

Fleet Cycling AGM 2026 Minutes

2nd June 2026

20:00 to 20:55, Studio 3, Hart Leisure Centre

Introduction

John Crossley, Chair, could not attend. Andrew Perkins, Secretary, chaired the meeting.

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Committee attendees

Sally Swift, Rides Secretary; Lisa Chapman, Publicity Officer; Bryan East, Treasurer; Andrew Perkins, Secretary; Robert Humphrey, Welfare Officer; Malcolm Huson, Wednesday rides rep; George Willoughby, Liaison Officer

Membership Represented

Apart from committee officers, there were 7 members present.

Apologies from John Crossley, Andrea Marnoch, Peter & Julie Merriman, Alison Nicholls, Chris and Debbie Duncalf, Richard Somerset.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the AGM in May 2025 were accepted *nem con*. There were no matters arising.

Annual Report

The meeting Chair, Andrew Perkins, reminded attendees that the annual report had been sent out with the meeting invitation. He asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

George, the Liaison Officer, reported the following orally to the meeting:

Long Term Prospects for Safe Cycling Infrastructure

Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council have produced a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) as a joint project. The plan is to reduce barriers to walking and cycling. Below is the link - see p45 for the proposed core walking zones and cycle network. Note however that some of the initiatives outlined above predate or postdate the LCWIP and are not included.

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Hart-District-LCWIP-v17ac.pdf>

Odiham Underpass Flooding - fixed ?

We raised the flooding of this key cycle route in our response to the LCWIP. The drainage has been clear this winter as far as I can see.

Baker Way to Netherhouse Moor to Baker Way shared use path - In construction

We raised this route in our response to the LCWIP - this is a key north-south link allowing safe cycling and walking from Church Crookham to Calthorpe Park School, the leisure

centre and central Fleet. It has historically been impassible for walking and cycling in winter with flooding and deep mud. Formally it is public right of way (PRoW) 502 from the playground at end of Netherhouse Moor to Baker Way, Church Crookham. Currently a proper gravel surface is being laid and drainage is being installed, I understand it will have a tarmac finish when completed, matching and extending the existing Baker Way.

Reading Road South pedestrian crossings - In construction

Although not explicitly cycle infrastructure these are much needed safety improvements for local walking and will also, in my view, help calm traffic, making cycling safer. The crossing between Haywood Drive and Velmead Road is now operational and the crossing South of Florence Road will be built soon.

Norris Hill Road cycle route - Stalled

Although developer funding had been obtained by this there has been some debate about obtaining sufficient MoD land. Fleet Cycling have issued an FOI to ascertain what work has been done and it appears stalled with the councillor concerned retiring. We have asked for an update from our current local councillors.

Hitches Lane shared use path - Planning phase

Phase one of the project, from Elvetham Heath to Calthorpe Park School/Leisure Centre, is currently in the preliminary design stage. This phase aims to create a three-metre-wide shared use path along Hitches Lane, stretching from the Fleet Road/Elvetham Road roundabout to the junction of Dukes Mead. The primary objective is to enhance safety, comfort, and access for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Phase two of the project, currently in the concept design stage, aims to extend the route from Hitches Lane to Church Crookham and Crookham Park, linking it to the existing route to Fleet Town Centre. The objective is to introduce continuous footways on side road accesses, prioritise pedestrians and cyclists, and address the Basingstoke Canal crossing at Malthouse Bridge.

Link to Hampshire County Council page:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/hitches-lane-> **Upper**

Street One Way - under discussion

Under this plan to possibly make Upper Street one way for cars (southward) but two way for bikes, with one side of the road reserved for cycles. Not much detail available on this yet. The idea is to reduce the risks at the right angle junction with Clarence Road.

Proposals to Accelerate Entrance to Fleet Leisure Centre

A county councillor has proposed widening the entrance to Fleet Leisure Centre but concerns have been raised regarding cars then speeding into the carpark where we meet. I have raised the issue with Hampshire County Council (ref 21895931) and have asked to see the original safety assessment.

Election of Officers

Officers were re-elected *nem con* as follows

John Crossley	Chair
Andrew Perkins	Secretary & Registration Officer
Bryan East	Treasurer
Lisa Chapman	Publicity Officer
Sally Swift	Rides Secretary
George Willoughby	Liaison Officer (liaising with authorities re cycle paths and facilities)
Robert Humphrey	Welfare Officer
Malcolm Huson	Wednesday rides rep

Schedule and Organisation of Rides

A discussion followed on schedule and organisation of rides.

The meeting discussed how to react to heatwaves. It was agreed that a ride leader could decide to shorten a ride or start it earlier to avoid the worst of the heat. Changes should be posted on the website and WhatsApp if possible, but note that the leader always needs to bear in mind the safety of the riders who turn up, so could then change aspects of the ride just before or during the ride.

Thanks were noted to all ride leaders and to Chris and Debbie D, who have stepped up and led rides this year. We are always looking for existing or new leaders to lead more of the rides on our calendar (much of the leading is currently taken on by a small core of people).

Lisa suggested adding some variety to routes by starting some rides from Alton. This was endorsed. Lisa and Sally to arrange.

There was a proposal for a multi-day away ride in summer 2027, such as one which had been held in Leominster, Herefordshire. This was endorsed as a good idea. As yet no action assigned.

Social and Publicity

We had an enjoyable and successful winter party in January at The Wyvern in Church Crookham. Lisa said that she and members generally were pleased with the venue and arrangements, and the co-operation of Bob the landlord, so we could use the venue again next year.

This year's summer BBQ will be at 16:00 on Saturday 15th August, at Andrew's house in central Fleet (the same venue as last year); £10 per head to cover food and soft drinks; bring your own beer/wine; +1's welcome. Andrew will send details on WhatsApp.

AOB

Free Silver Service with the Surrey Bike Mechanic:

"The Surrey Bike Mechanic" had offered a free bike service for one of our members, so a draw was held of those members (excluding the committee) present. Ed Humphrey was the winner. We look forward to hearing his appraisal of the service, so that other members might decide to use it.

Suggestions: Website and Facebook

Chris and Debbie D sent apologies and said that the rides and friendships made are a significant part of their retirement! They wished us a good meeting and gathering of minds. They also sent some suggestions:

- Website rides list says “2023 onwards” at the top.
Andrew fixed this after the meeting, with a change on the website
- Website includes photos of old club kit.
- Facebook group looks a little tired. Do we need a small working group to address?

Claire, Lisa, Robert and Andrew said they would be interested in being involved in a working group. We hope Chris might too, as he suggested it! **Action: Andrew will contact** these volunteers.

Reporting Incidents to Police

Lisa said that, in the last 6 months or so, three incidents involving dangerous driving near cyclists locally had been reported to police, with video footage submitted, and in each case the police took action: fines or compulsory victim awareness training. Keep sending in your reports, with footage!

Hart Landscape Character Assessment

We have been contacted by AECOM, a consultancy working for Hart District Council, for input on the Local Plan (NB: not the Local Cycling Walking and Infrastructure Plan).

Andrew and George have been working on a response which shows the roads we use. Ed and Malcolm were also interested in providing input.

However, following our AGM, a Senior Planner at Hart District Council later clarified the request as follows:

As part of the emerging Local Plan evidence base, AECOM have been commissioned, amongst other matters, to update the Hart Landscape Character Assessment 1997 - [Hart District Landscape Assessment](#) . This work focuses specifically on understanding landscape character and how it is experienced and used.

We are approaching the cycling group to gain insights specifically into local recreational routes, popular cycle routes that would not be included on the National Cycle Network or Ordnance Survey mapping.

Perhaps as a group you hold a set of routes you use regularly - which may include details of why - like particular views or perceptions of the landscape? Maybe some of these routes aren't on the National Cycle Network or Ordnance Survey?

We would be grateful if you could share any relevant routes and accompanying qualitative information with AECOM on behalf of Hart District Council, as this will help inform our understanding of how the district's landscapes are valued and experienced.

We recognise there are likely many wider planning matters your group may wish to comment on. However, for the purposes of this study, we would appreciate a **focused response on the landscape and recreational aspects outlined above**.

If you would like to stay informed about the Local Plan process more broadly, you can register on our consultation database via the Council's website: [New Local Plan | Hart District Council](#)

There will be further opportunities to engage later in the year, with details set out in the Local Plan timetable: [Local Plan timetable | Hart District Council](#)

In light of this, Andrew and George produced a response, available on our website on page [About Us > Administration](#) at [June 2026 Response to Hart District Council](#) (A Cyclist's View of Hart).

Date of next AGM

Date is to be determined – around May or June next year. **ACTION: Andrew**, as Secretary

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and contributing to an interesting meeting. The meeting closed at 20:55