



"Working for a cycle-friendly Reading"

www.readingcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Reading Cycle Campaign Annual General Meeting 2024

Wednesday 16th October 7.00 pm
RISC, London Street RG1 4PS

AGENDA

1. Welcome from Chair.
2. Acceptance of minutes of 2023 AGM.
3. Acceptance of reports from officers.
4. Acceptance of accounts.
5. The election of officers for 2024 – 25:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Membership Secretary
 - v. Events Co-ordinator
 - vi. Publicity Officer
 - vii. Newsletter Editor
 - viii. Campaign Officer Reading
 - ix. Campaign Officer Wokingham
 - x. Campaign Officer West Berks
 - xi. Web Manager
 - xii. Cycling UK Liaison
 - xiii. Co-opted Members
6. AOB.

The AGM business will be followed by a presentation by Roger Geffen MBE from Low Traffic Future.

Attachments:

1. Chair's Report
2. Reading Campaign Report
3. West Berks Campaign Report
4. Wokingham Campaign Report
5. Membership Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Minutes of 2023 AGM



Committee Chair's Report

The year started well with a number of new committee members being elected at the 2023 AGM. It was very good to see all the committee roles filled and it was especially good that Keith Collyer was prepared to take on the challenge of Membership secretary. During the year he has organised the transition to a new and more effective on-line membership system that will be easier to operate and provide facilities to cope with a growth in membership.

We have been fortunate to have the expertise and enthusiasm that Susan Children has brought to publicity for the campaign and through Kat Heath we have benefitted from close links with Kidical Mass.

Stuart Ward has taken on the challenges of the website and provides the committee with valuable technical advice. I would publicly like to thank these and all the other long serving members of the committee for their commitment to the Campaign's objectives.

I feel we are now in a very good place and have the experience and expertise to comment with authority on the schemes that our local councils are proposing and I hope that increasingly we will be consulted much earlier in the planning process and that our views will be given considerably more weight. It is good that the new John Ennis, Lead Councillor for Climate and Transport at RBC is a cyclist and is very supportive of our efforts despite his grilling at our 2023 AGM. It was even better that our Mayor Glenn Dennis chose to join as a member.

The campaign has had a presence at a number of events over the year and this has led to a welcome number of new members which all helps to get our message out to a wider population. Karen Robertson has been as busy as ever especially over the Reading Cycle Festival this September. It is always good to meet our members at these events and encourage them to get more involved.

We have been able to provide free bicycle marking kits thanks to an award from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner. Sadly though, the number of kits that have been registered is less than we would have liked. The bike marking sessions again have been useful in getting the Campaign more widely known.

The newsletter has gone from strength to strength this year under Alice Elliotts' editorship. The idea of having a theme for the each edition seems to have gone down well from the feedback I have seen. In these days of everything being on a screen, I for one still love to have the paper copy to read.

We have not this year seen any major new developments to the cycling infrastructure in our local area. The Shinfield Road scheme has ground to an unfinished halt and proposals for schemes on Castle Hill and other places are still under discussion. We try to keep closely in touch with the planners but cutbacks in local authority budgets mean that far too much is being farmed out to external consultancies who may not know the particular local challenges and opportunities.

The infrequent cycle forums that are held by RBC and also by West Berks do provide one opportunity to influence policy and our area campaigners, John Lee, Tony Carr, Alex Cran and Rob Hill keep up the pressure to consider cyclists in all planning schemes.

The finances of the campaign show taking out the one-off purchase of bike marking kits, that we spent about £1300 on our activities last year and this was not quite matched by our income. There are a number of ideas for developing the reach and effectiveness of the campaign, but most of these will require more expenditure than can currently be supported by our income. The committee has therefore agreed to ask the membership for an increase in subscriptions. We will



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call an EGM in the new year, where we will put forward our plans for consideration. As the subs have not changed in the forty years since it's foundation, we feel that a modest increase will start to bring us back in line with modern prices.

Final thanks must go to our secretary Keith Elliott and our treasurer Brian Morley, whose experience and advice have greatly contributed to what has been a very good year of campaigning.

Joe Edwards, Chair.



Reading Borough Campaign Officer's AGM Report

The end of last year started well with an AGM attended by the new Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy & Transport John Ennis. We hoped that cycling would have a more positive future. Instead, most schemes and proposals seem to have ground to a halt. Why this lack of progress? Maybe lack of staff resources, as well as cycling and walking being the poor relation to buses.

The good news is that the station subway is now open to shared use by cyclists and pedestrians. Unfortunately signing, marking and dropped kerbs are yet to be completed and the building works on the south side confuse the route further. The status of other cycle related schemes is as follows:

- Works to the Shinfield Road cycle lanes or tracks came to a halt months ago, but new government money has apparently been made available to complete the works. Signing is still to be completed and we are still unhappy with the University entrance and link to Redlands Road.
- Funding for design work at Christchurch Green junction now has government approval and preliminary designs are to be discussed.
- The Bath Road and Castle Hill scheme has been given financial approval by government, but RCC is waiting for consultation on the latest proposals.
- The Cycle Hub proposal failed to happen because the site in West Street fell through.
- The Sidmouth Road junction at Queens Road has been approved for design (only) this year.
- Town centre signing was improved a year ago, but there are still no (or incorrect/unclear) signs at the Town Hall Square and some other locations which fail to show that cycling is permitted.
- The Redlands Road area traffic calming has yet to be rectified/improved over a year after the joint site visit with RBC.
- London Road bus lane east of Cemetery Junction has been opened and may be of use to westbound cyclists. We were not consulted on this scheme.
- Despite massive building projects in the town centre, it seems that little provision is being made for cyclists. Cycling improvements are to be proposed for Greyfriars Road and Garrard Street.

Over a year ago we submitted a list of proposals for good design practices for cycle and other road schemes, in order to try to minimise the problems we keep finding in scheme designs. This has yet to be approved. We also submitted a list of good practice for Crossings, which likewise has yet to be approved.

We hope that 2024-25 will see more of the changes required to meet the climate emergency challenge.

John Lee Reading Borough Campaign Officer

West Berks Campaign Officer's AGM Report

West Berkshire Council covers a significant part of greater Reading to the west, including Purley, Pangbourne, parts of Tilehurst, Calcot, Theale, Burghfield and Mortimer.

Most of the Council's cycling related work has focused on Newbury and Thatcham, however there have been developments in the past year in two cycle related projects in the eastern part of the borough.

Theale-Calcot connector motorway footbridge:

A feasibility study has been completed, using Active Travel England funding. The study focuses on the potential future replacement of the 50+ year-old, narrow pedestrian bridge west of M4 Junction 12, with a replacement structure that would be suitable for cycling as well as walking.

The initial estimate cost is £5.39M for physical replacement of the bridge structure alone, with costs for land acquisition, legals and construction of approaches on top of this. No funding is presently earmarked for further design work or construction.



A329 Pangbourne to Purley cycle path:

This project continues to make progress with West Berkshire Council and approval has been given to develop an outline design in-house and pursue investigations, following on from the feasibility study and focussing on the proposed off-carriageway section between the eastern end of Pangbourne and western end of Purley. WBC is exploring with Sulham Estate on what basis they might be prepared to make a strip of land available for a bike path.



National Cycle Network Route 4, towpath & related matters

Work has been taking place at several locations along the canal towpath. Sustrans has channelled funding to restore a dilapidated section of the Kennet & Avon canal towpath, approximately 2.4 km in length, used by NCN4 between Aldermaston Wharf and Ufton Lane and also improved a section close to the Cunning Man pub. The works significantly improve access for walking and wheeling as well as cycling. Members who have ridden this section have noticed the improved surface but there are sections further west that still require improvement.





A member raised the problem of the very steep steps which hinder wheeled access to Milkmaid's Bridge. The bridge provides an important link between the towpath and Southcote and Calcot; it is just inside the Reading Borough Council area.

A number of schemes along the towpath in the Newbury / Thatcham area are in the process of development, Hambridge Road crossing, Ham Bridge to Bull's Lock, east of Newbury and Victoria Park to Northbrook Street, Newbury.

Extension/s to the Eling Way

Work continues identifying preferred routes along the old railway line for future extensions northward (Hampstead Norreys to Compton and allowing for extension towards Upton/Didcot) and southward (Hermitage-Curridge-Long Lane-Shaw-Newbury).

School Streets and training

School Street, Francis Baily School, Skillman Drive, Thatcham: Scheme introduced with effect from 05/09/23.

85% of West Berkshire schools involved with Bikeability in 2022-23 – hoping to extend to 94% in 2023-24.

WBC will be using funds from ATE to introduce a scheme to make primary school students who use push-along scooters more confident in their use.

An update was provided on the pioneering School Streets Driver Education Programme which has been developed as a bolster to the School Streets scheme initially introduced in Calcot, using money secured by WBC from Active Travel England.

Schemes in Newbury and Thatcham.

Full details of completed and planned schemes in Newbury and Thatcham can be found in the West Berkshire section of the RCC quarterly newsletters.

- Stockcross Linkway Stage 2: from A4/B4000 roundabout to Speen Lane,
- Old Bath Road, Speen/Newbury: A4 Western Avenue to eastern junction of Speen Lane/access to Goldwell Park,
- Western Avenue Stage 2, Newbury: from Waitrose roundabout through to Chestnut Crescent estate
- Robin Hood Active Travel Improvements: modelling commissioned of impacts of proposals for at-grade crossings of A339 and A4
- Donnington Heights and Shaw Valley active travel link

Rob Hill West Berkshire Campaign Officer



Wokingham Campaign Officer's AGM Report

Political change

In the past couple of years the council has changed from Conservative controlled to Lib Dem coalition control. In July this year Wokingham also elected its first ever Lib Dem MP Clive Jones and we said goodbye to the Right hon. John Redwood who had been our MP since 1987.

It isn't party political to say that the new MP and executive member for transport are far more approachable and pre-disposed towards active travel than their predecessors and this can only be a good thing going forward.

Tanhouse Bridge

The biggest thing not to happen in Wokingham was the Tanhouse bridge, this was the single span bridge designed to replace two old railway bridges across the lines in central Wokingham. Local campaigns attempting to convince Network Rail to build this with ramps failed and the bridge was due to be completed in Feb 2024 with steps that could be retrofitted.

The contractor went bankrupt and so since January 2024 we have a bridge but with no steps or ramps to use! What will happen is still yet to be decided, if the council can find the money to install ramps this would be a huge plus for active travel, but in the current financial climate this is a big ask. We will look out for any news on this one.

Woodley cycle scheme

After securing funding for this scheme before any real consultation, the public consultations were then opposed by a small but vocal group which stalled the process. This has been ongoing for a couple of years and there have been two redesigns to try to accommodate concerns.

We are waiting for news on what will happen next but hope this will go ahead as funding from the Active Travel Funds were agreed and are still on the table, making this one of the few funded schemes locally. Hopefully we will hear some more on this before Christmas. Look out for further updates.

A329 Reading road consultation

The council secured funding for a design and survey on active travel schemes on the A329 from Winnersh into Wokingham.

All 3 phases of this survey were completed earlier this year and whilst no results have been made public, I have heard that the responses were generally favourable towards active travel which is great.

We hope to see some of the survey results released soon, this would then form the public consultation part of any scheme which would mean Wokingham would have an 'oven ready' scheme that could be put forward for any funding that may be announced.

Whilst this is not as good as having funding agreed for the work, it would be a big step forward and should avoid the issues such as have been seen in Woodley.

Kidical Mass

We continued to run Kidical Mass in Wokingham every other month. We rely on a very small pool of volunteers to run the Wokingham rides and had to cancel a ride in August due to too many marshalls having other commitments.



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If anyone lives locally or otherwise and would like to help out, please come along and meet us and volunteer as much or as little as you would like, it all helps!

Local Transport Plan

This has now been updated, although the final report has not been released. You can however see a draft report here:

<https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/a-new-local-transport-plan-for-wokingham-borough>

It seems to be an improvement on the last one and mostly says the right things about active travel.

Alex Cran Wokingham Campaign Officer



Membership Secretary's AGM Report

This year saw us change our membership administration system from LoveAdmin to Membermojo. The main reason for this is that the change to LoveAdmin's fee structure would have meant approximately 30% of our membership income would be paid out in their fees. In contrast, Membermojo is considerably cheaper at £95/year for up to five hundred members, which amounts to around 30p or 10% per current member. As a side benefit, so far, Membermojo seems easier to use and the support team have been very responsive when needed.

Now on to numbers.

	September 2023	30 September 2024	Change
1-year	179	76	-103
1-year Joint	122	59	-63
5-year	12	11	-1
5-year Joint	8	16	+8
Life	209	210	+1
Total	530	372	-158

The apparent drop in members is due to an accumulation of members with lapsed membership who were nevertheless included in the previous figures taken from LoveAdmin. These lapsed members were removed from our membership list in the transition to Membermojo.

Keith Collyer Membership Secretary
Keith Elliott Secretary



Treasurer's AGM Report

The accounts and balance sheet are attached.

Our financial year runs from the beginning of February to the end of January as is shown.

This year we were awarded a grant of £2,769 by Thame Valley Police, which comes from the sale of stolen items that could not be returned. We applied for this to purchase cycle marking kits, which were distributed to members and at events. We purchased these for the same sum as the grant and therefore this figure appears in both income and expenditure columns. We thank Susan Children for fronting this initiative.

The other major source of income for the year was in the form of subscriptions and donations.

Our expenditure exceeded income by £102.79. At year end we had total financial assets of £3,909.04 comprising £1,130.38 in our current account and £2,778.66 in our deposit account.

Each year our income and expenditure are comfortably close together but if we wish to expand our activities and campaigns it may be necessary to look at ways of increasing income by a subscription increase from the current small annual sum or some other means.

We remain financially viable and continue to hold good reserves.

Brian Morley - Treasurer



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READING CYCLE CAMPAIGN 2023 - 2024				
Income and Expenditure for the period from 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024				
	1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024		1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023	
Income			Income	
Subs, donations etc.	977.96		Subs, donations etc	997.73
Thames Valley Police Grant	2,769.00			
Sale of bags	0.00		Sale of bags	7.50
Interest (Deposit Account)	12.17		Interest (Deposit Account)	0.90
Adverts	204.00		Adverts	210.00
Total Income	3,963.13		Total Income	1,216.13
Expenditure			Expenditure	
Expenses re distribution of newsletter	0.00		Expenses re distribution of newsletter	0.00
Newsletter	865.00		Newsletter/Printing	885.00
Room Hire	48.70		Room Hire	37.10
Refreshments (Events)	20.37		Refreshments (Events)	49.72
Zoom Subscription	77.79		Zoom Subscription	14.39
Affiliations (Cycling UK)	88.00		Affiliations (Cycling UK)	85.00
Leaflets etc	108.38		Leaflets etc	0.00
Website Hosting	33.68		Web Hosting	0.00
Domain renewal	0		Domain renewal	0.00
Cycle Marking Kits	2,769.00			
Gift - Hamper	55.00			
Total Expenditure	4,065.92		Total Expenditure	1,071.21
Income less Expenditure	(102.79)		Income less Expenditure	144.92
Bank Accounts			Bank Accounts	
Current Account			Current Account	
Opening Balance	1,124.42		Opening Balance	980.40
Transfer	0.00		Transfer	0.00
Surplus for the period of account	5.96		Surplus for the period of account	144.02
Closing Balance	1,130.38		Closing Balance	1,124.42
Deposit Account			Deposit Account	
Opening Balance	2,766.49		Opening Balance	2,765.59
Interest	12.17		Interest	0.90
Transfer	0.00		Transfer	0.00
Closing Balance	2,778.66		Closing Balance	2,766.49
Total Cash in Hand as of 31 January 2024	3,909.04		Total Cash in Hand as of 31 January 2023	3,890.91
This financial statement is prepared on a cash basis			This financial statement is prepared on a cash basis	
However all is in bank accounts			However all is in bank accounts	
Brian Morley -Treasurer			Brian Morley -Treasurer	
Notes: It has not been possible to differentiate members' subscriptions and donations.			Notes: It has not been possible to differentiate members' subscriptions and donations.	
Current Account increase	5.96		Current Account increase	144.02
Deposit Account increase	12.17		Deposit Account increase	0.90
Overall balance increase, (income less expenditure)	18.13		Overall balance increase, (income less expenditure)	144.92



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Reading Cycle Campaign

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

7pm 18th October 2023
Held at RISC, London St, Reading

Present:

Guest Speaker: Cllr John Ennis, RBC Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy & Transport

Graham Bates, Tom Cadman, Tony Carr, Phillip Children, Susan Children, Keith Collyer, Duncan Cook, Cllr Will Cross, Joe Edwards, Alice Elliott, Keith Elliott, Peter Gibbins, Andy Von Glehn, Sue Gray, Cllr Wendy Griffith, Nick Haskins, Sam Hatfield, Kat Heath, Robert Hill, Francis Jakeman, Cllr Jacopo Lanzoni, John Lee, Brian Morley, Tomiko Morley, Karen Robertson, John Saunders, John Sharp, Stuart Ward, Richard Wood, Jeroen Wouters

Apologies:

Alex Cran, John Seto, Chris Sinclair, Ross Stuart

1. **Attendees** were welcomed by the Chair (Joe Edwards)

2. **The minutes of the 2022 AGM** were approved as a correct record.

3. Accounts

Accounts for the year 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023 were available and accepted.

4. Reports from Officers

Written reports from the following committee members were available and summarised by the Chair:

- a) Campaign Officer, Reading
- b) Campaign Officer, Wokingham
- c) Campaign Officer, West Berks

Election of Committee

The committee for 2023/24 was appointed as follows:

1. **Chair:** Joe Edwards
 2. **Secretary:** Keith Elliott
 3. **Treasurer:** Brian Morley
 4. **Membership Secretary:** Keith Collyer
 5. **Events Co-ordinator:** Karen Robertson
 6. **Publicity:** Susan Children
 7. **Newsletter:** Alice Elliott
 8. **Campaign Officers Reading:** John Lee & Tony Carr
 9. **Campaign Officer Wokingham:** Alex Cran
 10. **Campaign Officer West Berks:** Robert Hill
 11. **Web Manager:** Stuart Ward
 12. **Cycling UK Liaison:** Karen Robertson
 13. **Co-opted Members:** Duncan Cook, Sam Hatfield, Kat Heath
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Guest Speaker

Following the AGM business Reading's Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport, Cllr John Ennis, addressed the meeting and took questions from the floor.

Cllr Ennis was thanked by the Chair.

The AGM and subsequent discussion closed at 9:00pm.