

Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 27 October

Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield

In attendance

Meg Andrews, Neville Andrews, Mark Beswick, Sandy Clark, David Keighley, David Leigh, Isabelle Leigh, Janet Taylor, James Wray, Sandi Kinkead, Andy Beecroft, Neil Battersby, Pat McAvoy, David Knight, Caz Hall

Apologies received

Cherry Oldham, Miles Roche, Joyce Roche

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2 Minutes of 2021 AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising

It was noted that Joyce Roche had resigned as Treasurer and been replaced by David Leigh. Sandy Clark had resigned as Campaigns Officer.

During the year Cherry Oldham had been appointed as Safeguarding Officer, Sandi Kinkead as Publicity Officer and Kevin Joynson as Bike Maintenance Officer.

4 Election of Officers

Chair - Meg Andrews (Proposed by Sandy Clark and Seconded by Mark Beswick)

Vice Chair – David Keighley (Proposed by Neville Andrews and Seconded by Andy Beecroft)

Secretary – Mark Beswick (Proposed by Meg Andrews and Seconded by David Leigh)

Treasurer – David Leigh (Proposed by Sandy Clark and Seconded by Neville Andrews)

Membership Secretary – David Leigh (Proposed by Sandy Clark and Seconded by Neville Andrews)

Statistics Officer – David Leigh (Proposed by Sandy Clark and Seconded by Neville Andrews)

Campaigns Officer – Vacant. Will be filled when necessary.

Publicity and Communication – Sandi Kinkead (Proposed by Mark Beswick and Seconded by Meg Andrews)

Events Manager – David Keighley (Proposed by Neville Andrews and Seconded by David Leigh)

Rides Co-ordinator – Neville Andrews (Proposed by David Leigh and Seconded by Meg Andrews)

WMDC Liaison – Mark Beswick, David Keighley, Meg Andrews (Proposed by Neville Andrews and Seconded by Andy Beecroft)

Facebook Administrators – David Keighley, David Leigh, Neville Andrews

Website Manager – Neville Andrews (Proposed by Andy Beecroft and Seconded by Mark Beswick)

Workgroup Manager – Andy Beecroft (Proposed by Meg Andrews and Seconded by David Keighley)

Auditor – Neville Andrews (Proposed by Mark Beswick and Seconded by Andy Beecroft)

5. Treasurers Report

Opening balance at 5.4.22	£89,959.54
Income	£38,388.00
Expenditure	£49,209.05
Closing balance at 20.10.22	£79,138.49

The most significant income was the grant from WMDC for the year (£37,800), Sale of maps/publications (£108), Membership Fees (£68) and Donations/Tombola (£417)

On the expenditure side there were Contractors (for the Agbrigg path) (£35,200), publications (£585), DBS Payments (£131.75), Northern Media (website) (£12,360), Cycling Materials (£407.50).

The meeting approved the Treasurers Report and the meeting commented positively on the exceptionally clear presentation.

However, concern was expressed that the accounts only covered the period when David Leigh was Treasurer and not the previous six months from the 2021 AGM. These will be made available as soon as possible.

6. Ride/Events Report

(A) Ride Report

So far in 2022 we have led 100 rides which have attracted 1149 cyclists of which 411 (36%) were female. The riders were made up of 110 individuals and 2 juniors and of these 65 had previously cycled with the Forum.

Our bikes have been loaned to ride participants 125 times this year.

The breakdown of rides has been as follows:

Location	Ride type	Total rides	Average riders
Nostell	Easy	17	13.3
Nostell	Steady	10	9.3
Anglers	Steady	10	12.7
Thornes Park	Easy	9	11.8
Thornes Park	Steady	8	8.4
Darrington	Steady Plus	9	8.4
Pontefract Park	Easy	10	10.7
Pontefract Park	Steady	8	11.4
Castleford Mill	Easy	9	13.8
Castleford Mill	Steady	10	13.8

Leading riders were:

Steve Byles (63) John Burton (59) Ruth Burton (54) John Shaw (48) Carl Brooke (47) Sandi Kinkead (40) David Leigh (38) Janet Taylor (29) Sharon Kaye (28) Margaret French (25)

The Forum would like to pay tribute to Alistair Wilson, who has led many rides over many years for the Forum and has decided to retire this year.

Holiday Wednesdays

The Forum Team attended seven 'Holiday Wednesdays' sessions at Nostell Priory this year.

We also led 8 guided rides during the 'Holiday Wednesday' which saw 51 children participating.

18 individuals helped at some or all of these events with a total of 387 volunteer hours being clocked up in total. 477 children tackled the skills courses and the tombolas raised £315.

At the request of WMDC we held two Kids Cycle Days at Thornes Park in August which was attended by 7 volunteers and 44 children. This was part of the school holiday activity programme.

Work Days

There have been 14 work days this year so far. 6 individuals helped on these sessions.

Membership Report

Membership now stands at 1214 an increase of 37 since 2019. The newsletter is taken by 744 and around 80 members are currently actively cycling with the Forum.

7. Liaison with Wakefield Council

The main achievement this year has been the new path from Agbrigg to Oakenshaw Lane, Walton which opened on 15 July. The work was financed by WMDC and arranged through the Forum. There are now monthly easy rides from Agbrigg Community Centre.

Wakefield Council have consulted the Forum on a major scheme of cycle lanes both north and south of the city centre on the A61 (Leeds Road/Barnsley Road). These should be delivered over the next few years. The Council are continuing to pursue two projects advocated by the Forum over a number of years. These are:

- The upgrading of the cycle route from Hemsworth to Moorthorpe Rail Station
- The upgrading of the Dando Way from Ackworth to Fitzwilliam Rail Station

In response to a request from the Forum, the Council recently cut back the path behind B&Q in Glasshoughton. The Forum continues to urge the Council to pursue a number of schemes which would improve the off-road cycle network in the District.

- Upgrading the link from Manor Lane in Ossett to the Manorfield Estate in Horbury
- Surfacing the short links to Flass Lane from the nearby bridleways
- Upgrading the footpath to a cycle route from Wharfedale Drive in Altofts to Ashfield in Normanton
- New link from Havercroft to the Rabbit Ings Country Park
- New link from the TransPennine Trail to Bleakley Lane on the old rail line
- An upgraded link from Colliery Approach/Potovens Lane to the rail station in Outwood

- A new link from Neil Fox Way (A6194) to Calder Vale Road (to avoid Doncaster Road)

The Forum is fully involved with the new Council website and its present catchphrase “Supporting the district to cycle” stems from our belief that the website should demonstrably not Wakefield City centric.

During the year there have been a number of changes to the personnel at the Council with whom we liaise.

The most significant was the appointment of a new Director for Environment, Street Scene and Climate Change, Gary Blenkinsop, who seems more sympathetic to our aims. We are hopeful that the controversial issue of barriers/kissing gates on cycle routes will progress towards a reasonable consensus through the development of a new policy by the Council.

Gary has appointed a new Health Improvement Officer (Cycling), Louise (Lou) Galloway, who has attended meetings with Forum. In addition, John Davis, formerly a key member of the cycle policy team, has been replaced by Sue Walker. There have also been personnel changes in the Rights of Way Team.

We have long had a good relationship with the Health Improvement Team at the Council, with John Gallagher our main point of liaison. This department underwrites our Ride Programme and Summer events at Nostell Priory. The Forum provided an information stand at the Wakey Green Trial in the Ridings during September as part of the Council’s “Let’s go greener together” campaign.

The Service Level Agreement which we deliver in return for an annual payment from the Council of £10,000 is to be revised for 2023. This will see changes to our ride programme with new rides from Ryhill and Eastmoor. A leaflet will be produced to promote these rides and those from Agbrigg, none of which are included in the Forums 2022 leaflet.

8.Future priorities

- The Forum were also urged to press the Council to prioritise the towpath improvements between Horbury Junction/Broad Cut and the Kirklees boundary near Thornhill.
- To give attention to the small number of “missing links” in the Wakefield District Cycle network which the Forum feel would enhance the ability to cycle off road
- See a significant reduction in barriers on cycle routes and bridleways which currently hinder the progress of both cyclists and mobility impaired people.

9 Any other business

It was proposed that the minimum age for participating in a Forum ride without an accompanying adult be dropped from 18 to 16. This was proposed by David Keighley and seconded by Mark Beswick and agreed by the meeting.

Wakefield District Cycle Forum

The Forum shortly intends to commence issuing a credit card sized MICE card to ride participants which will confirm membership of the Forum and additionally provide in case of emergency information.

10.. Date of next AGM

Provisionally, this would be held at Wakefield Town Hall at 1845 on Thursday 28 October 2023'

MTWB/ 2022 AGM/WDCF/17.11.22