



Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign
Newsletter No. 21, August 2018

www.spcc.info

The SPCC has just held its AGM for 2018, marking the end of my first year in the chair. We are delighted to welcome three new faces to the committee, following the loss of two long standing committee members, Giles and Jane Goyder who have moved to the south coast. See below for details of our new committee.

Since our setback in 2017 regarding the Bourne Bridge to Freston Hill section of the route we have had to consider other priorities, one of which was supporting the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB funding bid to promote a cycle route along the southern side of the Shotley Peninsula. This would have produced some upgraded surfacing of bridleways in the Freston area and new signage along quieter roads through Holbrook, Harkstead and Erwarnton. Sadly their bid was unsuccessful, but recently there have been further developments, as set out in paragraph 5, below.

The group has also had to grapple with GDPR, which became law in May this year. All our members were contacted to ask permission to retain their contact details, and therefore continue to contact them. In hindsight, and in the light of much clearer advice that was issued subsequently by the relevant authorities, we almost certainly did not need to have jumped through this particular hoop and needless to say, we lost quite a number of our members unnecessarily. We would love to increase our membership again: if you can help by recruiting some new members (and remember that membership is now free), the SPCC committee would be extremely grateful, as more members give us a louder voice.

One piece of positive news, later in the autumn, followed a meeting held with the landowner of fields to the Orwell River side of the B1456 from the Freston Boot into Woolverstone village, who said that he might be willing to entertain having a cycle path on the field edge following the B1456, on the East/North side. This led us to re-consider what route we might take coming up Freston Hill, as it would make sense to stay on the river side, if possible, to meet up with this field edge path. We have had an informal “walk through” of this section with a retired highway engineer, who is very supportive of us, and he has been quite positive about the possibilities of creating a cycle path here. Our next step will be to commission him to carry out a feasibility study.

Earlier this year we had further discussions with people from the AONB and County Council Rights of Way teams regarding plans for reviving the Southern Route by putting in a bid for different EU funding. A useful discussion took place about that and about how the route might dovetail with our “spine” route and on into Ipswich. The possibility was also raised that the route could be called “The Shotley Peninsula Green Way” and use our logo on the signs.

Seizing the initiative, we asked for a further meeting to include Rights of Way people, County Highways, AONB people and Cllr. Dave Wood (in both his capacities as chairman of the AONB and County Cllr.) At this meeting we requested a review of safety for the crossing point on the slip roads where the A137 crosses the A14 as this would be an ideal solution for enabling the "Southern Route" to link straight into Ipswich and to meet up with our projected route from Shotley Gate to Bourne Bridge.

The Ganges development s106 funding was also discussed and we were pleased to hear that money is still earmarked for the section of our route from Shotley Gate to Shotley Street. We also have a short term plan for using some bridleway routes in Chelmondiston as an alternative to using the B1456, until such time as we are able to concentrate on a field edge path for getting between Chelmondiston and Erwarton/Shotley, although this short-term option requires further discussion with landowners.

So, despite an unpromising beginning to the year 2017-18, we have made progress, we have areas on which to focus with reasonable prospects of success, and we are maintaining our important links with county departments and local district organisations. The County Council, spurred on by Green Party member Robert Lindsay, agreed at a meeting on 19th July that they would push for a network of safe cycling routes. Unfortunately they did not vote the funding required for this, but it means we should be able to count on more positive support from the County for what we are doing.

For more information about the Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign please visit our website: www.spcc.info

To contact us, email us at admin@spcc.info

Rosie Kirkup (Chairperson)

Committee:

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| Chairperson | Rosie Kirkup |
| Secretary | Cathy Crouch |
| Treasurer | Sally Williams |
| Membership | Mike Crouch |
| Webmaster | Tony Gould |

Committee members:

Mike Havard
Jez Meredith
Karla Powell
Denise Tinker

Co-opted member:

Sean Tinker