

Wakefield District Cycle Forum
Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 31 July 2025
at Thornes Park Stadium

In attendance

Meg Andrews, Neville Andrews, Mark Beswick, David Keighley, David Leigh, Sandi Kinkead, Neil Battersby, Sharon Kaye, Linda Holmes., Cherry Oldham, Andy Beecroft, Ian Watson, David Knight

Apologies received

Louise Galloway, Tim Scarrott, Sandy Clark, Liz Joynson, Kevin Joynson, Karen Scarrott

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising.

The Chair stated that in memory of Bob Newton the 1 September 2024 WoW ride was a fund raiser for the Prince of Wales Hospice where Bob died in 2023. This had raised £200.

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 Kinead

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 – Neville Andrews

Safeguarding Officer – Cherry Oldham

4. Treasurers Report

(a) Financial year 2024-2025

Opening balance at 5.4.24	£ 73,594.66
Income	£7,109.15
Expenditure	£4,401.69
Closing balance at 4.4.25	£76,302.12

(b) Financial year 2025-2026 to date

Opening balance at 5.4.24	£76,302.12
Income	£229.69
Expenditure	£1,315.08
Closing balance at 27.7.25	£75,216.81

The principal expenditure so far this financial year has related to the purchase of new bikes and the website.

The meeting approved the Treasurers Report

6. Ride/Events Report

(A) 2024 Ride Report

During the year we completed 132 rides with 1165 participants (212 individuals, 125 newcomers and 34% were female). Our bikes were borrowed 85 times.

The rides break down as follows:

Location	Ride type	Total rides	Average riders	% Female
WoW rides	Steady	11	17.4	36
Nostell	Easy	20	7.4	38
Thornes Park	Easy	9	11.7	51
Thornes Park	Steady	11	5.7	22
Darrington	Steady plus	12	6.8	22
Pontefract Park	Easy	8	5.4	23
Pontefract Park	Steady	10	6.4.	37
Castleford Mill	Easy	10	9.9	37
Castleford Mill	Steady	12	11	23
Rycroft	Easy	9	6.6	44
Agbrigg	Easy	9	12	51
Eastmoor	Easy	8	5.9	32

Leading riders this year were John Shaw, Sharon Kaye, Cathryn Vaughton and Tim Scarrott (all with over 37 rides)

Workdays

There were 14 workdays in 2024.

Holiday Wednesdays at Nostell Priory

There were six Holiday Wednesday sessions during the 2024 school summer holidays

(B) 2025 to date

Location	Ride type	Total rides	Average riders	% Female
WoW rides	Steady	7	9.5	30
Nostell	Easy	10	11.6	29
Thornes Park	Easy	5	10	39
Thornes Park	Steady	7	7	18
Darrington	Steady plus	9	5	20
Pontefract Park	Easy	5	5	20
Pontefract Park	Steady	9	8	24
Castleford Mill	Easy	5	10	25
Castleford Mill	Steady	7	10	33
Rycroft	Easy	5	4	15
Agbrigg	Easy	5	17	43
Fitzwilliam	Easy	5	6	32

This year so far, the leading riders are John Shaw, John Burton, David Wilcox, Martin Hillyard, Elaine Hillyard, Lisa Wilson and Mick Hodgson.

Events

Bike Care Sessions (3)

Bluebell event

Wakefield Wheel sign repairing

Leafletting

Workdays

3 workdays so far this year

7. Liaison with Wakefield Council

For a number of years our main liaison with the Council has been Louise Galloway. Following her promotion she now has an assistant, Tilly Davies with whom we deal on a regular basis and who has attended our Committee Meetings. We also liaise with a number of individuals within the Council on specific issues e. g the Public Rights of Way Team.

Since 2023 the Council has stopped paying a blanket annual grant to the Forum and now pays for specific activities. For 2025 these are:

- The Rycroft Easy Ride
 - The new Fitzwilliam Easy Ride
 - A monthly WoW Ride
 - 4 Bike Doctor and 6 Bike Maintenance Sessions
 - A requirement to review, redesign and print the Wonders of Wakefield route and map
- Unfortunately, the Eastmoor Easy Ride (which had been Council funded) had to be discontinued due to very low attendance.

The Council are also currently running First Aid courses for Ride Leaders and Back Markers.

The new Fitzwilliam ride is off to a slow start but will hopefully pick up given time. The Council are endeavouring to arrange cycle storage at the Hemsworth Water Park so that we can offer loan bikes on this ride (no luck so far)

The Council arranged a Bike Fest at Pugneys on 4 August last year as part of their "Our Year" Celebration. The Forum provided seven led rides from the venue including one WoW ride.

On infrastructure the Council are working to deliver the following:

- Upgrading the cycle path from Ackworth to Fitzwilliam Station
- Upgrading Grandstand Way from Wakefield 41 to Outwood Station
- Improving the cycle path from the River Calder to Heath Village
- Delivering cycle improvements around Park Road (Pontefract to Glasshoughton)
- Completing the link from Portobello to Aldi at Durkar
- Removing up to 30 A frames on cycle routes (5 gone so far)
- Have commissioned Sustrans to report on the possible reinstatement of the missing link from Thornes Wharf to Denby Dale Road, part of which was washed away in 2015 leading to closure. Estimated costs have been shown to vary from a minimum of £1.9m up to £6.3m
- Have further commissioned Sustrans to investigate new cycle paths in Wakefield District

The Council suggested last year that the Forum report issues/requests via the CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system. 15 reports have so far been submitted but

results have been somewhat frustrating. One dropped kerb has been installed and one bridleway blocked by a landowner is now open again. In a number of cases the system has refused to accept that the location exists e.g. where there are no houses nearby.

Some members of the Forum attended a Volunteer Day in Pontefract in December and signed up to the Council's Citizen Coin scheme. This is intended to provide material rewards for people who volunteer.

A new Bike Hub at Pugneys is expected to open this summer.

Representatives of the Forum have participated in the Council's Net Zero meetings, the Net Zero Conference in June and the Forum had a stall at Earth Day in April.

8. Future priorities.

It was felt that the Forum should explore further ways to publicize our activities.

The Council are exploring whether the Rycroft and Fitzwilliam rides should be altered to focus on children in view of the limited interest shown by adults in these areas. This poses a challenge for the Forum.

It was suggested that the Forum should be more proactive in the event of path closures.

The proposed 30mph speed limit on Oakenshaw Lane is unsatisfactory from a pedestrian/cyclist point of view. The Council must be pressed to extend the lower limit to the whole of the road.

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 or June 2026.