

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 18 May 2009 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina

Present: Keith Bolton (KB), Claudine Conway (CC), Colin Fielder (CF), Eifion Francis (EF), Bill Gammon (BG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).
(Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), Helen Davies (HD), Gordon Gibson (GG))

The meeting was chaired by NG.

Keith Bolton had come at DJ's invitation to update us on the condition of his wife Laura and on Bikeability. Laura had been taken into Morriston Hospital on 29th April having suffered an acute attack of hydrocephalus. She was operated on to relieve the fluid pressure, but since then has been in a coma. Keith has remained very positive and we gave him our full support. Specifically he needs help with maintenance of their specialist bikes and to achieve this work sessions are planned in the summer, probably on Saturday afternoons. Keith to let us know when the dates have been decided. **[Action: KB]** We conveyed our best wishes for Laura's recovery and all signed a card to be delivered to Keith.

Keith then left and we addressed our agenda.

1. Matters arising from 16th March 09 meeting and not on agenda.

None.

2. John Grimshaw visit (29/30th April; talk on 29th)

DN summarised the time he spent with JG on the two days (see the 'Various' page of www.wheelrights.org.uk for details) and NG described both the meeting of CCS's Overview Board *Task and Finish Group* on the afternoon of the 29th and the talk JG gave that evening. Key outcomes:

- The more than 900 responses to CCS's cycling questionnaire were reviewed. There was nothing of particular note in the findings.
- JG has accepted our invitation to be a *Wheelrights* patron. Additional patrons were suggested, namely: Colin Jarvey (a rugby celebrity), Andrew Davies (AM) and Martin Caton (MP). (Follow this up at next meeting?)
- The CCS meeting was encouraging. Key features were their acceptance of an offer from JG to give seminars to instruct the design teams on how to design cycle friendly infrastructure. These are expected to be run annually the first within six months, hopefully in September. Linked to this was a commitment to prepare a Swansea Action Plan to implement WAG's "A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2009-2013". *Wheelrights* would be involved in the preparation of this plan.
- Swansea is to bid to become Wales's first sustainable city.
- Environment Head Reena Owen cycles to work and would be willing to help us by letting this be featured in publicity. (Just how to be decided.)

RW undertook to pass on to us the Minutes of the CCS meeting when received. **[Action: RW]**

3. Campaigning

(a) Gowerton. As a campaigning priority we agreed to focus on the Gowerton to Kingsbridge link. It is established that there are minimal engineering problems in constructing this but that the problem is legal. When the A484 was constructed there was a land swap whereby the land occupied by the original railway (which the cycle path would follow) was swapped for the land used by the road. This means that Commoners' rights apply to the land needed for a path. DN suggested that this be brought up at the next Cycle Forum on 8th July. In the meantime he was asked to approach Julian Atkins about the legal issues. **[Action: DN]**

Another outstanding matter in this area which we discussed was CCS's failure to upgrade the NCN 4 crossing of Mill St to a Toucan and other improvements needed to the route here.

We agreed that some form of direct action, to give publicity to these issues and get local support was needed. What form this should take was not decided: a ride with banners past Swansea Sound on Victoria Road to Mill Street? All to think about this. [**Action: All**]

- (b) Evening Post. The EP has agreed to run a series of articles on Thursdays featuring short local rides. The first of these appeared in the 14th May issue. The spec. for these articles is 200 words plus a photo. This presents a problem as more than 200 words are normally needed for an adequate description. A solution suggested is that the full description could be on Wheelrights website with a link provided in a 200 word version. An article for the 21st May issue has been requested and it was agreed that this should feature our 15th June N. Gower ride. DN would look after this. (Post meeting note: done on 19th May.)

Members are asked to provide descriptions and photos for more rides. If more than 200 words are needed two versions as above should be provided. These should be sent to both CC and DN so that she can send the shorter to the EP and DN put the longer on the website. [**Action: All**]

- (c) Wishlist. DN advised that, in a meeting on 15th May with RW and Chris Vinestock (CCS's new head of Transportation), CCS would be glad to take up an offer by him to update *Wheelrights* wishlist. This would differentiate between short term and longer term objectives. NG noted that this would fit in with Reena Owen's wishes based on his meeting with her on 13th May. DN would prepare this list and check it with others. [**Action: DN**]

4. Bike week

Noted that we have cycle training on 13th June and rides on 15th and 20th. VW and DN would be away for the training; RE hopefully not. RW suggested use of the Civic Centre Library to advertise the training (and the rides?) VW to liaise with RW about this. [**Action: VW, RW**]

5. AOB

- (a) Letters. Views were exchanged on the procedure for writing letters, which typically might be to Councillors or to the Evening Post. The issue was when would it be appropriate to use *Wheelrights* name (or their headed paper) and when not. Firm criterion were not established but common sense suggests that if the content is clearly in line with *Wheelrights* policies then it can be in our name, if not, not. DN can provide headed paper if needed.
- (b) Roundabouts. BG was concerned about an apparent lack of provision for cyclists in the changes being made to the roundabout where the Neath Road joins the Cross Valley Link by the Liberty Stadium. This led to a discussion about problems with other roundabouts, in particular that at M4 Junction 45 (Ynsyforgan) and the new Amazon roundabout on Fabian Way. These roundabouts are a problem both for on-road and off-road cyclists. We saw no short term solution, but looked to re-educated designers to cater for cyclists in future works.
- (c) On-line Forum. BG suggested that we set up an on-line forum, This was unanimously supported. DN had considered this but at the time felt it was more than he could take on. BG advised that our website provider would need to be involved, also we would need a moderator. DN, BG and (hopefully) CC would meet to establish what was involved. [**Action: DN, BG, CC**]
- (d) Quackers Ride. DJ noted that *Wheelrights* had contributed to the success of this ride on 9th May and thanked us for our help.
- (e) Finance. GW advised that there was about £430 in the kitty. He read out the names of 14 who had not yet paid their 2009 sub. and asked that if we knew any of them we would chase them up. Meanwhile he would defer deleting them from the members list.

6. Date of next meeting

7.00 for 7.15 pm, Monday, 20th July in the Yacht Club.

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