

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign

Held at the Church Room, Chelmondiston, at 6.00pm, on Wednesday 13th July 2016

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

1. Apologies:

None.

2. Wherstead to Freston section of route:

After several years of positive negotiations with the Pauls, the SPCC has received the unwelcome news that they have changed their minds about the cycle route crossing the B1456 at the entrance to Suffolk Food Hall, using their access road as far as the footpath crossing it, and then following the footpath as far as Redgate Lane. Unless the Pauls can be persuaded to change their minds again, an alternative route needs to be identified, although previous research has failed to find another suitable route.

After some discussion it was agreed that there were four other possibilities:

a) Cross the road at Foxes Marina, and use the footpath that runs up the south side of the Oyster Reach PH, then turns south behind the houses on the Strand, coming out half way up the access road to Suffolk Food Hall.

b) Cross the B1456 under the Orwell Bridge, using the existing concrete access road to a storage area, then following the footpath to Suffolk Food Hall, as above.

c) Form a new access immediately south of the Anglian Water site at the south end of the houses on the Strand.

d) Continue past the entrance to Suffolk Food Hall on the river side of the road, crossing slightly further towards Freston, onto the grass verge, and use the verge for the path as far as Redgate Lane.

Alternative “d” was then ruled out, owing to various problems (which MC had identified when he looked at this alternative again, prior to this meeting): verge is too narrow in parts, and there is a small area of Higher Level Stewardship land before getting to Red Gate Lane, which English Nature are highly unlikely to allow the path anywhere near. Option “b” was also seen as unlikely to be permitted due to projected commercial use of the access and storage area. It was therefore agreed to concentrate on options “a” and “c”.

MC has spoken to Paula Booth at SCHP, who is going to get her manager to look into this problem for us. Other people SPCC could ask to intercede include James Cartlidge MP, Suffolk County Councillor Dave Wood, and the recently formed Shotley Peninsula Tourism Action Group.

Another meeting with the Pauls will need to be arranged. MC, MH and others to attend.

2. Sub-committee:

Following the recent sub-committee meeting, three options have been identified for getting through Woolverstone:

a) When coming from Ipswich, turning left at the top of Freston Hill along the farm road which is at present a public footpath, crossing Mannings Lane, then following Pratts Lane as far as the road down to Woolverstone Marina. This route then links into the agreed route across Church Field.

b) At the top of Freston Hill, create a new edge-of-field path on the north side of the B1456, as suggested by the land-owner, up to the start of the houses in Woolverstone. The path would then

have to use the road, appropriately traffic-calmed, until it could transfer onto the footway up to Mannings Lane, and continue as a) above.

c) Keep to the west side of the B1456 on a new field edge path, cross the Holbrook road just past Freston Crossroads, and then proceed via tracks and footpaths on the south side of the village of Woolverstone.

The conclusion reached by the sub-committee was that option "b" should be looked at further.

Once past Woolverstone Hall, the committee felt that it was worth looking again into using "Phil's Path" through to Berners Lane, as there was possibly a softening in attitude towards this suggestion. However, when the next meeting with Woolverstone PC takes place, the other option, of using the existing public footpath next to the B1456 (on Mr Stennett's land) should also be put forward for them to consider.

3. Tourism action group:

MC reported to the committee that this new group had contacted him by email. The group's remit seems to be the promotion of low-key green tourism on the Shotley Peninsula. Wider membership of the group runs to about 80 stakeholders, but with a smaller group that the SPCC has been asked to join. MC had responded that SPCC will be happy to be involved, and the rest of the committee agreed with this. A meeting is to be arranged shortly.

4. Shotley section of the route:

TG reported that he had received a request for a contribution towards the cost of remedying the break in the footway at Little Oaks, Shotley Gate. The committee felt that with the SPCC's very limited funds it would be hard to justify making any contribution.

5. Minutes and matters arising:

The minutes of the previous meeting (9.5.16) will be considered at the next committee meeting.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st September 2016, 9.30am, at Fennel Cottage.