



## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Safe Routes Working Group to  
be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at  
12pm via Zoom conferencing.**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Malcom Eastwood (ME), Gill Perry (GP), Steve Sample (SS), Roger Noel (RN), Julie Coultas (JC), Paul Crowe (PC)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Francis Vernon from Horsham District Cycling Forum (HDCF) Belinda Samrah (BS)

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Samantha Leader, Julia Simpson and David Jemmett and Lynn Shepherd.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**  
These were approved.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**  
There were none.

3. **HORSHAM DISTRICT CYCLING FORUM Francis Vernon of HDCF will hear concerns about some safe routes. Presentation on HDCF.** ME welcomed Francis Vernon who said he was keen to hear about local problems. ME explained the background to the working group with a view to creating or linking routes that allow walkers, cyclists, runners and horse riders to avoid main and busy roads where possible. He said that seven routes had been identified

Francis's presentation is included with these minutes.

4. **SIX ROUTES – TO RECEIVE UPDATES**

1. **Safe cycling link between Small Dole and the Downs Link - Led by ME and SS** – ME confirmed that he and SS had met with land owner of Farm, ME has also spoken with another land owner who also owns land at S Farm. Some clearance needed and Works Team notified. ME said that both happy with the routes for cyclists. Second land owner had asked for a proposal, with his major concern being the safety of his livestock and therefore secure gates or closures would be necessary, he is also keen that the wildlife should be conserved. ME said that the next step is to speak with WSCC and the possibility of making it a permissive route for say 12 months which he felt may be only 7 or 8 months in reality because of the mud present through much of the autumn and winter. He said that WSCC would have an idea of the best materials to make the route hard wearing and even. He thought that a bridge may need to be replaced.

**ACTION POINT** – ME to Contact WSCC about what can be done, ideally to walk the route with them and then prepare a proposal for both land owners.

2. **Safe walking/cycling link between Business Parks and Henfield Village perhaps then extended to Woods Mill and SDNP - Led by PC, SL and GP** – ME said that he had tried to speak with land owner and will continue to try. RN confirmed that he had spoken with land owner of H Farm although the route did not actually go through the farm he would be amenable to providing a cycle path through H Farm. He said he would be happy to provide help.

**ACTION POINT** – RN, PC and SL to contact land owner again and see what could be possible.

3. **Safe cycling link between Henfield and Sussex Prairie Gardens avoiding the need to use the busy Wheatsheaf Road - Led by LS and RK** - ME confirmed that this route was used for the Walk for Louise which was good but that the number of stiles make it difficult for cyclists. ME said that he would rather prioritise other routes first and then revisit routes 3, 4 and 5.
4. **Safe bridleway/walking link between Furners Lane/Furners Mead and Blackstone - Led by JC and RN** –JC confirmed that there was no further progress and that it is likely to take another year at least.
5. **Safe walking link between the Downs (at Fulking) and Henfield avoiding A281 wherever possible - Led by PC and SL** – It was agreed to revisit this route when ME has spoken with Land owner.
6. **Safe bridleway link between Henfield and Woodmancote Place avoiding A281 – Led by JC, DJ and RN** – ME confirmed that he had tried to speak with Land owners. RN confirmed that S is changing hands but staying in family, daughter will take over, and JC confirmed that she would be sympathetic. It was agreed that JC and RN would report back when the timing would be right to have a conversation with her.
7. **Safe Permissive Bridleway from Henfield Common to Furners Mead** – ME confirmed that he had tried to speak with Land owner of D, but JC said she had spoken to her and that she had confirmed that she does not own the footpath but that it was owned by V. JC had been able to speak with one of the daughters who appeared sympathetic to a bridleway. JC felt that the next step would be a need to be an official approach to the family. It was thought that this route was not suitable to ride a cycle as the surface is uneven and that the end by the Common is a blind corner so signs would be better each end suggesting cyclists dismount and push their cycles through.

**ACTION POINT** – ME to Contact WSCC about what can be done and also to contact the V family with a proposal. It would then be necessary to contact the neighbours on either side of the alleyway.

JC confirmed that Land owner is happy for horses to use the path. ME said that he felt that Henfield's Village Amenities Committee should be approached and possibly social media posts would be useful once progress had been made.

**ACTION POINT** – BS to make sure this matter was on VA agenda for next week.

## **5. AGREE NEXT STEPS**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. West Sussex Draft Transport Plan – ME submitted HPC views – This was noted
2. British Cycling - Places to Ride Crowdfunder UK –This was noted.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JC said that she needed to put up four notices in Dagbrook lane and wanted to know who to contact. ME asked that she speaks with land owners before doing anything and BS agreed to provide details.

Francis said that at the northern end of Downslink near Rudgwick a young man had been killed and that there is a campaign to provide a Bridge. PC said that he was aware of the junction and it's dangers. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgethedownslink>

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – To be Confirmed but likely to be 8 to 10 weeks.