

Safeguarding

As a national Group of Cycling UK, Stroud Valleys Cycling Club is required to comply with its Safeguarding Policy, which is to be monitored by a Safeguarding Officer.

Since I was too slow to step backwards at the committee meeting in May, I “volunteered” to be the designated club Safeguarding Officer!

The safeguarding Policy stems from legislation called The Care Act 2014 which defines Safeguarding as *“protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect”*

Cycling UK describes the Safeguarding Officer’s role as follows:

“You’ll help the group to create a welcoming and safe environment and a culture and an atmosphere of inclusion and respect. A safeguarding officer is also the person appointed by a group to resolve, informally in the first instance, any issues that may arise, such as a complaint about a member’s behaviour or concerns over an individual’s ability to ride safely with the group.”

Although I only joined the club a couple of years ago and I have missed a number of rides because of a ruptured Achilles tendon, I have been impressed by the friendly and helpful attitude of every member I have met to date so I am hoping my role as Safeguarding Officer is a low key one. However, should you have any concerns about any member who appears to be vulnerable who may need support or if you have a complaint about another member’s behaviour or their ability to ride safely, please bring it to my attention in a sensitive and discreet way so I can have a look at the situation and take appropriate action.

Steve Brawley, Safeguarding Officer, SVCC