

Wheelrights

Notes of Swansea Bay Cycle Forum meeting on 20 October 2016

in the Environment Centre, SA1 1RY.

Present: Simon Bailey^{CW}(SB), Mike Cherry^B(MC), Chris Connick^{RW}(CC), Allyson Evans^{SW}(AE), Nick Guy^{SW}(NG), Philip McDonnell^E(PM), David Naylor^{CW}(DN), Hamish Osborne^N(HO).

Apologies: Ian Davies^C(ID), Pat Hansard^{SW}(PH), Tim John^S(TJ), Kevin Rees^G(KR), Ian Williams^R(IW).

Affiliations: ^B BikeAbility (Wales); ^C Cycling UK; ^G Gower Riders; ^E Swansea Environmental Forum; ^N National Resources Wales; ^R Recycle; ^S Sustrans; ^W Wheelrights.

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1 Matters arising from 12 April meeting.

- (a) Mass ride (Item 5). DN explained that this had been cancelled for lack of support. PM advised that for such an event to be successful support from large organisations, which could amongst other things provide insurance cover, was needed.
- (b) Great Western Railway (Item 6d). DN had contacted GWR with two requests: that bike booking should be possible while purchasing a ticket shortly before departure and that for on-line bookings a bike should be reservable on the opening page as, eg, on the German railway website www.bahn.de. He had heard from their MD, Mark Hopkins, who advised that the first request would be implemented when the new trains come into service in 2017 and that the second request will be reviewed by the relevant management.

2. SBCF website. (<http://swanseabaycycleforum.weebly.com>)

This website is up and running. PM noted that it aims to be simple and attractive. He would include key events on the 'News & Events' page. There was an exchange of views on whether or not bike shops should be listed. Currently they are not. The general view seemed to be that bike shops potentially supportive of this group could be. This website should not be a sales outlet! DN noted contact info. for local bike shops is included on Wheelrights website. In response to an offer of financial support from NG PM replied that the site involved no costs and that, because it took up little time and provided that the level of maintenance and content remains low, he was happy to provide his services for free.

3. Integrated Network Map.

NG described how Sustrans and Wheelrights were collating ideas from the public about which routes should be included on the INM. This process has taken place at public events and will at the Swansea Green Fayre on 19 & 20 November. Proposed routes should be passed to Councils by next spring. The deadline for completing INMs is September 2017. All are encouraged to register their interest. This can be done on <https://action.cyclinguk.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1689&ea.campaign.id=54239&ea.tracking.id=ES>.

4. New Cycle maps.

The new (free) Swansea and NPT maps are now available. DN reviewed them in Wheelrights Autumn Newsletter. While they had the merit of coloured shading to show elevation he was critical that the picture on the cover featured a 'roady' cyclist rather somebody in ordinary clothes on a bike, also that the legend did not clearly distinguish between different types of cycle path.

5. Bike Week. (June 2017)

NG proposed that some ride-to-work routes should be selected and rides organised on them. These would be publicised with a view to promoting riding to work. HO noted that such rides, led by 'bike buddies', worked for NRW employees.

6. National Standards Cycle Training.

MC reported that funds were only available for half of 80 schools which potentially offer training. Due to the absence of Patrick Tribe and Chris Walsh further consideration of this item was postponed to a later meeting.

7. AOB.

- (a) Rural Development Plan. HO advised that £400k was to be made available for walking and cycling. He is proposing that £20k of this would be used for a feasibility study of cycle routes. While this would not pay for the routes it would serve as a catalyst. In answer to a query from MC he advised that this was separate from the Urban Development Plan.

- (b) Cenotaph. NG reported that cyclists had complained about the new cycle diversion to the south of the Cenotaph. There were three problems: the gravel hump, that the signs on posts to divert cyclists were facing the wrong way, and sand. He would raise these points with Ben George. DN noted that sand was not a problem here but was elsewhere on the foreshore so should be raised separately. [Post meeting: NG has emailed Ben George.]
- (c) Llethrid. DN reported that his application to have the short length of public footpath between Park Woods and Llethrid upgraded to a *restricted byway* (which would give cyclists the same rights as walkers have on footpaths) which had been languishing with Swansea Council since January 2015 at tenth place in a queue waiting to be considered had been promoted to third place. This was thanks to the intervention of cllr Mark Child (Cabinet Member for *Wellbeing and Health*).

7. Next meeting

6.30 pm on Thursday, 12 January 2017 in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor (*Wheelrights* secretary)