A10 Cycling Corridor Campaign meeting

Venue: Elin Way community room, Meldreth

Date and time: 7:30 – 9:00, Wednesday 19th May 2013

Present: John Somerville, John Meadows, Jill Meadows, Mike Stapleton, Matt Scales, Susan van de Ven, Rob Cubitt, Neil Morris, Ann Barnes, Terry Adams, Bob Brookes, Hugh Pollock, Esther Ford, Tim Moore, Joe Kennedy, Chris Taylor, Rod Taylor, Don Taylor

1. Welcome
2. Apologies: Mark Wyer, Aidan Van De Weyer, David White, John Rogger, Tina Filby, Ian Driver, Barbara Gowling, Joe Sheridan

Also noted that some people couldn't make Wednesdays

3. Notes of previous meeting presented and accepted
4. Treasurer's report (Neil)

We have a constitution and are now allowed to have a bank account. This has been set up with Cambridge Building Society and contains £10 left over from petty cash plus £50 from TTP and £100 from Mario.

Action: David White (not present) who requested the money from TTP has volunteered to write a letter of thanks

The teas for the ride cost £100 and we collected more than £100 in donations.

Sensible requests for kit or expenses can now be considered although receipts are needed and any significant expenditure should be agreed in advance.

Initial suggestion from the Treasurer included a large teapot, cash to help update the website and A10CC fluorescent jackets.

Note: After the meeting there was also discussion of getting the often mentioned helmet cam. Does anyone have one, or would anyone recommend a specific one (with microphone?)

5. Update - May 19th Ride

Thanks to all who attended and helped organise. Royston had around 70 present and Trumpington reached 118!

Media coverage was good with Anglia, BBC, Cambridge Evening news and Royson Crow.

It was notes that the Crow appeared to have received two reports and photos which pushed the photo of all the riders out of the coverage. It was suggested that a more coordinated press communications structure would have helped avoid this.

6. Update – Royston Group and Royston Connect 2 (Sustrans funding pot)

This is the funding that covered the Royston Combes underpass. Coincidentally for the 1st anniversary of the opening of the underpass Sustrans were in Royston on the 22nd and 23rd May. The 22nd was a clinic where locals could give opinions and influence priorities. The 23rd was a large closed meeting with numerous officials including the director of Sustrans where SVDV, MS and JM were present.

JM reported 50% of opinions related to cycling outside Royston and 50% inside with the large number of people interested in cycling out of Royston surprising Sustrans.

Priorities within Royston were:

1. Upgrade Baldock road to MacDonald's
2. Cycling provision on Mebourn Road
3. Butcher Baulk (cut through from Melbourn Road to the station)
4. Opening up Ivy farm Bridge

Priorities outside Royston were:

1. A505 and route to Melbourn
2. Route on A1198 to Bassingbourn
3. Opening up Ivy farm Bridge
4. Route along A505 to Litlington turn off

SVDV notes that Sustrans' maps appeared to represent a route from Royston along the A10 and pointed out to Sustrans that this was not the case so the maps could be updated to reflect this deficiency.

JM successfully suggested that one of the younger Sustrans staff members ride along the A10 path from Royston after the meeting on the 23rd and provided him with a road bike.

It was also noted that the A10 Path from Royston to Melbourn has just undergone 'siding out' (grass cleared to extend to full width. It was suggested that the SCDC officials responsible (Patrick Joyce and Mike Cooper) were thanked.

Action: Rod to thank Patrick and Mike Directly (SVDV to provide email)

Action: Matt to write 'Thanks for a step in the right direction' type letter to the Crow/Evening-News

7. Update – SVDV update on Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire:

A transport strategy is being created for the city to village routes due to anticipated large population growth to 2031 including new settlements at Bourn airfield and Waterbeach, alongside general growth. The A10 is an essential corridor in the south Cambridge region in danger of gridlock so there is a desire to improve cycling and rail stations along this route to reduce reliance on car journeys. Consultation is planned this summer and A10CC should respond. The doc is 111 pages and link will be posted on the website (http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Committees/AgendaItem.aspx?agendaItemID=6

990)

Action: SVDV check link is present on web page to consultation document.

Foxton level crossing upgrade is now within realm of possibility and subject of a feasibility study by Network Rail who acknowledge that doing nothing is not an option. This upgrade may be a Foxton Bypass featuring a bridge or underpass and is likely to include a crossing point and a hopefully bit of cycle path. Longer platforms on all village stations and Foxton becoming a bike and car hub for rail travel to Cambridge was also under consideration.

Patrick Joyce (cycling officer at County Council) has applied for a £300k funding from 'Cycling Ambition' to improve links from Cambridge to Foxton Station and has requested ideas from the A10CC. These funds are insufficient for the entire route so there was discussion about how narrow a route could be and if solar lighting was needed. There was clear (but not unanimous) feeling that the goal should be a full 2.5m wide cycle path.

SVDV noted that how such a Cambridge to Foxton scheme would link to the Foxton bypass/underpass-or-bridge was critical.

It was suggested that we needed a clear and detailed goal & strategy to assist in evaluating such potentially piece-meal funding.

Also mentioned was crossing the A10 (more difficult that riding along it) and cycling links from a village station to the rest of the village.

8. Website ideas board – please take a look
9. Other events and regular rides
   Discussed at length – fun summer ride coinciding with Bike Week...
10. Campaign strategy

Suggested to learn from other campaigning organisations. i.e. List of who to write with customisable sample letters. Easy way to get more letters out with a coherent message.

(see http://stoplitlingtonwindfarm.com/Howtoobject/tabid/89/Default.aspx for an effective example of a local cross county campaigning website)

Rod mentioned that Sustrans champion long distance bike routes and that they were currently lacking a Cambridge to London Route. Could the A10CC help tick this box too for Sustrans?

11. AGM

Hold at Foxton and invite Sustrans, councillors, MPs, Cycling officers.

Foxton was chosen due to the anticipated attendance of Sustrans (who championed Royson underpass) and as it is a potential site for a bridge or underpass.

Please note: AGM date changed to September 24th, 7 for 7:30, Foxton Village Hall