

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign

Held at Stone Cottage, Chelmondiston, at 10.30am, on Monday 23rd March 2015

Present: Mike Crouch, Cathy Crouch, Tony Gould, Giles Goyder, Jane Goyder, Mike Havard, Rosie Kirkup.

1. Apologies:

Karla Powell, Sally Williams.

2. Community path

a) Ipswich to Freston section: MC wrote to Graham Chamberlain at Babergh DC in January, waited 2 months for a reply and contacted him again. GC's comment was that he did not want tarmac for the path surface in certain locations (but this is where we are not proposing to use it in any case). We shall be using tarmac adjacent to roads, and will be consulting with all stakeholders (SCC, landowners, Parish Councils, etc), regarding suitable surfacing elsewhere.

As part of the planning application, we have to do a landscape survey and an ecological survey which Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, and Sue Hooton at SCC, are willing to do for a modest fee.

b) Shotley section: TG has left answer machine messages with Alana, (regarding her garden at the start of the housing at Shotley gate), and also Richard Wrinch, to try to arrange a meeting, to see if this break in the existing footway can be resolved. So far, no response from either party.

3. Cycling survey:

In Summer 2011, SPCC carried out a survey of cycling activity on the B1456, and in the autumn did a questionnaire which asked 7 questions about current cycling habits, and how having a cycle path might change these habits. The committee agreed that it would be good to repeat this exercise, once again targeting our members, the 2 secondary schools on the peninsula, and other public locations such as the surgeries, shops, churches, etc. An on-line questionnaire could also be considered.

It was agreed, however, to wait until after planning permission has been granted, so that we have up-to-date data when seeking grants.

4. Ganges and S106 offer:

The Ganges Planning Application is going to be considered by the BDC Planning Committee on Wednesday 25th March, when BDC are likely to be approving the scheme. The long delay has been caused by lengthy negotiations regarding S106 payments, with the applicant trying to further water-down the draft agreement.

In November 2013, the Shotley section of the Community path was allocated £195,000.00. Now, the sum of money is still the same, but instead of it being payable in one go at the start of the building process, it would now be payable in 4 phases.

Other money (up to a possible £130,000) previously allocated for other facilities, could also be made available for the community path, and if the financial viability of the development improves, further funding could also be triggered.

Phasing could be a problem, however, as the path would not be available for use until the building works were completed. Meanwhile there will almost certainly be a lot more heavy traffic on the B1456. Travel habits could become established and it may be difficult to persuade people to change to using the community path.

A further problem arises if the developers stop building just before a trigger point for paying S106 money is reached. This frequently happens.

MC suggests writing to all the planning committee members making these points, and asking that S106 money should be payable upfront.

5. Quiet lanes:

The SPCC committee agreed that, whilst it remained interested in the concept of Quiet lanes, the inconclusive results of the Phase 1, near Woodbridge,(with only a small increase in cycling and no reduction in other traffic), meant that the committee did not feel that this was the right moment to proceed with this scheme on the Shotley peninsula. The committee will continue to monitor the QL scheme while pressing ahead with the SPCC's own plans for creating the Community Path.

6. Meeting with Philip Mayhew:

TG reported that this has not yet taken place.

7. Report from Sub-Committee:

TG reported that no meeting had taken place since last reporting. Improvements are still waiting to go: use of the path across Church field has the approval of the Girls High School. However, he has still had no response from Stennets regarding using the footpath next to the road between the High School entrance and Berners Lane. Mr Stennett will be contacted again by letter.

8. Publicity etc.

a) Website: This is up to date. TG will be tweaking it so that it is mobile phone and tablet-friendly.

Payment of £10.79 for the domain name was approved

b) Newsletter: Little to report, so will wait until at least after the AGM to issue one.

c) In Touch magazine: as above.

9. Treasurer's report:

No report available.

10. Membership update:

JG reported a total membership of 218, plus 8 organisations.

11. Minutes and matters arising:

TG will try to contact the group known as the Peninsula Peddlers and try to recruit some of them to the SPCC.

All other matters arising had been dealt with, as above.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24.11.14 were signed as a true record.

12. AOB:

GG asked if David Wood was being kept informed of our progress. MC responded that he has been keeping in touch.

Date of next meeting: AGM on May 18th, at the Church Room, Chelmondiston, with a very short committee update before the meeting.

Next committee meeting to be arranged in due course.