

HARROGATE AND DISTRICT CYCLE ACTION
AGM at 7 PM ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2022
AT WESTCLIFFE HALL, HARLOW TERRACE, HG2 0PN

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kevin Douglas, John Rowe, Gia Margolis, Malcolm Margolis, David Mitchell, Martin Weeks, Hazel Peacock, Chris Evans, Sue Threadgold, Yvonne Skelton, Ben Mortimer, Moz Abbott, Matt Wyatt, Philip Purkiss, Councillor Chris Aldred.

APOLOGIES: Andrew Norman. Alex Minett resigned due to family obligations.

THE LOSS OF A FRIEND AND COMMITTEE MEMBER KD: We have not had the opportunity to officially recognise the loss of a dear friend and active Member. Carl Nelson died of sudden heart failure in May 2020. A terrible sudden loss to his young family. We miss him for his input to the group, his humour and kindness to others.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM have already been approved and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

1. My last Chairs report was in 2019 and I began it by saying that “the previous year had been a frustrating one for HDCA” and ended it by saying that “the next year (2019) would be a big year for cycling in Yorkshire with the UCI and it would be great if the Local Authorities sought to ensure the projects that are planned are delivered to provide a lasting legacy”.
2. Well it was nice to dream! Unfortunately none of the projects planned even got off the drawing board.
3. I am afraid that in the intervening years nothing has changed with 2021 into 2022 having virtually the same outcome.
4. Whilst the Authority had been successful in securing funds there has been little progress on delivery. This includes the Otley Road scheme where funding was secured in 2017 and is still less than one third complete. Victoria Avenue and Knaresborough Road where funding was secured in 2020 and still not started or final designs agreed. Oatlands Feasibility Study which is finally out for consultation but with no likely outcome in 2022 and, of course, the debacle over the Beech Grove Low Traffic area.
5. As you will be aware when the pandemic hit, HDCA suspended its regular meetings but we continued to push for the cycling agenda via the HDCA website (which was set up and is managed by David Mitchell and I would like to thank him for his hard work on the website) and a small Executive committee who have addressed the various issues that have arisen.

6. We have tried to keep people involved and connected via the website and hopefully that has worked well. We now have 300 plus supporters signed up which has given us a good platform to press the Local Authorities on various issues.
7. Over the past 7/8 years HDCA has tried to work closely with the Local Authorities to facilitate the improvement of the cycling infrastructure and we are an active Member of Harrogate District Cycle Forum. We have regular monthly meetings with Officers on current projects and we have input on various projects to give local knowledge and insight which has helped in securing funding.
8. However, as outlined earlier the lack of progress we believe will impact on potential future funding bids as the authority has already been unsuccessful in one round of bids and is unlikely to be successful in future bids unless good progress is made on the current schemes.
9. We see the major problem as a lack of an officer who leads on the cycling agenda in the local area and who has local knowledge and authority to deliver these schemes. We need to see the development of a detailed Cycling Plan for Harrogate District which will inform future development and transport infrastructure. The appointment of a dedicated cycling officer for the District at a senior level to monitor projects, and input into planning and other developments and a local area budget to deliver the small scale improvements and schemes that arise.
10. However, the prospect for the next year (and future years) is not positive with the likely budget cuts for the Council and the impending merger of the County and District Councils which will be the overriding issues for the Officers to deal with.
11. This means that there is an important role for HDCA to ensure that the cycling agenda remains as a priority for the new Council.
12. I would like to thank a number of people for their hard work and support over the past 3/4 years.
13. Ian Kendall in Ripon has been very active in developing plans for the Ripon area and I would like to thank him for the work he has put in. It would be good to extend our involvement into other areas of the District and make similar progress.
14. Malcolm Margolis has done great work on the extension to the Nidderdale Greenway with discussions with land owners and the development of the proposals for the next phase is underway and looks very positive.
15. Thanks also to David Mitchell and John Rowe for their technical knowledge and input on projects and schemes. As always Malcolm and Gia Margolis have given great support to taking forward cycling and supporting me on various fronts.

16. I particularly want to thank Yvonne Skelton for all her work as secretary and Sue Threadgold as treasurer and I hope they will continue in those roles.
17. As I have indicated I am standing down as Chair after 8 years in the role. When I took on the role my aim was to establish better communication between the Group and the LA's and I feel we have achieved that and, indeed, we have good communication channels with officers. Unfortunately that has not translated into action and I do feel it is time to let someone else try to move the agenda forward.
18. Finally thank you to all those who have regularly supported us through responding to consultations and input into the ongoing work of HDCA.
19. I will remain involved with HDCA as I firmly believe we need to keep pressing for a local cycle network that we can be justifiably proud.
20. **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR** An income of 83p in interest and a payment of £31.00 to David Mitchell in respect of Enid Taylor Printing, leaving a balance of £278.41.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

21. **Chairperson:** Kevin Douglas is to stand down. KD happy to discuss this position with anyone who is interested. **DM** to put this vacancy on the website. GM thanked KD for his excellent work as Chairperson. This was applauded by the Group.
22. JR to continue as **Vice Chairperson** and act as Acting Chair - for a limited period.
23. **Secretary** Yvonne Skelton and **Treasurer** Sue Threadgold agreed to continue.
24. **Committee Members** who indicated their willingness to stand: David Mitchel, Malcolm Margolis, Gia Margolis, Ian Kendal and Andrew Norman. KD to continue as a member.
25. Four more Committee Members (we can have up to 9) to be appointed to fill roles including Supporter engagement, Communications and Planning Responses.
26. The Committee welcomed Hazel Peacock's contribution to the meeting, and she expressed her wish to join the committee when her project Active Schools come to an end.
27. **MOTION:** That HDCA withdraw from the cycle Forum and related Council status meetings until we see a track record of useful cycle infrastructure delivered on the ground.
Proposed by: John Rowe, Seconded by: David Mitchell.
28. **JR presented his Motion to the Meeting** JR and DM completed a compressive cycle plan, which was completely ignored, with nothing being handed over to developers.

This is the usual NYCC response to many pieces of expert work completed by HDCA; he said we are propping up the view that the Council are engaging and consulting with cycling organisations, which they are not. Do we want to go to these meetings where only promises are made and nothing completed? Or do we pull back and go to the press to declare our frustration? Note: This does not mean that we don't want to get involved when something concrete comes along.

29. Hazel asked if we would consider broadening our scope to encourage other forms of active travel. This would result in us duplicating Harrogate Zero Carbon Transport Group, but this would spread our resources thinly when we were a group which campaigned for cycling.
30. KD: We now have a Councillor (Councillor Chris Aldred) who is challenging officers. Furthermore the Council will have a new structure from April onwards.
31. Chris Aldred arrived (he had warned us he would be late). KD introduced him and thanked him for attending. Gia congratulated CA on this work on Bogs Lane.
32. CA sympathised with the frustration of the HDCA and agreed that cycling was being ignored. However, an Active Travel Co-ordinator will start in January. Councillor Duncan has said he will bring the Gateway and Active Travel special meeting in January. It will be a public meeting. CA welcomed any of the group attending. The exact date is now known but CA will advise. **ACTION: ALL**
33. A vote was taken on the JR on the JR motion. The meeting voted not to take the Motion forward by 10 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.
34. **An alternative motion** was proposed by MW: "HDCA proposed to allow NYCC 12 months to start achieving scheme delivery. After that period if there is no substantial progress HDCA will withdraw from attending the Cycle Forum and only attend any meeting where strategic plans and *detailed design proposals for active travel are tabled*".
35. This resolution was voted on and accepted by 9 votes, with 2 against and 3 abstentions.

36. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None.

Signed by the Chairperson

Dated