



**PCF Open Meeting on Thursday 12 July 2012.  
7pm - Common Room, Wiggle, Harbourgate**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

John Holland, Roger Inkpen, Jayne Rodgers, Kathy Azopardi, Chris Cheetham, Jon Spencer, Phil Coombe, Steve Franklin, Chris Davies, Leonie Staley, Harry Staley, Peter Spear, Tim Parker, Charles Burns.

**Apologies:**

Hilary Reed, Gill Adams, Annette Rebentisch, Jo McGannan

**1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman, John Holland**

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to quickly introduce themselves. He thanked our hosts, Wiggle, for allowing us to meet in their staff common room.

**2. Wiggle**

Tim Parker and Peter Spear gave an introduction to Wiggle. The founders, Harvey Jones and Mitch Dall started out running a small catalogue business selling small bicycle parts from Butlers Cycles, an independent bike shop based at Highland Road in Southsea.

Having decided that their customers weren't browsers but cyclists who knew exactly what part they wanted, Jones had the idea of selling bike parts online to speed up the whole shopping process. So [wiggles.co.uk](http://wiggles.co.uk) was born and today it's a leading online bike store, shipping to over 70 countries. Apart from selling bikes and accessories wiggle sell running, swimming and triathlon gear. It is the biggest bike retailer in Australia!

We were then shown the extensive and spacious workshop facilities where bicycles are built and tested prior to being dispatched to customers. Peter explained the end-to-end process which can vary from final assembly of almost complete bikes to building bicycles from a kit of components taking many hours to complete. Once built, bicycles are transferred to the dispatch team who carefully wrap the machines prior to being sent to their final destinations.

**3. Infrastructure**

Jon Spencer gave an overview of the current issues relating to the city's cycle infrastructure. Many traffic light controlled junctions have been, or are in the process of being, upgraded with modern control systems and much improved facilities for pedestrians. Most people agree that the Albert Road / Lawrence Road junction is greatly improved. At Milton Road / Velder Avenue, however in the pedestrian lights were switched off for more than six weeks whilst works took place. Temporary traffic lights controlled the vehicular traffic but that's as far as the provision for other road users went. The junction is close to Miltoncross School with several hundred pupils walking and cycling there each day.

Works at Victoria Road North / Elm Grove junction have caused concern since it seems that there will be little or no benefit for cyclists. The Cycle Forum was not consulted on the design of this junction, nor indeed, were any of the ward councillors!

**4. Local Sustainable Transport Funds**

Jayne Rodgers reported that Portsmouth has been successful in receiving £5m funding from the Department for Transport's (DfT's) Local Sustainable Transport Fund to be spent in the period up until 2014/15.

The fund was established to enable economic growth (in particular job creation) and carbon reduction through sustainable travel modes (predominantly walking, cycling, public transport) working in partnership with the community. Portsmouth's bid is entitled "Creating a Connected and Sustainable Centre" and includes approximately £250,000 spending on cycle infrastructure. Projects include improvements to the Western Active Travel Corridor (Ferry port to City Centre), bicycle hire, Brompton dock at Portsmouth Harbour station, bike hubs at the University and at Portsmouth & Southsea station, personal travel planning, completion of the Shipwright's Way into Portsmouth.

Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) was also successful in its bid for LSTF money and there will be some cycle enhancements in the city.

## **5. Bike Week**

Bike Week 2012 was hampered by poor weather but a number of the rides and events went ahead despite the damp conditions. The Cycle Forum's ever popular Fish and Chip ride visited Portchester and Mother Kelley's on Southampton Road. The Big Bike Fix and the Big Bike Clean at the Community Cycle Centre went ahead but for the latter it was necessary only to leave bikes in the open air and the rain did the cleaning.

It was proposed that the Cycle Forum should take a more active part in Bike Week 2013, perhaps acting as a local coordinating body since PCC's resource is greatly diminished and they will be focussed on delivering the LSTF work. Ideas suggested included a Bike Festival (at the CCC?), Film night as well as bike rides. Local groups would be invited to arrange events. The proposal was accepted by those at the meeting so it will go to the PCF committee for action!

## **6. Dutch-Style cycle lanes in Brighton**

There was insufficient time for this item which will be held over until the next meeting

## **7. Sunday morning bike rides - leisure rides for all the family.**

- 29 July - Titchfield Haven Ride 'n' Walk.  
Start: Hard Interchange at 10.00am. Ferry to Gosport to follow the coast to Titchfield Haven, then a walk along the public footpath to Titchfield for a cuppa!
- 26 August - Rowlands Castle Ride  
Start: The Good Companions car park, Eastern Road (pick-up at Farlington Marches at 10.30). Along the Havant route then continue north to Rowlands Castle for a café stop or picnic on the village green.
- 30 September - Swan Ride  
Start: Canoe Lake, 10.0am. Cycle the seafront, take the Hayling Ferry, follow the Hayling Billy Trail to Langstone then cycle to Emsworth to visit the Mill Pond swans. Either ride back or catch the train home from Emsworth station.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next open meeting of the Cycle Forum will be on Thursday 13 September at 7.00pm at the Stacey Centre, Walsall Road, Copnor, Portsmouth, PO3 6DN.

## **9. Close: The Chair thanked all for attending.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm