



**CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA  
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE**

**SWANSEA CYCLE FORUM**

**Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 10:00  
Meeting Room 3 (2.2.7), Civic Centre**

**Present:**

Rob Wachowski (Chair)	RW	CCS Environment Transportation Group
Ben George	BG	CCS Environment Transportation Group
Eifion Francis	EF	Wheelrights (WR)
Colin Fielder	CF	Wheelrights (WR)
Roy Jones	RJ	Friends of the Earth (FoE)
Fraser Arnot	FA	Sustrans (Sust)
David Naylor	DN	UK Cyclists Organisation (CTC)
Nick Guy	NG	Wheelrights (WR)

**Apologies:**

Tonia Thomas	CCS Culture & Tourism
Helen Davies	Sustrans (Sust)
Mike Cherry	BikeAbility Wales (BAW)

Item		Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies as above.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	None.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>	
3.1	DN had sent amendments that RW has incorporated.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	NG 4.1 Gowerton / Kingsbridge Link – During a visit by John Grimshaw (Sust) he had suggested that WR contact the Commoners to offer help in clearing the subway under the A484 in order to promote partnership for the scheme. BG agreed it would be better for WR to engage in this so as to avoid potential financial implications due to a possible ransom strip situation. An update on the common land issues and progress of the Gorseinon Regeneration Trust. BG – a SWITTC meeting is scheduled for May at which the issues around a bridge over the railway at Gowerton station would be discussed with Network Rail.	BG/RW
4.2	NG 4.2 Cycling Action Plan – WR are hoping to set up a working group to help tie in the Swansea plan with the WAG Action Plan. BG thought it a good idea but would need to confirm this with Chris Vinestock. RW suggested making contact with WAG representatives in order to keep up with progress and develop the Swansea plan in parallel with theirs.	BG RW

Item		Action
4.3	DN 9.2 Stricter Liability – WR have received a response to their letter to Martin Caton MP (MC) on this subject and DN had since visited him at his constituents surgery. MC said that he had tabled an Early Day Motion EDM) to draw attention to the campaign and hopefully get it debated. The aforementioned letter has also been copied to Veronica Wood to pass on to the new Swansea West MP <a href="#">Geraint Davies</a> .	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Boulevard</b>	
5.1	BG – The cycle routes proposed for construction prior to the main boulevard works are being reprogrammed because of issues overlooked in the design process. Rather than being rushed through they will now be integrated into the Boulevard works plan. There is a workshop for this phase, Tawe bridges to West Way, taking place in May and the design will be much the same as before.	
5.2	DN – Reiterated that although the link from West Way to the prom alongside Oystermouth Road was out of the project area it was still essential for continuity. BG – The east end area was extended because it was still part of the Marina area and West Way was the final north / south link. NG – Referred to a previous meeting with John Hague where the cost for this link was put at only £30k and thought this was a possible campaign issue for WR. RW – This link had been considered for construction this year but the opportunity to obtain additional funding for completion of the Loughor link was deemed a higher priority.	
5.3	BG – Original design for the eastern end are changing for the better due to the consultation taking place with cycle groups. DN – Still felt that WR should be able to deal more directly with the design team and EF made a similar request for the Cycle Forum group to do the same. BG – Cycle and access groups have been well consulted with Transportation as the liaison and this should be continued and this would be clearer after getting a steer from the May workshop. There was a general discussion about previous design input not being adequate but it was agreed that the situation is much better now and current comments have now been addressed.	
5.4	EF – Due to cutbacks there are resource restrictions and suggested that a WR volunteer workforce could be utilised. BG – There are procurement issues using outside labour depending on where the funding comes from and the implications involved.	
5.5	BG – Regarding 20mph limits these can no longer be implemented because Oystermouth Road is a strategic route and the new pedestrian / cycle crossings reduce capacity. Traffic surveys show that the current average speed is 20 to 30mph and is likely to decrease with the expected reduction in capacity. There was a discussion about whether to continue the campaign for 20mph. BG suggested WR write to Cllr Rob Speht about their intentions.	
5.6	RW – Tabled a drawing of the latest proposals for the Tawe Bridge connections to Route 43 and other links for later discussion and comment. RJ – Asked what the completion date for the bridge works and the impacts on local communities and businesses. BG said that the headline benefits were an increased capacity of 30% to 50%	

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<b>6.0</b>	<b>Connect 2 – Clydach and Penclawdd</b>	
6.1	<b>Clydach</b>	
	RW – Apologised that in the absence of HD there was little to report and he would seek an update from her.	RW
	EF – Has seen that a section along the canal has been completed recently.	
	BG – There is a site meeting with Planning to discuss concerns about crossing rural land but they were generally pleased with the plans. The depot land had not yet been transferred due to Sustrans concern about possible ground contamination.	
	<b>Penclawdd</b>	
	RW – This scheme has in effect been shelved for the moment in the light of a possible new funding stream as described in the next item.	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Rural Development Plan – North Gower Trail</b>	
7.1	RW – Crofty, Llanmorlais and Penclawdd Regeneration Group had put in a basic application for RDP funding for construction of a cycle route from Gowerton to Cheriton (NGT). They were successful but because they do not have the resources to submit a detailed follow up bid CCS Regeneration asked Transportation if we could assist with this. This was agreed and we have been working with David Judd, to whom we are very grateful for his efforts at such short notice, to work up and submit the bid.	
	BG – The initial bid offer was £600k but it included routes that are not feasible at the moment eg to Cheriton. If the detailed bid is successful then there will be an initial Planning Application for a Stage 1 Penclawdd section.	
	NG – Asked what the situation is regarding the route around Halfway House and BG said that this may still be up for negotiation or may have to have a less ambitious design solution.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>City Centre Cycle Parking</b>	
8.1	RW – Of the sites previously surveyed with DN it was decided that the most suitable were the east end of the Quadrant and adjacent the footbridge at St Davids. Regarding the latter following a site meeting with a cycle shelter manufacturer it was apparent that it would not be feasible for a shelter because of the depth required for the fixing bolts and the effect on the structure. Another smaller scheme using portable cycle stands would be put to the car parks manager for consideration. The Quadrant parking will also need to have final approval in order for the installation to commence.	RW
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Gower Cycling Festival</b>	
9.1	NG – The dates are 10 to 17 September. Lessons have been learnt from last year and the rides will be mostly repeated with a possible south Gower ride. DN – There will be more rides on weekends based on the demand from last year and the website will be updated soon. NG – One of the spin offs from last year are more cycle friendly cafes etc with Cyclists Welcome stickers. He would like an update from Tourism about Cycle Friendly Accommodation in the area and RW will look into it.	RW
9.2	NG – Talked again about the unfinished film script “Me and My Bike” written by Dylan Thomas and the possible interest in actually making the film. CF – Asked if CCS would be able to contribute to such a venture but RW said this was really outside the Transportation remit.	

Item		Action
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Marina Foreshore Improvements</b>	
10.1	RW – CCS has had funding to carry out improvement works to the foreshore between the Observatory and the Marriot Hotel. This is in the form of new lighting columns, balustrades and surfacing.	
10.2	In addition to these works a new type of luminous studs that include a reflective band have been installed on a trial basis along the unprotected edge from the Marriot Hotel to the west end of the Civic Centre.	
10.3	As part of the Boulevard works it also proposed to construct a link from the prom alongside the edge of the Civic Centre east car park to link up with West Way via Trawler Road and Paxton Drive.	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Loughor Link</b>	
11.1	RW – The construction of this link has been completed apart from signing, fencing and realignment of the concrete barriers at the eastern end. These will be finished as soon as the final design has been produced. Once this has been carried out an official opening will be organised.	RW
<b>12.0</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	
12.1	<p>DN – During Bike Week WR are proposing a Commuter Challenge from Gowerton to Castle Square. This will comprise of various forms of transport including bus, train and bike being used to find the most convenient. There will also be a mass ride from Blackpill to Castle Square via a proposed commuter route through the Sandfields and the Metro lane. This was proposed for midday and WR were looking for CCS support and RW would oblige.</p> <p>RW – There will be a mountain bike ride called the Gower Beast on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> that will take in the 5 highest peaks on Gower including Cefn Bryn, Llanmadoc and Rhossili Down. The annual 43-2-C ride will take place on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>.</p>	RW
12.2	NG – Talked about the initiative called 1 in 10 where commuters are being asked to make a commitment to cycle to work at least 1 day in 10 (fortnight). They already had support from Reena Owen and WR are looking to promote this to various businesses in the Swansea area.	
12.3	BG – Traveline Cymru have a similar scheme whereby commuters sign a pledge to travel more sustainably and he would forward details from Jo Foxhall.	BG
12.4	<p>NG – Had met with city centre Ranger Leader Matthew Bowen to point out signs that pointed in wrong directions etc. and BG said this needed to be discussed with the city centre manager Lisa Wells. There were also plans for a future audit of signage on link routes.</p> <p>DN – Asked if any progress had been made on the Sustrans signing audit. FA said that Sustrans budgets had yet to be confirmed and would liaise with RW when CCS budgets had also been agreed. DN would also like to see serious consideration given to the audit recommendation for the Station Road junction in Loughor.</p>	FA/RW
<b>13.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
13.1	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 10:00 Meeting Room 2 - 2.2.6, Civic Centre	

