

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 28th March 2011 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), John Cardy (JC), Judith Cole (JCo), Claudine Conway (CC), Stephanie Cuff (SF), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW) . Geoff Wood (GW) , Veronica Wood (VW).

Apologies: Eifion Francis (EF), Gordon Gibson (GG), John Roach (JR), John Sayce (JS)

The meeting was chaired by NG

1. **Matters arising** (from 3 March 2011 and not on agenda).

Item 1. Adult Beginners Classes.

DN confirmed that Instructor training will take place on 31 March and 1 April.

VW advised that she and Geoff will miss the 9 April Class as that is their daughter's wedding day.

GW had received a grant of £1200 from the Coop Community Fund for the purchase of bikes for the classes. We congratulated him on this.

2. **Boulevard**

DN summarised the negotiations so far, ie: the drawings received from CCS showing the proposed path between the Civic Centre and LC and how his response to these was agreed at our 17 Jan. meeting (See notes.); the failure of CCS to agree to some key points; DN's subsequent approach to the Access groups, their support and CCS's offer to consult both them and us together. He referred to DJ's exchanges with Amy Crompton concerning provision at the NE end of the Boulevard. DJ enlarged on this.

DN also noted that £1.3m was to be spent on the Foreshore this summer and thought that some of this should be spent on links to the Boulevard path, at least at the west end. (RW advised that this money was mainly to be spent on railings in the vicinity of and to the east of the Civic Centre) DN had been advised by Ben George that the plans for Boulevard cycle provision were on hold so this provided an opportunity for us to do something.

It was agreed that a meeting with a "heavy weight" was appropriate. DN and NG had suggested Cllr Rob Speht but at VW's suggestion it was decided that we should approach John Hague. DN would write to him to ask for a meeting at which he would be asked to provide direction to bring together the apparently uncoordinated strands: ie access along and across the Boulevard, the links to it and integration of this with the foreshore work. (We are concerned about the rigid boundaries on the last which apparently prevent some of the £1.3m being spent on these links.) Sustrans, Wheelrights and SAFE¹ should be represented at the meeting. VW asked that notes be taken. DJ noted that in addition a Technical meeting was needed. [**Action DN**]

3. **Seminar**

DN noted that it had been agreed at the meeting with Chris Vinestock on 22 Nov. 2010 that there should be another seminar on the lines of that given by John Grimshaw on 19 Oct. 2009 and that Alasdair Massie should give it. (See para. 18 of the notes of this meeting: <http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/CV10nov22nm.pdf>.) It was suggested that councillors and CCS's more senior officers, but including a representative of the design team, should attend the seminar. DN would approach Alasdair to check his availability and whether he could provide a seminar suitable for this audience. An Autumn date is envisaged. [**Action DN**]

4. **Fabian Way**

DN had received replies to his letter of 20 Feb. to John Flower (NPT Director of Environment) advocating a cycle route south of Fabian Way. These comprised three emails:

- On 8 March from Mr Flower's secretary which kept the option of a southerly route open.
- On 8 March from Clive Thomas, Deputy Port Manager, advising in effect that there was no way a cycle route would be allowed through the port area.
- On 14 March from Ian MacPherson, Deputy Director of Estates at Swansea University, advising that design is in the development stage but that they "... will undoubtedly include adequate provision for cyclists." (DN had forwarded the J. Flower letter to Raymond Ciborowski, a colleague of Ian MacP.)

The text of these three emails is provided in the appendix.

¹ Swansea Access For Everyone.

DJ noted that there was a plan to provide a cycle path along the north side of the Prince of Wales Dock. However, an easterly continuation of this along Langdon Road is currently blocked by the Port authorities. We need to find out what the City's plans are. **[Action DN, RW]**

DN noted that the preferred route to the Campus site would continue along and past the easterly end of Langdon Road keeping south of Fabian Way. If this is blocked it would have to follow NCR 4 across the Siding's Bridge and then use Baldwin's Bridge (at W. end of Elba Crescent) to pass under Fabian Way to the Campus.

The plans for a route north of Fabian Way were discussed. DJ explained that the original plans for NCR 4 would have extended it beyond its present dead end near the NPT boundary to go past the Tower Hotel and across the golf course. The canal was not then an option. KR however said that it now was and that there were plans to extend the path along the canal. (Post meeting note from KR: the canal extension is only to be a footpath.) If it then linked with the B4290 at Jersey Marine it could be used for cycle access to Coed Darcy (using either the B4290 or the hilly minor road alternative). Otherwise cyclists would have to go via the dangerous Amazon Roundabout.

5. **Bike Week** (19 – 25 June)

- (a) Commuter Challenge. The options (from Mumbles, Gowerton or Morriston to the City Centre) were briefly reviewed and a preference for the Gowerton to Castle Square route option emerged. A meeting with Richard Youle of the Evening Post – probably involving CC, NG & DN – would be fixed to arrange publicity and form a plan. **[Action NG]**
- (b) Bike Ride. We confirmed that we would organise a mass ride (to celebrate cycling?). It would start at Blackpill, follow Mumbles Road to the (erstwhile) Slip Bridge, go through the Sandfields to West Way, then along the Kingsway Metro to Castle Square. The preferred date is Sat., 25 June; with the ride starting at 12.00. This timing would fit in nicely with the adult Beginners Class on that day from 9.30-11.30

6. **1:10 Campaign**

NG explained that this involved a commitment to cycle to work at least once a fortnight. Reena Owen had previously offered to make this commitment and NG would check that she still will. Suggestions were made to implement this. DJ: reach out to young people; GW: involve press; KR: schools and businesses (He mentioned Admiral.); JC: Ostreme team members; VW: commit councillors. NG would advise where we go from here. **[Action NG]**

7. **Rebranding Wheelrights**

NG advised that some members had felt that our logo needed changing to attract younger members (not 'cool' enough?) and that our website could be improved. First it was necessary to establish if there was a mandate for a change and then if there was hold a competition for a new logo. (The present logo was the result of such a competition four years ago.) Some present felt that the logo did need revision while others said that it was OK. (A member had previously emailed NG to express his satisfaction with the logo and that it should not be changed without good reason because it was already a Wheelrights 'brand'.)

DN explained that he coded the website directly in HTML because of the control this allowed him and because it ensured it worked well on a range of browsers. Partly due to the limitations of HTML and partly because he believed in simplicity he kept the format simple. He was open to suggestions. CC and JC offered to send him some. (NG already had.) **[Action CC, JC]**

8. **AOB**

- (a) Pioneers Ride. DJ highlighted this ride from Fishguard to Cardiff between 29 April and 3 May. All welcomed on all or part of it, also to a party at Dunvant RFC on 2 May. Details on the website: <http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/events.htm>, or contact David on 07967 613920.
- (b) Irish cyclists. DA advised that 100 cyclists from Beara were planning to come over on the Cork Ferry for a day's cycling on 1 July, and would we help them organise a couple of rides, one a 100 miler? We would be pleased to welcome them but felt that it would be more appropriate for the CTC to help them with the rides.
- (c) CTC Volunteer of the year award for Wales. JC advised that DN had been given this award and would receive it at CTC's agm in Weymouth on 14 May. He would also be put forward for the National award. DN was duly congratulated.

9. **Date of next meeting**

7.00 pm in the Environment Centre on Thursday, 5 May.

A P P E N D I X

Text of replies to 28 Feb. 2011 letter to John Flower about Fabian Way cycle route

8 March email from Elizabeth M Jones: Mr Flower's secretary

Dear Mr Naylor

Thank you for your letter regarding the above. I am aware of the Fabian Way Corridor Study and its recommendations regarding a preferred Strategy. This is biased towards facilities being provided to the north of Fabian Way. This resulted from representations made by others at the stakeholder events.

However the Executive Summary of the Fabian Way Corridor Study does suggest that "any variation to constraints influencing the routes and locations of the elements of the strategy (e.g. availability of a coastal route for walking and cycling) should be appraised and adopted where agreed providing the strategy targets are delivered."

I will share your letter with Clive Thomas at ABP and Rebecca Wright at CCW as representatives of other landowners in the vicinity of the new campus for their views.

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8 March email from Clive Thomas, Deputy Port Manager, South Wales Ports

Dear Mr Naylor

Further to the attached letter I offer the following comments from ABP as owner and operator of the Port of Swansea.

ABP was fully involved in the Fabian Way Corridor Study both at workshops and also by way of on site visits and discussions with the project team. During the course of the study ABP outlined numerous concerns over the proposed use of port roads for non port related traffic and the following points were raised and recorded.

Firstly in relation to access to the port area, linked to operational requirements, ABP took the decision to close the East Gate to road traffic. ABP keep this under review and would reopen the East Gate security point if it was required for port related business. We would not be able to support a reopening of this security point for non port related activity.

ABP cannot support use of port roads or infrastructure for use as a public thoroughfare. The port is a secure area and governed by an increasing array of Security Regulations. Opening the port to public access is not compatible with the requirements of the directives or indeed our own internal security plan. Furthermore, the roads within the curtilage of the port are heavily used by numerous HGV's and other large plant and equipment. ABP is extremely focused on provision of a safe workplace, introduction of public vehicles or cycles within this area would represent an unacceptable safety risk to public and port users alike.

Since the study concluded, a new, more stringent regulatory framework has come into play which further underlines our stance. I trust that you understand that the port is not a suitable area for the proposed use and thus will focus attention on the link proposed for the North of Fabian Way.

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14 March email from Ian MacPherson, Deputy Director of Estates, Swansea University

Dear Mr Naylor

Thank you for the information you provided the University's Registrar recently regarding the proposal being forwarded by Wheelrights in respect of cycle routes to and through the proposed Bay Campus.

As you will appreciate the University is still in the design development stages of the project and is not yet in a position to finalise any designs. Transport is a key strategic imperative for the development and the University will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and affordable transport strategy is adopted which will undoubtedly include adequate provision for cyclists.