

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 26 November 2007 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Claudine Conway (CC), David Croxall (DC), Helen Davies (HD), Margaret Ferguson (MF), Colin Fielder (CF), Eifion Francis (EF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), John Roach (JR), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 3 September meeting and not on agenda.

Item 5. Wheelrights flyer. CC advised that she could get our flyer reproduced and folded at 11p each (on the basis of 1000 copies).

2. Metro Phase 2

DN explained how he had been made aware that the Swansea Metro Phase 2 works lacked provision for cyclists, how this had led to a *Wheelrights* letter to the Council dated 5 September and a meeting with Cllr John Hague (Cabinet Member for Environment) on 4 October. Notes of this meeting were tabled. (File 07oct04nm.doc.) The 5 Sept. letter had proposed modifications to the works at 5 locations under 6 headings. The Council's response was for the most part negative. (A reply dated 5 Oct. to the letter was received after this meeting.) In particular they rejected the first two proposals which were to convert the 1/4 mile of footpath along the south side of Oystermouth Rd linking NCN 4 to the Cycle crossing at Paxton St to shared use and to provide cycle access to the new café currently under construction on the south side of County Hall with cycle parking within sight of the café. Reasons for their rejection were lack of funds and that their consultants advised against shared use paths. Cllr Hague instructed the Council to cost the former and look again at the latter. DN sought advice on how to follow this up.

It was agreed that DN would write to Cllr Hague to enquire about the costing and to ask who the consultants were, with a view to us having a meeting with them. **[Action DN]** We also resolved to make contact with other path users, specifically the disabled. We thought the appropriate body would be Swansea Access For Everyone (SAFE) group and RW was asked to find out who to contact. **[Action RW]**

3. Regional Transport Plan

In response to an invitation from the *Cycle Forum* DC and DN had drafted a *Wheelrights* submission for the RTP. (Tabled as file RTPWRsub.doc.) That the *Welsh Road Safety Strategy*¹ supported measures to improve alternatives to the car including cycling and walking was noted. The RTP should seek to implement its recommendations and we need to draw attention to this in our submission. Regarding future schemes RW advised that he had prepared detailed plans for the County. It was agreed that the RTP should contain a reference to these. The list under "Future schemes" summarises the key ones. DN and DC would finalise the submission (required by early December). **[Action DN & DC]**

4. Explorer Rides

DCs earlier proposal (file ExplorerR.pdf) was tabled. It was agreed that initially rides would be monthly. A subgroup lead by DC would meet in January to work out a programme. **[Action DC]** We considered the possibility that some of the shorter of CTC's 'Easy Rides' might be incorporated but even these were too long and it was felt that the Explorer rides would be better as a 'stepping stone' to the CTC rides.

¹ Downloadable from <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/roadsafety/?lang=en>

5. Insurance

A letter from the CTC to DC dated 8 Aug. which described an insurance scheme for groups such as ours was tabled (file CTCins07aug08.pdf). To take advantage of this we need to become affiliated to the CTC. The cost would be £25 plus £50 per calendar year (if taken out after 31 Dec.) This would cover both our Explorer rides and training classes. there is however a limit of five non-affiliated members on an event. We decided to take out this insurance. [Action GW]

6. Newsletter

JR volunteered to continued to edit the newsletter. The deadline for Issue 3 is 29 February 2008. Contributions should be sent to JR (e-mail: j.a.roach@btinternet.com). [Action JR].

7. AOB

- (a) Connect 2. HD gave the schedule for voting for this. On-line voting can take place from now (visit www.thepeoples50million.org.uk); phone-in voting over the w/e 7-9 December. There will be an ITV programme about Connect2 on Tuesday 4 December with phone-in numbers announced on the 7th.
- (b) Celtic Trail. We discussed the 'Loughor short-cut' namely the km of new off-road path along the north side of the A484 (the Link Road) connecting the Marsh Road to Loughor Bridge. Although work has started on this we are concerned that the £k250 of Objective 1 money earmarked for it may be cut if the work is not completed in the near future. The deadline for spending this money is believed to be the end of this year. DN would report progress to David Whitehead (as he had informed DN of the start of work) based on information from JR who would be visiting the site. (Post meeting note: this was done on 28 Nov.) We considered how pressure could be put on the Contractor to expedite this work and various strategies were aired; these ranged from a direct approach to the Contractor and/or to WAG rather than writing to the Council. It was left to members to take appropriate action.
- (c) Gordon Gibson. VW (who had arrived late because she had attended a meeting of the Swansea Environment Forum at the Environment Centre) noted our need to work with this Forum and also referred to Gordon Gibson (who should have given a talk but didn't). We noted that he was a potential ally and agreed that we should have a meeting with him; it could take the form of a round table discussion on some such subject as 'Cycle Infrastructure'. VW offered to speak to him. [Action VW] (Post meeting note: should we arrange this meeting in say January, ie before our next Working Group meeting?)
- (d) Safe Routes to Schools. RW advised that Swansea lead Wales here and explained that the onus was on schools to apply for WAG support; they would then join a queue. We could help this process by encouraging schools to apply. MF offered to help here. [Action: those with kids at school or with school contacts.]
- (e) Mountain biking. The possibility of our getting involved with this was discussed; we thought it would draw in younger people. We are not yet ready but in due course should progress this.
- (f) Website. DN is planning to put a counter on www.wheelrights.org.uk and expressed his thanks to CC who has pointed him to an appropriate source. He has had some problems recently in updating the site due to changing from MS (XP) to Linux (Ubuntu). He will add a counter when he can. [Action DN]

9. Next meeting

7.30pm on Mon. 18 February 2008 in the Yacht Club.

Notes prepared by David Naylor (*Wheelrights'* Secretary)