



Harwell Campus Bicycle Users Group (HarBUG)
Annual General Meeting 2017

1230 Wednesday 13th September 2017
Room G59, Diamond House, Harwell Campus

Meeting Notes
and Annual Accounts

Attendees

K Wilkinson, DLS (Chair)
J Greenhalgh, STFC (Treasurer)
G Wilkin, DLS (Secretary)
C Colborne, DLS
A Cousins, DLS
K Gascoyne, STFC
M Gibson, Earthly Gains
R Gildea, DLS
N Paterson, DLS
E Polehampton, RAL Space
G Rehm, DLS
D Rolfe, STFC
R Stamper, STFC

Apologies for absence were received from S James (RAL) and A Collings (Ricardo).

Report from Chair

Cycle-to-Work Days: Today's Cycle-to-Work breakfast was attended by 75 people – a good turnout in view of last night's weather. The spring Cycle-to-Work Day this year was also well-attended (84 people). Both events attracted several 'first-timers', which is one of the key aims. This year's second

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event (today) had been deliberately moved to autumn in order to align with National Cycle-to-Work Day.

Oxfordshire Cycling Network (OCN): HarBUG is a key participant in the OCN, which works with local councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership to provide a coordinated voice for cycling in Oxfordshire. OCN has issued costed proposals for a county-wide cycle route network, which the County Council have utilised to apply for funding towards further work.

Engagement with Local Planning Authority: HarBUG has engaged with District Council consultations on major local planning applications - Crab Hill in Wantage, Grove Airfield, and Didcot Garden Town. We are represented on the Local Development Forums for these sites.

Engagement with Local Transport Authority: We meet regularly with officers at Oxon County Council responsible for developing cycling infrastructure projects. Recent work includes the re-opening of the Backhill tunnel at Milton Park (although the continuation of the route southwards is still outstanding). In addition, there are proposals for an 'outer ring' around Milton interchange, new connections into and through Valley Park, upgrading of the railway path between Steventon and Milton Park, and a new direct route joining the villages between the Campus and Wantage.

Winnaway: HarBUG has agreed to apply for the change of Right of Way to bridleway status. We understand this process can take several years to complete! There have been reports of careless cyclists speeding downhill on Winnaway. As well as posting signs and highlighting this problem on our web forum, we have asked Strava to remove this section from their database.

A34 'avoiding' route: We have an informal agreement with farmer to permit cycling on track across field to west of A34. HarBUG has formally proposed this route is included in a Highways Agency scheme to improve cycle infrastructure – no response yet. It is noted that the field appears to have been sold to developers.

Thank You and Best Wishes: ...to Justin, our long-serving Treasurer, who is retiring this year, and also to Will Atkinson, who has led our Abingdon rides for a number of years.

Report from Treasurer

2016-17 Accounts: These are appended below.

Membership Subs: In theory we are short of money. This is not urgent to address, but it was noted that previous AGMs have already agreed to set-up membership subscriptions.

ACTION HarBUG to set-up membership subscriptions.

Internet Banking: Following closure of the local on-campus bank branch, we have set-up internet banking, although details to be completed.

ACTION HarBUG committee to complete internet banking details.

Election of Committee

All committee posts were up for re-election. Current committee members S James and A Collings not present, but had expressed wish to stand. Current Treasurer, J Greenhalgh, is retiring, so not standing again. Those elected as follows:

Chair:

K Wilkinson (proposer J Greenhalgh, seconded G Wilkin)

Treasurer:

M Gibson (proposer G Wilkin, seconded J Greenhalgh)

Secretary:

G Wilkin (proposer J Greenhalgh, seconded K Wilkinson)

Committee Members:

D Rolfe (proposer G Wilkin, seconded K Wilkinson)

S James & A Collings (proposer G Wilkin, seconded K Wilkinson)

Cycling Issues

Current Planning Applications: Crab Hill, Grove Airfield, Didcot Garden Town, A4185 – see above under Report from Chair.

B4017 Bus Shelter: The recent siting of a bus shelter which obstructs the cycle path between Abingdon and Drayton prompted a lively discussion about poor-quality cycle infrastructure:

Cycle Infrastructure Design: It was noted that the local transport authority (County Council) have recently issued updated Design Guides for cycling and walking. However, encouraging developers and the local planning authority to take these standards on board and implement them is not easy. It was commented that the difficulties will probably continue until people see cycling as a normal, everyday mode of transport - such as in Denmark, for example. Particular concern was raised about the proliferation of inappropriate cycle-lanes painted on footways. Cyclists who avoid such poor-quality infrastructure by riding on the road are frequently abused by motorists. The new guidance now explicitly discourages footway provision, in favour of 'hybrid' cycle lanes which feature continuity at side-roads. So HarBUG has expressed its disappointment to the Campus management that the new north-south road across the campus features footway lanes – especially as we had already asked them not to do this. Whilst the new Design Guide may help prevent this happening again, it was suggested the Campus ought to improve the existing infrastructure as well.

B4493 Painted Lanes on Footway: There was concern about the increasing use of painted lanes on footways along the B4493 Wantage Road in Didcot, requiring cyclists to give way at an ever-

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increasing number of side-roads. It was explained that this situation has arisen from developer plans which were drawn-up many years ago, and were not to modern standards. The County Council is investigating improvements.

Route 544 (Icknield Way) towards Didcot: A number of concerns were raised about the Route 544 (Icknield Way) route towards Didcot. The path across field near campus is not really suitable for road tyres – this is unlikely to change as tractors etc frequently use track. One suggestion was to run a strip of tarmac along the centre line of track. The hazardous nature of the Chilton Road hill near Upton was also mentioned. Cyclists are frequently overtaken by fast-moving vehicles in the narrow sections. There have been proposals to close this road to traffic – which was generally felt to be desirable.

Cycle Tagging at RAL: It was confirmed that the cycle-tagging scheme used at RAL is still in operation. RAL Security tags bicycles left around the site, then after a reasonable period, removes any bicycles from which the owner has not removed the tag. It was felt that the explanatory notices posted in cycle-parking areas were not sufficiently robust. And it was felt that the scheme could be better publicised by the usual site communication channels.

ACTION HarBUG to discuss improvements with RAL management.

Any Other Business

Smoking and Cycle-Parking: A concern was raised about people using cycle-parking areas as smoking areas. Not the ideal end to a ride, when parking one's bike!

G Wilkin

HarBUG Secretary
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HarBUG Accounts to 5 September 2017

<i>LAST YEAR FOR REFERENCE</i>		This year	
Opening balance Sep 2015	£2,018.18	Opening Balance 5 Sep 2016	£1,075.61
<i>income</i>		<i>income</i>	
Monthly subs, 13 months at 4.00	£52.00	Monthly subs, 12 months at 4.00	£48.00
Yearly subs, 1 payment of 5.00	£5.00	Yearly subs, 1 payment of 5.00	£5.00
Campus contribution to bike to work	£400.00		
Magnox contribution to bike to work	£350.00		
total income	£807.00	total income	£53.00
<i>expenditure</i>		<i>expenditure</i>	
Bike repair man (Jun 2016)	£324.00	banner modifications April 2017	£30.00
new signage (April 2016)	£469.91		
Mods to signage + 1st aid (April 2016)	£40.86	total expenditure	£30.00
Bike training (June 2016)	£145.60		
Elior Breakfast (May 2016)	£336.00	Closing balance 3 Sep 2017 (*)	£1,098.61
Elior breakfasts (Jun 2016)	£403.20	Outstanding bills not yet paid	
Banner mods (June 2016)	£30.00	web hosting	67.91
		DNS registration	£16.78
total expenditure	£1,749.57	total	£84.69
Closing balance 5 sep 2016	£1,075.61	Effective balance	1,013.92

(*) anticipated

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Suggested items to count against RAL money

	£
Bike repair Jun 2014	288.00
	£
Signage Jun 2014	504.00
	£
Bike repair June 2016	324.00
	£
Signage June 2016	469.91
	£
Bike training Jul 2016	145.60
	£
Signage mods April+June 2016	70.86
	£
Signage mods April 2017	30.00
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Total spend	£1,832.37
Fund	£3,000.00
Balance	£1,167.63