

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 5th May 2011 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Claudine Conway (CC), Stephanie Cuff (SF), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Brian Leadbetter (BL), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN) Geoff Wood (GW) , Vee Wood (VW). GW and VW arrived after we had considered item 4.

Apologies: John Cardy (JC), Judith Cole (JCo), Paul Elliott (PE) , Gordon Gibson (GG), Helen Davies (HD), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), John Roach (JR) Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

The meeting was chaired by NG

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

Item 7. Rebranding.

NG referred to an article on p.13 of the April-May 2011 *London Cyclist* about why they changed their name with the thought that this might be relevant to us. He suggested that if anybody were to come up with a new logo this could be put to the membership.

2. **Bike Week** (18 – 25 June)

(a) Commuter Challenge. NG had approached Richard Youle of the Evening Post to arrange publicity but got a cool response. We confirmed that the challenge would be from Gowerton to Castle Square on Wed., 22 June, leaving the large car park (not the pub one) near the Commercial Inn at 8.15 . CC plus others would cycle; DN offered to cycle and thought RW on his kick-bike (which he would love) would make good publicity. NG offered to be the car commuter and CF and ML between them would take the bus and train. NG and CC would arrange publicity and draft a Press Release covering this and the Bike Ride. [**Action CC, NG**]

(b) Bike Ride. This would take place on Saturday, 18 June (not 25th as previously suggested). The route is described in the notes of the 28 March meeting (Item 5b). Riders would assemble on the Clyne path by the Blackpill car park at 12.15, the ride starting at 12.30. With the Civic Centre beginner's class ending at 11.30 this would give us time to get to Blackpill.

Publicity in the form of leaflets and A4 placards pinned on riders backs would be provided. CC proposed the following wording for the latter. [**Action CC, NG, DN**]

ONE LESS CAR

3. **Adult Beginners Class** (14 May)

CC, DN and VW would be away on 14 May. VW would however request the usual notice in the Evening Post. The £1200 grant from the Co-op had been received but new bikes would not be purchased in time for this class; hopefully they would be for 18 June. 6 new bikes were suggested. GW would liaise with CF and RW and purchase the bikes. [**Action GW**]

4. **Boulevard**

DN, rather than approach John Hague *a priori* as requested at the last meeting, had contacted cllr Rob Speht. He decided to do this as RS is chair of the Cycle Forum. DN raised two points with RS: the need for an integrated approach so that, in particular, funding would be available to link the foreshore with the Boulevard, and the need for 'nuts and bolts' meetings (as in the erstwhile Cycle Forum Technical Sub-group meetings) RS promised to follow up both of these, and in connection with the latter had spoken to Mark Thomas, Head of Highways, who thought such meetings were taking place. DN had phoned Ben George about this that morning and had discussed the Boulevard issues at some length with him.

Ben referred to an internal meeting the previous day (4 May) at which Boulevard issues were discussed, the content of which he could not divulge but which he described as 'positive'. He could not commit on when, or even if, the sought after meetings could take place. Ben indicated engineering work will start about this time next year. (DN assumes that this does not include the Tawe bridges gyratory as work on this appears imminent.) They discussed in some detail the cycling issues associated with the gyratory. DN advised him of our concerns.

DN produced a drawing showing the planned Tawe bridges gyratory. We noted the lack of provision for cyclists to cross the second bridge from east to west; they, like motorists, would be required to go round three sides of the square. This also applies to N-S bound cyclists.

DN suggested that we should push for the retention of the original plan for a 20mph limit on the Boulevard – which Rob Speht supports – and that this should include the Tawe Bridges.

NG proposed a Wheelrights technical sub-group for the Boulevard. DN felt that this was not necessary; our Cycle Forum rep.s could serve this purpose by receiving feedback from the membership. No other views on this were expressed.

5. **Fabian Way** (Routes to S. and along Tennants Canal)

DN referred to the correspondence on this (See Item 4 and the Appendix in the notes of the 28 March meeting.) and suggested that we pursue this; in particular:

- The need to continue the dead-end path N. of Fabian Way along Tennants Canal to Aberdulais. A footpath is presently planned but this needs to be shared use and designed accordingly. (John Grimshaw had, on the recent Pioneers ride, suggested to DN that this be promoted.)
- Address the blocking of the Swansea end of a possible southerly route. The desire line for this follows Langdon Road (part of which might go along the N. side of the Prince of Wales Dock) and existing roads south of Fabian Way. The response from Clive Thomas of the Port's authority (Second letter in the Appendix to the 28 March meeting notes) rules out the use of any of the roads in their area, and this includes Langdon Road.

DN was authorised to take action. He would appreciate advice on how to do this. [**Action DN**]

6. **1:10 Campaign**

NG had met with a Rob Proctor of *Community Action in Wales* who ran 16 projects to tackle climate change. He was supportive of the scheme. There was to be a meeting on 12 May which NG would attend. This should be an opportunity to promote it amongst both private and public sector employers. We could provide 'buddy' support by advising (or even accompanying) individuals on routes to work. NG suggested we prepare a poster for display in work places and postcard pledge cards. CF agreed to £100 being earmarked for this. [**Action NG**]

7. **Gower Cycling Festival**

DN advised that the next GCF Working Group meeting would be on 23 May. He was currently working on the web page which he would shortly upload. Members are asked to check it and provide him with comments soon to minimise the need for changes later. Once on line we can expect bookings. Initially the site would only cater for cheque payments but he planned to incorporate *PayPal* so that payment can be made by credit card. [**Action All**]

8. **Arriva Trains Wales**

DN had on 17 Aug. 2010 written to Mike Bagshaw, ATW's Commercial Director, making the case for more bike capacity on their trains. The timing was considered opportune as later that year they were to spend £7m on updating their rolling stock. He had received a reply which in essence said that they would not be increasing the capacity but would improve cycle access.

DN and PJ had an experience last weekend in which they both nearly didn't get their bikes on a Class 175 Arriva Train travelling from Swansea to Haverfordwest. This was because there was only official capacity for two bikes on this three coach train. The train was nearly empty!

DN was authorised to raise this issue again with ATW on behalf of Wheelrights.

9. **AOB**

(a) CTC Night Ride on 20 May. CC advised that there were no more places for non-CTC members.

(b) Charity rides. DN has received a request from Parkinson's UK for volunteers to marshal or in other ways support a 20 and an 80 mile Swansea based ride on 17 July to raise money for research into the disease. We agreed not to commit support but (by means of these notes) encourage members willing to help to contact the organisers. (By email to Jess Henderson at j.henderson@parkinsons.org.uk.) DN would however put a link to info. about the rides on the events page of our website. (The link is: www.parkinsons.org.uk/pedals)

10. **Date of next meeting**

7.00 pm in the Environment Centre on Thursday, 16 June.

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