

# **Dorset Cyclists Network**

## **AGM Minutes**

**Held by Zoom 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Michael Evans briefly outlined how DCN started and pleased that DCN has continued since he stood down as Chair with area reps carrying on on local issues. Thanked Phil Wilson for his work as Treasurer, Gerry Bannister for running the membership system, and all the DCN volunteers.

### **Branch Reports**

**Blandford & Sturminster:** Blandford TC has accepted Dily's suggestions for improving cycling/walking in the town. She's organising a family Rudolph Yule Ride on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and is looking for volunteer ride leaders. Sturminster – Harts is redeveloping with new cafe and Dilys asks that we all write in to ensure it has cycle parking and to show support.

**BCP & E Dorset:** Both councils have funding from Transforming Cities Fund and it is important that members put views to consultations on their websites. LTP updates, waiting for Government White Paper. In Poole, closure of the Quay and Poole Park to traffic because of Covid has been welcomed – it is hoped that these improvements will become permanent – see the BCP website to add comments. BCP also consulting on Ferndown cycle routes. Leigh Road route to start work in January, but Merley to Poole route will not be funded as doesn't meet criteria of Transforming Cities Fund. BH Active Travel has a good facebook page, open to comments.

**Dorchester:** Cycling has improved since lockdown. Crossing of the A35 bypass is still problematic but a new light controlled Toucan crossing on the Weymouth side looks likely. Roland added that in Bridport the Bradpole-West Bay traffic-free route is now nearly complete. Roland said that since the county-wide consultation for DC, Cycling Officer Chris Peck now has a comprehensive database on what cyclists across the county want. General agreement that Chris is highly competent.

**Weymouth & Portland:** Already have a good network of cycle routes, and the Dorchester Rd painted lanes have been widened to 2 metres, which has taken away the threat from vehicles passing – Ken said this can be used as example of best practice, especially as the Council did this of its own volition! Council has also tried to improve traffic light sequencing for cyclists. Ken is supporting councillors who want a 20 limit. Also joint objection with Ramblers to the proposed Portland incinerator which would increase traffic.

**Sherborne:** Sherborne Hill pavement has been cleared and widened, and campaign for Milborne Port to Sherborne route has been revived. STC is reviewing cycle routes and Peter has made suggestions.

**Wider Issues:** Judy is lobbying DC for inclusion of cycling in its Climate Change Policy. Dilys is campaigning for a county wide 20 limit. Michael recommends signing up for DC newsletters to keep informed.

### **Financial Report**

Phil reported few changes from year to year – costs are down, partly because the newsletter has not been produced during lockdown. About £6,000 in reserves. Michael reminded that some funds still available for local groups to spend. Accounts were approved.

### **Membership Report**

Gerry reported current subs as 340 (representing 580 cyclists), and fairly stable, 315 of whom pay

electronically. 13 new members, non-renewals 36 for various reasons. 27 members have no email address. Michael offered to get more green membership leaflets printed. Dilys suggested targeting local bike shops, as cycle sales are booming.

### **Election**

Agreed that all the committee would carry on.

### **Other Issues**

Colin Morgan added how pleasant cycling became during the first lockdown in Wareham, thanks to reduced traffic and that there are more opportunities to make our voices heard on consultations by linking up with other Dorset environmental/transport groups. He said that senior council officers