

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 18 February 2008 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Claudine Conway (CC), David Croxall (DC), Bob Evans (BE), Rhian Evans (RE), Eifion Francis (EF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Eleanor Thorne (ET), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 28 Nov. 07 meeting and not on agenda.

- (a) Item 3 Regional Transport Plan. *Wheelrights* proposals were submitted on 5 December.
- (b) Item 5 Insurance. GW had taken out CTC insurance for *Wheelrights*.

2. On the Trail Funday

NG welcomed Eleanor Thorne of SCVS whom he had invited to give a short presentation on the above titled event. This she did. It will take place on Saturday 29 March and will involve organised activities based on three centres round Swansea Bay: County Hall (Dr Bike), Blackpill (Bird watching) and the Red Café, Mumbles (Woodland crafts). There would be other activities in addition to those in (). Visitors to the centres would have a card stamped. The event targets children, who would be encouraged to walk, cycle or use the land train between the centres. A role for *Wheelrights* is to patrol the path to assist those who cycle. Those free on that day are encouraged to do that. **[Action: All]**

We plan to distribute our proposed Shared use path code (see 5. below) at this event.

DN would provide ET with the *Wheelrights* logo for the flyer she is preparing. **[Action: DN]**

3. Explorer Rides

DC presented a draft programme for these rides drawn up by his subgroup. Following discussion it was agreed that to minimise clashes the rides would be on different days of the week rather than just Wednesdays. Also the N. Gower ride proposed for 15 June would be moved to the evening of Monday, 16 June. Agreed **actions**:

- **DC's** subgroup would finalise the programme and it's flier asp.
- **RW** would (when it is finalised) register it for Bike Week insurance cover.
- **CC** offered to help format the flier and would enquire about copying (up to 500).
- **DN** would put the finalised programme on www.wheelrights.org.uk.

BE referred to Harrogate's successful *Wheel-Easy* programme. On this beginners are taken on rides building up to 30 miles over a four month period. There are possible lessons for us. Website: www.wheel-easy.org.uk or phone Yvonne Skelton on 01423 888326.

4. Gordon Gibson meeting

A talk entitled *Living streets and Swansea City Centre* followed by a discussion has now been fixed for Thur. 20 March in the Environment Centre. It was agreed that the refreshments should follow rather than precede the discussion. DN had drafted a flyer to which he would add a brief summary. NG undertook to ask Gordon G. for this. **[Action: NG, DN]**

5. Shared path code

DN and RW were working to produce a short code of behaviour for shared path users. This had both a practical and political role, the latter as a means of developing a dialogue with the disabled lobby, specifically the blind and partially sighted, who are trying to exclude cyclists from future 'shared use' paths. (In ' ' since they would no longer be shared use.)

For this to be effective RW has the idea of producing a fun poster aimed at kids, with a cartoon picture featuring a boy with a bell riding on an engine as happened when a steam train ran along the front. He would involve tourism in its production. This idea was supported and DN agreed to help RW by doing some research into the Mumbles train history. **[Action: DN, RW]** If this can be prepared in time it will be distributed at the event on 29 March. (See 2. above.)

6. Newsletter

The deadline for copy for Issue 3 is 29 February. DN had exchanged e-mails with John Roach on 24 Jan, and had suggested he use some of the material on our website. At that time he (JR) had taken no action. It transpired that none of those present had sent him material. DN undertook to send him an article based on the 30 Jan. Workshop on the proposed *Swansea European Boulevard* which he had attended. Another suggestion is an article on recycled bikes by Ian Williams (See 'Re-cycle' on Links page of website.) Others were encouraged to contribute (but first check with JR; e-mail: j.a.roach@btinternet.com). **[Action: All]**.

7. Website

DN (thanks to CC) had installed a counter and there had been 91 visits since 5 January.

8. Publicity

DN tabled a proposal for the publication of a series of articles in the *Evening Post* which would be published weekly, timed to end before bike week. To provide something specific he proposed the six titles: *Why cycle, How cycle, The bike, The kit, Cycling - a lady's perspective* and *The fun of cycling*. He had drafted the first four, each about 600 words (which he will be happy to e-mail to anyone interested), had a possible author for the last, but sought one for the fifth. CC indicated she would be willing to take this on.

This initiative was supported. The next stage is to sound out the *Evening Post*. RE & DC will be seeing a Terry Crockford who should be able to advise who to contact. They would inform DN. (Post meeting note: Martin Brain suggests Alison Davies of the *EP*.) **[Action DC, RE, DN]**

9. Campaigning

DN had previously circulated the paper *Wheelrights agenda 2008* containing a list of issues which *Wheelrights* might take up. There not being time to discuss this members were asked to give this their consideration. (Suggestion: feed opinions to NG and/or DN.)

This document did however prompt a discussion about town cycle maps and RW suggested *Wheelrights* campaign for the production of a decent Swansea Cycling map and ask SSWITCH to incorporate this in their plans for a set of cycle maps covering SW Wales.

10. AOB

- (a) Adult beginner classes. We decided to hold the first two this year on 19 April and 14 June. Subject to County Hall E. car park being available (RW to check) the classes would be held there at the usual time of 9.30. **[Action: RW]**
- (b) Cycle Forum. DC wished to stand down as *Wheelrights* representative on this Forum. EF was proposed and agreed to take his place. (Next CF: 9 April.)
- (c) Sustrans workday. DN advised that this takes place next Saturday, 23 Feb. Meet at 10.00 on cycle bridge by Liberty Stadium prepared to clear litter and cut back vegetation.
- (d) Talk on Integrated transport. NG advised that Geoff Sheel will be giving a talk on this subject at 13.00 on Wed., 27 February in the old museum.

11. Future meetings

Gordon Gibson's talk: 7.30pm, Thur., 20 March in the Environment Centre

Working Group meeting: 7.30pm, Mon. 21 April in the Yacht Club.

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