

Minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of the Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign

Held at the Maytrees, Woolverstone, at 9.30am, on Thursday 3rd November 2016

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

1. Apologies:

Karla Powell.

2. Progress so far of SPCC:

- Formally constituted the group, and acquired a sizeable individual membership plus 7 group memberships that include the local schools and others.
- Got S106 money allocated for the Shotley section of the route from the proposed Ganges development.
- Gained grant money to pay for studies of the proposed route, carried out by Suffolk County Council and Sustrans, which identified and mapped the draft route.
- Have carried out a detailed survey of traffic using the B1456 at Wherstead and at Shotley, including the number of cyclists.
- Have carried out a widespread survey of people`s views on cycling, and its benefits and dangers.
- Ran two successful cycling events for children.
- Have the backing of the local schools, Parish Councils etc.; aims of SPCC written into the travel plans of Chelmondiston and Holbrook primary schools.
- Have £3000 of resources.
- Co-operation of some landowners.

3. Problems encountered by SPCC:

- Unwillingness of some landowners to allow use of their footpaths or land for the “path”.
- Lack of real support from SCC and BDC, especially now SCC no longer has a cycling team to call upon for advice etc.
- Continuing lack of progress re. the Ganges development.
- Network of paths that are either only footpaths, or simply private farm tracks.
- Insufficient land, eg roadside verges, in public ownership.
- Lack of obvious progress, leading to loss of some members since the start of the campaign.
- Not relevant to all of the Shotley Peninsula, especially Holbrook, Tattingstone, Stutton and beyond.
- Committee has insufficient technical skills, so have had to pay for expert advice and preparation of plans.
- Insufficient political will, and lack of public money.
- Bad image of some cyclists, eg those who jump red lights etc.
- Potential problems caused by use of path by different groups (cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchairs, buggies).

4. How do we procede?

- MH: our focus should be on getting a path near to the route of the B1456.
- RK: if we don`t promote the route there is no other body out there that will.
- MC: should we mothball the Ipswich to Freston section, following what seems to be an insoluble set-back?

- MH: we should go ahead with the Ipswich to Freston section, with the path taking to the B1456 for 0.6miles along the Strand.
- CC: would a 30mph speed limit and signage along the Strand help?
- CC: should Freston Hill be moved into the next section, ie the Freston to Chelmondiston section

5. Decisions reached:

- Section 1 (Ipswich to Freston): defer further work until decision reached next June at AGM. This proposal was agreed by 5 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.
- Section 2 (Freston to Chelmondiston): continue to work on this section. This was unanimously agreed.
- Section 3 (Chelmondiston to Shotley): form a new subcommittee to look at this section in greater detail. This was unanimously agreed. RK and SW volunteered to participate.
- Section 4 (Chelmondiston to Shotley): it was unanimously agreed to wait for further developments with the Ganges development.
- Southern route: SPCC should seek to be involved in the designation and improvement of a southern route (along south side of peninsula to Holbrook then, via bridleways, through the woods at Freston, to Wherstead village, and down Bourne Hill to Bourne Bridge), and forming part of the Sustrans network.

6. Membership:

- JG commented that this has dwindled, and she was reluctant to send out more reminder letters without anything positive to report.
- It was agreed that renewal letters should not be sent out until there was something positive to report, eg. when funding, for the proposed southern route, is applied for / received by Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Project.
- CC suggested that, in future, membership should be free, with donations welcomed. It was agreed to put this proposal to the next AGM. This should help to retain members.

7. Fundraising:

- SW suggested there was no point in collecting more money from our members when SPCC has reserves of £3000, and no significant expenditure in sight. The committee agreed with this view.

8. Sources of technical expertise and other suggestions:

- JG will check out Simon Hewitt's original membership form.
- JG suggested that we should try to get more on Twitter, and ask, in the next newsletter, that our members tweet their cycling related news.

9. Conclusions:

- Concentrate on improving the actual routes on the ground, as set out in item 5, above.
- Try to drive forward progress on the Woolverstone section, in particular.
- Organising events and other campaigning best left to other bodies to do.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th December, 9.30am, at Maytrees, Woolverstone.