporterium.co.uk/>

Our rides

Next Campaign ride – usually 10am on 3rd Sunday. <https://www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk/rides/>

Our meetings (always 2nd Mon except Aug)

11th May on Zoom.

[If you are late, please knock on window (to right of door, last window on that side).]

Other meetings/events

Monthly Critical Mass rides hopefully will start again in summer www.facebook.com/criticalmasssoton/

Next Cycle Forum – tbc – go as individuals or member of other group, so meeting is not dominated by us.

6. Working groups - location then non-location. SCN = Southampton Cycle Network, NCN = National Cycle Network.

If you haven't already, this week please edit the google docs on the 3 "completed" routes so that we can give Wade our "Lessons to learn" comments: The Avenue, Bursledon Rd, Millbrook Rd. Contact us for links if need to.

--- SCN1 Western Approach - Jon Bingham (Co-ordinator), John, Pete, Tina, Hugh, Liz, Colin, Jim.

--- SCN1 Central Railway Bridge – Stephen E (C), Jim, Hugh, Su.

--- SCN1 Central Station South Forecourt - Johnnie (C), Lyn, Lindsi, Liz, (Cara), Colin.

--- SCN2 Bitterne Road East/Thornhill Park Rd - Eric (C) Lyn, Lindsi, Johnnie, Steve S.

--- SCN3 Bursledon Rd A3024 – Steve S (C) Eric, Lyn, Liz.

--- SCN3 Quayside Rd – Lindsi (C), Eric, Liz, (Stuart).

--- SCN5 The Avenue & Lover's Walk – Lyn (C), Ceri, Johnnie, Colin, Hugh, Pete, Tina, Stephen E, Simon, Chris, Andre.

--- SCN5 Portsmouth Rd – Johnnie (C) Martin, Lindsi, Steve S.

--- SCN6 Portswood /Swaythling/Stoneham Lane - Angela (C), Johnnie, Lyn, Liz, Ceri, Simon.

--- SCN7 Bitterne Triangle - Eleanor (C) Lindsi, Lyn, Angela, Liz. Jon B.

--- SCN8 Salisbury Rd – Pete & Tina (C), Lindsi, Stephen E, John H.

--- SCN9 Hospital Orbital Route - Johnnie (C), Lyn, John, Jim, Colin.

--- City Centre – Lindsi (C), Stephen E, Hugh, Su, Liz. Chris, Simon.

Stephen, Hugh, Su and Lindsi wrote a report on all the locations they thought were dangerous including at least one which could result in the Council being held liable in the result of an accident - an incomplete contraflow which puts cyclists head to head with R turning motor vehicles. They looked at route connections and had the idea that a future report could look at routes to major destinations. Jim P said that there was no usable route from London Rd to Decathlon; there is no safe cycle route from London Rd to the Mayflower (without steps). We have at last got a reasonable route from London Rd/Bedford Place to the station N side, but what a lot of effort that was (Morris Rd line markings, and pavement still unclear if shared.)

--- NCN2 Ipley Crossroads – Eric reports back from HCC mts (attends as Sustrans rep).

--- Eling – John H (C), Jim, others when necessary.

--- Lordswood Lane - John H (C) Jim P others when necessary.

--- Mapping & Signage –Johnnie (C) Angela, Lyn, Lindsi, Jim, Stephen E, Eleanor, Eric, Tina.

Johnnie has managed to get the Suggested Routes system working and displaying in a comprehensive way on our web site. Anyone who uses Plotaroute or would like to start using it, in order to share their routes via our website, please follow the instructions under the suggested routes tab under Ride and send the link as instructed. The routes are scrollable for browsing and searchable using the search box on the page. There are only a few routes on there at present but he will be adding more and would appreciate input from members. The routes can be printed with directions or downloaded as a GPX file for a phone mapping app or sat satnav. When the library of routes is sufficiently stocked he may move the tab from Ride to the main tab bar to make it more accessible to website visitors and we could possibly place links on other sites if they agree (e.g. My Journey or other cycling groups and shops) as a means to publicise the campaign. So those of you who have good routes for commuting or leisure starting or finishing in Southampton your input is welcome. Just to clarify Suggested Routes is on our website under as a dropdown under the Ride tab on the top row of the homepage. Also if when creating routes on Plotaroute people list key districts and road names in the description I can copy and paste that description so those places will be searchable and this will save me work. N.B. It is best not to start or finish routes at your address for security reasons.

--- Traffic Orders: Lindsi (C), John, Hugh & Eleanor.

We had 3 queries which have been clarified by Tony: Burgess Rd by Sainsburys' local, legal cycle use of Craven Walk, and Rockstone gardens linking onto the Avenue.

7. Updates – (TAKE A PHOTO NOW)

a) Document Storage - Jon has created a storage space for working groups, details in email 21.1.20

The idea is that members of a working group can view the folder and files inside. The working group co-ordinators can add files and edit them. There should be at least 3 people with full admin access to Google account including Gmail and Drive. At the moment it's Jon B and David T. We can agree a way of working and share simple instructions to working group members initially.

b) Newsletter - next one (not sure when) to include sections on (1) maps, (2) items that are available on loan, (3) how we fed back re the 3 completed routes. We'll make A5 paper copies for bike shops.

c) Meridian route from the board walk to Northam Bridge, and through the new housing to Radcliffe Road: We still have time to improve this route but time is running out. Johnnie has contacted Wade and Iain yet again.

d) Items that are available on loan: Pete will try to get Mark Brummel's tools from Mike C. Pete has made inventory of what he has so far and has sorted storage. Jon B has the CC camera.

e) Unfilled position: Press and Media officer – Lindsi Bluemel (subject to consent) and any support doing secretary role would be appreciated too by Lindsi.

AFTER LOCKDOWN

e) Hu and Su (or others) to invite councilors to join us on rides in the spring/summer. We could ask councilors where they presently drive to and show them routes from (near) their homes to their destinations.

f) Lyn, Angela and Katherine have drafted email about routes in and out of the hospital. After lockdown, Angela will email to the "link person" for hospital that Wade gave us (Angela knows them).

g) Edit our Membership postcards and Cycle Code leaflets and get more printed?

8. AOB

a) Discussion re this article: pop up bike lanes during the lockdown to encourage people to cycle for exercise or transport to work whilst there is little traffic on the roads. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/13/pop-up-bike-lanes-help-with-coronavirus-social-distancing-in-germany?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR2oAZDA5x8g8tUrK0WeyW7PKKph5NPJmCpTOVXQkLQL9ezSFdpYDJEw08

and <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-cars-to-be-banned-from-roads-so-joggers-can-exercise-safely-during-lockdown-l2dp03v8m>

and <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/news-and-blog/press-media/local-authorities-given-more-powers-to-reallocate-road-space-to-help-social-distancing/>

and <https://twitter.com/whywenotqnr/status/1249986999366320128?s=21>

and <https://medium.com/@jurgenthoelen/belgian-dutch-study-why-in-times-of-covid-19-you-can-not-walk-run-bike-close-to-each-other-a5df19c77d08>

Lyn will send email to Wade about this and b and d1 and d2 below. eg. Any duel carriageway - The Avenue, Winchester Road, Tebourba Way, A3024 from Bitterne station to town, Riverside park/Bitt tri to Portswood.

b) People need to know how to get bikes serviced. David has made list on our website and fb of the cycle shops that are open during the Covid-19 lockdown (thanks David)

<https://www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk/2020/news/cycle-shops-open-during-covid-19-lockdown/>

Also advice on how to get old bike up and running. Bike doc still in Guildhall Sq. Lyn will write to Echo about cycle shops being open etc – others do too please.

c) Please write letters!! Lyn has been quoted in 2 articles (Echo and BBC) re cycling in/after lockdown. Also from Cycling UK: "Cycling UK is keen to focus on a grassroots initiative. With reduced traffic and more children learning to ride, there have been some pleasant signs we've noticed when out on rides these past few weeks, but we'd be missing a trick if we weren't putting pen to paper or fingers on keyboards to remind people that this doesn't have to be a short-term shift and that active travel needs to play a bigger role in our post-virus lives. This week's sofa campaign looks at how to write a letter to your local newspaper. <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/campaign-your-sofa-write-letter-your-local-paper> Please write!

d) David emailed more ideas (pasted): "Once the lockdown is relaxed, is there anything we could do to encourage people to continue cycling in Southampton? We will discuss these at next meeting, depending on response from Wade:

1. Set up schemes to reduce cycle theft. A commonly quoted statistic on the topic of cycle theft is that "17% of cyclists experience bicycle theft. Of these, 24% stop cycling and 66% cycle less often."

http://www.bikeoff.org/design_resource/ABT_problem_why_prevent.shtml Cycle theft, and fear of it, is found to discourage and impede cycle usage (Davies et al. 1998). Interviews with victims of cycle theft also indicate that few replace their bicycles once stolen (Mercat and Heran, 2003). UK research shows that, 17% of cyclist experience bicycle theft. Of these, 24% stop cycling and 66% cycle less often (DTR/TRL 1996)

Working with the council to create a safe cycling environment will encourage people to take up cycling, however cycle theft will deter them from continuing to cycle.

A successful approach for reducing cycle theft that could be tried in Southampton is the use of bait bikes. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/green-living-blog/2010/jun/30/police-thefts-bait-bikes> This tactic, also known as decoy or tracker bikes, sees police leaving badly locked, or even unlocked, bicycles in vulnerable locations. They are fitted with hidden GPS devices, letting officers trace them to the thieves, or better still to a lock-up or warehouse used by gangs to store lots of stolen bike. The pilot schemes seemed to show bait bikes are a significant deterrent. Bikes thefts dropped by 45% at Cambridge rail station when British Transport Police tested the method. Even in the UK's bike theft capital, London, rates dropped by around a third in one local trial.

Is it worth talking to the Police to see if they will consider using bait bikes in Southampton. If they say they would love to do this but lack the necessary resources we could offer to crowdfund the necessary equipment and provide volunteers to setup and deploy the bait bikes. Cycle theft is understandably an issue that angers cyclists and I believe we would get a lot of support for an initiative that addresses it.

[Lyn says – was this discussed at a recent cycle forum? – will check notes later. Lindsy - police contact. Lindsy or David want to write?]

2. Setup local groups to support people that want to take up cycling to get around the city.

The model used by the Covid Mutual Support network could be applied to promoting cycling in the city. Ward based groups could be set up to help and support people that want to cycle around the city. This could be used to learn what are the local barriers for people cycling, to help people that don't know the best routes to cycle around the city, to help get cycles repaired, to involve ward councillors in cycling.

[Lyn says - nice idea – similar to what we said we'd do with cllrs, as "e" above]

3. Create pop-up cycle lanes ... as AOB "a"

4. Survey people post lockdown to find out what they thought were the benefits of having fewer vehicles on the roads: less air pollution, carrying out daily exercise, less vehicle noise.

ALL –please write to letters@dailyecho.co.uk and more.

Lyn will send email to Wade about a, b and d1 and d2. Lyn will write to Echo about b.

9. Last thoughts...

-- Anyone want to offer to join a working group / suggest and take on a new role?

-- If want to feedback on meeting, please do. What could improve it?

-- Next meeting will be on second Monday of next month. Next AGM in March 2021. The Meeting closed 7:40pm.