

Wheelrights

Notes of Swansea Bay Cycle Forum meeting on 12 April 2016

In the Environment Centre, SA1 1RY.

Present: Simon Bailey^{CW}(SB), John Cardy^{CW}(JC), Mike Cherry^B(MC), Roger Dutton^S(RD), Allyson Evans^{SW}(AE), Nick Guy^{CSW}(NG), Philip McDonnell^E(PM), David Naylor^{CSW}(DN), Kevin Rees^G(KR), Patrick Tribe^{CW}(PT). Les Woodward^B(LM).

Apologies: Lindsey Brown^S(LB), Claudine Conway^{CW}(CC).

Affiliations: ^B BikeAbility (Wales); ^C Cycling UK (aka CTC); ^E Swansea Environmental Forum; ^G Gower Riders; ^S Sustrans; ^W Wheelrights.

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1 Matters arising from notes of Launch on 2 February.
None.

2. Active Travel Act and Swansea.

NG spoke on behalf of LB. The Active Travel Act (Wales) was a Welsh Gov. initiative. Its prime purpose is to encourage cycling as a means of transportation, ie to promote a 'modal shift' from car to bike, but leisure cycling is included. Active Travel must be considered in major developments. Local Authorities are required to submit maps showing existing and planned cycle routes. Swansea's *Existing Routes Map* (ERM) has now been submitted, the deadline being earlier this year. The deadline for the map(s) showing aspirational routes, the *Integrated Network Map* (INM), is September, 2017. The routes shown on it are to be completed in 15 years. They are however to be reviewed every three years.

In producing the INM LAs are obliged to consult with the public. LB has suggested people be invited to submit their cycling *desire lines*. This information needs to go to Ben George (Ben.George@swansea.gov.uk) for routes in Swansea County and to Laura Pack in NPT (L.pack@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk). It was suggested that NG or DN (Representing *Wheelrights*.) be an intermediary for Swansea and JC for NPT. An invitation to consult is expected soon.

3. Forum Aims.

PM gave a brief presentation in which he noted that we needed a concise statement of our aims which would distinguish us from similar groups. He had looked at precedents and tabled a draft for consideration. This was considered along with the earlier draft DN had circulated together with feedback on it from CC. The Appendix shows what we came up with.

4. Website.

We agreed that we should set up a simple 'static' website. It would provide links to the sites of the Forum member groups. PM suggested we use *Weebly* to set it up. It is free and he has experience of it. PT volunteered to take this on. He would liaise with PM. **[Action: PT]**

5. Mass Ride.

DN sought advice on how to organise this Bike Week Mass Ride planned for Saturday, 18 June. Its purpose is to promote *Space for Cycling*. His thoughts are that it should comprise two parts: a meeting at a city centre venue and a ride.

He suggested Castle Square as the venue. Dignitaries (who would include the cycle friendly Gower MP Byron Davies) would be invited to launch the ride, a CTC 2 minute video on the theme would be shown and possibly other activities provided. The Evening Post would be invited to cover the event with a photo-shoot featuring a banner displaying the words *Space for Cycling*.

The ride would be an anti-clockwise circuit of the city centre: Kingsway, West Way, Oystermouth Road and Princess Way. He envisaged that riders would have A4 placards pinned on their backs (As *Wheelrights* have done before.) containing suitable messages for passing motorists. He tabled some suggestions for the wording.

We would need to make arrangements with the Council's Events Dept. to use Castle Square, in particular to show a video. MC agreed to make enquiries of them. **[Action: MC]**

DN suggested the following timings: assemble at Castle Square from 11.30 with speeches at 12.00. The ride would follow these, c.12.15. Action Bikes expect to provide up to 100 participants. They would assemble by their shop prior to moving to Castle Square.

The issue of liability was discussed. It was noted that the Council, in particular the Events Dept, is very risk averse and that we should look for insurance cover elsewhere. It may be that Bike Week insurance will cover the Mass Ride. DN will look into this and also register the ride as a Bike Week event. NG will be attending a meeting on 20 April about the Sustrans ride planned for 12 June. He will let DN know their insurance plans. **[Action: NG, DN]**

DN proposed setting up a small working group to organise this ride. Tentatively this would comprise DN, MC, Kerry Rogers (who had volunteered at a Wheelrights meeting on 22 Feb.), somebody from Action Bikes and a Councillor – Nick Davies and/or Mark Childs. **[Action: DN]**

6. AOB.

- (a) Cycle Forum attendees. Answering a query from LW DN advised that he has an email distribution list of attendees.
- (b) Active Journeys programme. RD would like to hear from any schools that would like to take part in the programme which is designed to encourage active travel to schools. For the travel challenge any companies interested in taking part in the workplace challenge can register at <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/wales/what-we-do/workplaces/cymru-travel-challenge>.
- (c) Travel Challenge. RD also would like to hear from firms who would be interested in a scheme to encourage people to cycle to work. (Similar to the 'Cycling Challenges' held in S. Wales in recent years.)
- (d) Great Western Railway. RD advised that from 15 May cycle reservations would be compulsory on their trains. DN would write to them to try and get this changed. **[Action: DN]**

Future meetings

We agreed that these should be quarterly with the next at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 19 July in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor (*Wheelrights* secretary)

A P P E N D I X

Swansea Bay Cycle Forum

Aims

The Swansea Bay Cycle Forum brings together individuals and organisations to promote and facilitate cycling in the Swansea Bay area. Its purpose is to work together to improve provision for cyclists in the area.

Its aims are to:

- Share information about cycling activities.
- Facilitate discussion about cycling issues.
- Encourage collaboration between cycling organisations.
- Support measures to improve infrastructure for cyclists.