

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 16th June 2011 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Claudine Conway (CC), Stephanie Cuff (SF), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Brian Leadbetter (BL), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN) Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Martin Brain (MB), Judith Cole (JC), Phil Jones (PJ), John Sayce (JS), Geoff Wood (GW), Vee Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG

1. Matters arising (from 28 March 2011 meeting and not on agenda).

Item 8. Arriva Train Wales.

DN had not yet followed up the issue of cycle carriage limitations on ATW trains. It was suggested he involve Julie James (AM.Swansea West) when he did. [**Action DN**]

DN reported that JS had contacted ATM about inadequate cycle storage at Neath Station. The response (from John Haynes of Customer Relations) was that at present there were no plans for more storage but, indicating that something might be done in the future, he suggested JS approach ATW again. [**Action JSI**]

2. Bike Week (18 – 25 June)

- (a) Adult Beginner's Class. This would go ahead on the 18th as planned although the new bikes were not yet available. As usual those helping are asked to turn up in good time to get the bikes ready for the 9.30 start. DJ excused himself as he was involved with another event on the foreshore that morning. We noted that in future we should better coordinate Bike Week events
- (b) Mass Bike Ride. Those taking part should assemble at Blackpill (end of Clyne Valley path) at 12.15 for 12.30 departure. RW brought placards for people's backs to the meeting and we are asked to bring safety pins with us for attaching them. NG has arranged for a photographer at Castle Square at 1.00pm and has suggested Baguette de Jour as a source of refreshments. DN had invited Byron Davies (Conservative AM for South Wales West) to receive the group at Castle Square (or join the ride) but had not had a reply. The return to Blackpill might be continued to the Dunvant RFC for the tail end of the Bikeability Open Day [**Action All**]
- (c) Commuter Challenge. DN advised that the challengers were as follows. Bike: CC, DN and at least one other; car: NG; train: CF; bus: ML; kick-bike: RW; runners: at least one. All would leave the Car Park near the Commercial in Gowerton at 8.15 NG had been in touch with Chris Peregrine of the Evening Post who was interested in reporting on the event. He and hopefully others not taking part would be in Castle Square from 8.45 to receive the challengers. NB: someone needs to record their arrival times.
- (d) Other events. The North Gower ride on 20th and the 43-2-C ride on 26th would take place as planned.

4. Tawe Bridges

Views were exchanged about the inadequate provision for cyclists in the new clockwise gyratory over the two bridges on which work has now started.

DN and NG noted that while there had been some consultation this mostly related to the Boulevard and there had been little on the bridge plans. So far the only provision which appears to have been made for cyclists and pedestrians relates to the crossings and light sequences on the south bridge.

DJ reiterated the concerns expressed in his recent (14 June) letter to the Evening Post in which he underlined the need for an E-W shared use crossing on the north bridge. He wanted to know what cycle audit, if any, had been carried out. RW justified the lack of an E-W crossing on the grounds that this was not a strong desire line; also there would be problems crossing the junctions at either end. The view was also expressed that even if there was little current demand provision should be made to encourage more cycling and walking between the St Thomas area and the City Centre.

DN noted that the existing path on the west side of the Tawe under the north bridge could easily be made suitable for cyclists. This would provide a useful link between the Parc Tawe area and the south bridge which would avoid having to cross the road at the west end of the north bridge. It was agreed that we should press for this.

4. Gower Cycling Festival

4000 flyers had now been printed. NG came with a box full which were distributed to those present. CF advised that £310 had been received, £330 was owed by advertisers and £150 promised from CCS. This would cover the cost which NG said would be £780. CC thanked CF and NG for their efforts in producing the flyer.

5. 1:10 Campaign

A poster has still to be prepared (See 5 May meeting notes, Item 6). If ready this could be displayed at the 21 & 23 June DVLA stalls. CF confirmed that £100 was earmarked for this.
[Action NG]

6. AOB

- (a) Meetings with Chris Vinestock and Cllr John Hague. DN advised that a meeting with CV has been arranged for 30 June and with JH for 14 July. NG, DN and if available Fraser Arnot will attend. (Post meeting note: possibly also a rep. from the disabled lobby for the JH meeting.)
- (b) Additional rides/events. CC and DJ mentioned the following. DN would put them on the website when provided with the details. [Action CC, DJ, DN]
- CC: 30 mile ride from Gowerton
 - DJ: Festival of the Tides, Penclawdd, on 13 August. (Dress up as 'Jonny Onions'.)
 - DJ: Family ride on tentatively 20 August.
- (c) Evening Post article. DN referred to the article "Cycle lane plans given thumbs up" in the 16 June EP which described WAG's proposal to introduce a Cycling Bill to make it a requirement for LA's to provide for cyclists. He proposed to write to the EP as WR's Secretary to welcome this but also to underline the need for quality and continuity (both on and off road) and to make the case for more 20mph zones, in particular to link schools with residential areas. This was supported but It was suggested that he also mention the need for LA's to be provided with the necessary funding.

7. Date of next meeting

7.00 pm in the Environment Centre on Monday, 25 July. This will be an open meeting at which Alan Kreppell will give a talk

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