

Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 14 July 2024

at the Dimple Well Hotel, Ossett

In attendance

Meg Andrews, Neville Andrews, Mark Beswick, David Keighley, David Leigh, Isabelle Leigh, Sandi Kinkead, Neil Battersby, Lisa Wilson, Sharon Kaye, Malcolm Morris, Anne Marie Anderson, June Battersby, Rachel Johnson, Julie Holmes., Chris Holmes, Janet Taylor, Cathryn Vaughton, Peter Vaughton, Gill Ross, Tim Scarrott, Karen Scarrott, Sandy Clark, Gary Byfield, Cherry Oldham, Jamie Johnson.

Apologies received

Andy Beecroft, Louise Galloway

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising.

The Chair announced that in memory of Bob Newton the 1 September WoW ride would be a fund raiser for the Prince of Wales Hospice where Bob died in 2023.

4. Election of Officers

Chair - Meg Andrews

Vice Chair – Sandi Kinkead

Secretary – Mark Beswick

Treasurer – David Leigh

Membership Secretary – Sharon Kaye

Statistics Officer – Sharon Kaye

Campaigns Officer – Vacant. Will be filled when necessary.

Publicity and Communication – Sandi Kinkead

Events Manager – David Keighley

Rides Co-ordinator – Timothy Scarrott

WMDC Liaison – Mark Beswick, David Keighley, Meg Andrews

Facebook Administrators –, David Leigh, Neville Andrews, Timothy Scarrott

Website Administrator – Neville Andrews

Workgroup Manager – Andy Beecroft

Auditor – Sandi Kinkead, Cherry Oldham

Safeguarding Officer – Cherry Oldham

4. Treasurers Report

(a) Financial year 2023-2024

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Opening balance at 5.4.23 | £82,588.68 |
| Income | £10,709.39 |
| Expenditure | £19,703.41 |
| Closing balance at 4.4.24 | £73,594.66 |

The most significant expenditure in the year was the construction of a cycle path beside the A639 within the Nostell Estate (£6431.39) and a payment to Northern Light Media (£4250.28) for the new website. This latter sum had been previously paid to the Forum by Wakefield Council in 2022.

(b) Financial year 2024-2025 to date

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Opening balance at 5.4.24 | £73,594.66 |
| Income | £319.74 |
| Expenditure | £1,570.80 |
| Closing balance at 4.7.24 | £72,343.60 |

The principal expenditure so far this financial year has related to bike maintenance, radios, printing and IT.

The meeting approved the Treasurer's Report

6. Ride/Events Report

(A) 2023 Ride Report

We completed 144 rides this year despite losing a record 23 events to weather. We had 1178 participants in total. This is an average of 8.2 cyclists per ride (10.0 in 2022). 150 individuals (115 in 2022) have cycled with us, of which 80 (48 in 2022) were newcomers this year -72 adults and 8 juniors. Of these 150 individuals, 64 were female (42.7%). Of the 1178 ride participants, 408 were female (34.6%), very similar to last year (34.5%).

The rides break down as follows:

| Location | Ride type | Total rides | Average riders | % Female |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| WoW rides | Steady | 11 | 10.9 | 30 |
| Nostell | Easy | 23 | 10.8 | 46 |
| Thornes Park | Easy | 10 | 8.8 | 55 |
| Thornes Park | Steady | 12 | 6.1 | 19 |
| Darrington | Steady plus | 10 | 7.3 | 14 |
| Pontefract Park | Easy | 11 | 7.2 | 37 |
| Pontefract Park | Steady | 8 | 6.5 | 17 |
| Castleford Mill | Easy | 10 | 10.1 | 43 |
| Castleford Mill | Steady | 11 | 11.9 | 23 |
| Rycroft | Easy | 12 | 5.2 | 37 |
| Agbrigg | Easy | 13 | 7.8 | 42 |
| Eastmoor | Easy | 13 | 3.7 | 19 |

Leading riders this year were:

David Keighley, David Leigh, John Shaw, Neville Andrews, Sandi Kinkead and Sharon Kaye

(all with over 40 rides)

Holiday Wednesdays and similar events

The Forum Team attended five 'Holiday Wednesdays' sessions at Nostell Priory this year and led 8 guided rides around the grounds. 368 children tackled the skills course (210 girls and 158 boys). 18 Forum volunteers helped at some or all these events with a total of 284 hours being clocked up.

At the request of WMDC we held two Kidz Cycle Days at Thornes Park in August which were attended by 6 volunteers and 44 children. This was part of the school holiday activity programme.

Work Days

There were 6 work days in 2023, with 4 individuals helping (60 volunteer hours).

(B) 2024 to date

We have completed 61 rides this year so far with 591 participants in total. This is an average of 9.7 cyclists per ride (8.2 last year). 140 individuals have cycled with us, of which 75 were newcomers this year - 67 adults and 8 juniors. Within these totals, 56 (40%) were female. Of the 591 participants, 216 were female (36.5%), slightly higher than last year (34.6%). Our bikes have been used 37 times so far in 2024.

| Location | Ride type | Total rides | Average riders | % Female |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| WoW rides | Steady | 7 | 17.4 | 37 |
| Nostell | Easy | 8 | 8.9 | 45 |
| Thornes Park | Easy | 4 | 10.8 | 53 |
| Thornes Park | Steady | 6 | 6.5 | 28 |
| Darrington | Steady plus | 6 | 7.5 | 20 |
| Pontefract Park | Easy | 2 | 7.0 | 14 |
| Pontefract Park | Steady | 5 | 7.4 | 35 |
| Castleford Mill | Easy | 4 | 9.5 | 37 |
| Castleford Mill | Steady | 6 | 11.7 | 21 |
| Rycroft | Easy | 4 | 5.8 | 43 |
| Agbrigg | Easy | 4 | 12.8 | 59 |
| Eastmoor | Easy | 4 | 6.3 | 32 |

Membership Report

Membership now stands at over 1200. The newsletter is taken by 744 and around 80 members are currently actively cycling with the Forum.

7. Liaison with Wakefield Council

In many ways things have been a little more positive for the Forum since our last Annual General Meeting on 26 October 2023.

We now have a dedicated team of four at the Council, although the bulk of our liaison is handled through Louise Galloway.

Following receipt of some Levelling Up funding the Council designated 2024 as “Our Year” and cycling features as part of that. Most notable will be the major Cyclefest at Pugneys on 4 August, where the Forum will be working with the Council to deliver seven rides including a WoW ride. As a pre-condition to assisting in the Cyclefest, the Forum insisted on the removal of certain obstructions which hamper our rides and the cutting back of bushes on our ride routes. The infamous barrier at Portobello has gone and we are hopeful that two others may suffer the same fate. The Council have also produced a colourful map of the WoW route.

In regard to our rides programme, as I reported last year the Council have drastically reduced their requirement for the number of rides. They now require us to deliver only 32 rides in the year (20 from Rycroft or Eastmoor and 12 WoW rides). In consequence they wished to significantly cut back on our annual grant (£10,000 in recent years.) However, skilful negotiation by the Forum Committee members resulted in a grant of £6,000 which will broadly allow us to continue offering the 140+ rides we provide annually.

Our discussions on off road cycling infrastructure have led to a promise to start work in August on the Ackworth to Fitzwilliam cycle route and later on Grandstand Way (Outwood). In the longer term, upgrades are planned for Wakefield to Dewsbury/Woodlesford/Castleford, Featherstone – South Hiendley, Newton Hill East – Ardsley. Improvements have been completed at Stanley Ferry and at Foxholes Lane (Altofts). A comprehensive infrastructure meeting will be arranged soon.

8. Future priorities.

It was suggested at the meeting that as the Forum has funds but which are insufficient for major schemes, money could be usefully deployed on smaller “easy wins” where improvements could be made e.g the link from Manorfield Drive in Horbury to Manor Lane in Ossett and the path at Old Snydale, both on the Wakefield Wheel. Something clearly needs doing regarding the speed limit on Oakenshaw Lane which is currently 60mph at the place where cyclists would cross to gain access to the Walton Colliery Nature Reserve. There are issues on Lingwell Gate Lane which require addressing. Finally, there are the ongoing pressure from the Forum to remove obstructive barriers on cycle routes.

9. Annual Dinner

It was decided to defer this item to a Committee Meeting in the Autumn.

10. Any other business

None raised.

11. Date of next AGM

Provisionally, this would be held in May, possibly involving a barbeque.