

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 23rd January 2012 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Martin Brain (MB), Mike Cherry (MC), Claudine Conway (CC), Stephanie Cuff (SC), Paul Elliott (PE), Allyson Evans (AE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), Brian Leadbetter (BL), Mike Lewis (ML), Dan McCallum, (DM), David Naylor (DN), Cathy Price (CP), Rob Proctor (RP), John Roach (JR), Kerry Rogers (KR), John Sayce (JS), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW)

Apologies: Alan Cram

The meeting was chaired by NG. He opened it by congratulating Claudine on being elected Chair of CTC Cymru.

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

Item 3 . Referring to the CAP meeting on 15 December attended by NG and DN, NG invited suggestions for CCS's Action Plan and also for ASLs. Suitable sites for the latter should be sent to DN who would put them together for submission to CCS. DN advised that Chris Vinestock had responded favourably to WRs suggestion for a link between NCR 43 and the west side of the Tawe via the footway on the N. side of the N. Tawe Bridge. [**Action All**]

2. Wheelrights 2012 Programme

(a) Rides..

It was agreed that to avoid clashes with other meetings the evening rides should be on the fourth Thursday of the month between April and September. We confirmed meet at 5.45pm at the Caffe Americano in SA1 (E. of the Tawe near the Sail Bridge.)

(b) Adult Beginners Classes..

CF had bought three new bikes from the Co-op grant. He brought one along to the meeting. They are better quality than the first three purchased last year. He had purchased them at a generous discount from the *Urban Cyclery*,

We discussed the plan to provide short rides on the foreshore for those who had got to the stage of being able to ride and control the bike. It was decided that they should sign a short indemnity form for insurance purposes. RW agreed to draft this. [**Action: RW**]

DN proposed the following dates for the classes: 14 April; 12 May; 16 June; 28 July; 1 Sept., This was agreed. He will put them plus the evening ride dates on the website. [**Action: DN**]

(c) Gower Cycling Festival (15-22 September 2012)..

We focussed on publicity. Two Facebook pages had been set up: a "Wheelrights" one by Gordon Gibson which links to www.wheelrights.org.uk (in which a reciprocal link is provided) and a "Gower Cycling Festival" page which links to www.gowercyclingfestival.org (in turn linked to the website GCF page). CF and CC offered to 'tweet' the GCF. [**Action: CC, CF**]

NG invited suggestions for advertisers for ads for the flyer which should be ready by the end of March.

Various suggestions were made for places for the distribution of flyers and posters: libraries, the Civic Centre, bike shops, camp and caravan sites. CP noted that last year there was a dearth of information in Swansea. DJ highlighted the need for publicity in Carmarthen, eg in the N. Dock Café in Llanelli. He also noted the need for *Evening Post* cycling articles and agreed to work on this with Chris Peregrine of the EP. PE offered to write an article for *Cycling Plus* magazine. [**Action: DJ, PE**]

3. Swansea Cycling Challenge

It is proposed that we work with the Company *Challenge for Change* (CfC) to lay on a Cycling Challenge in Swansea. It would be one of three in Wales, the other two being Cardiff and Bangor. It would take place over three weeks in June ending in Bike Week. NG and RP outlined the project. They noted that CfC had run some 30 of these events in the UK and some overseas. A bespoke website would be set up on which people taking part in the challenge would register. Somebody would be hired to process the data. A central feature is a competition between organisations to get as many of their members as possible to cycle for a minimum of ten minutes. For more info. visit: www.challengeforchange.com.

RP made it clear that WR would have a key role in running the project. KR noted that we should set out what we hoped to achieve and how these 'outcomes' would be measured. An estimated £k43 would be needed to finance the Challenge. This would cover setting up the website, hiring somebody and CfC's fees. CF was working on an application for approx. £k16 from *Environment Wales*. Of this £k4 would be a 'notional' contribution from WR based largely on volunteer time. (ie not involving a WR cash outlay.) In addition he is applying for a similar sum from the *Swansea Change Fund*. £k1 has been promised by CCS. The would be sought from mainly private firms. The deadline for the applications are 7 and 10 February respectively. The outcome should be known in March when, if successful, work on the Challenge could start. CF advised that the CTC would administer the funds; they would not therefore be held in WR's account,

DJ inquired if Sustrans were involved. RP replied that they were; those involved include Georgina Harper (whose remit covers Wales) and Fraser Arnot (SW Wales Sustrans manager). CTC however would lead the project in partnership with WR. Key CTC people are Ian Richardson and Ceri Griffin

There was an exchange of views in which it was noted that £k43 is a large amount of money. Its cost-effectiveness was questioned. Publicity for WR would however be a useful spin off, in particular for the GCF. In response to a query from NG support from those present to proceed was obtained.

4. 1:10 campaign

NG and RP spoke about this while covering the Challenge (Item 3.) NG had originally approached RP about the 1:10 Campaign who had brought up the idea of the Challenge. (See Item 4 of the 1 Dec. 2011 meeting notes.) The 1:10 Campaign should logically follow on from the Challenge. It would therefore be appropriate to launch it in Bike Week. [Action: NG]

5. Manifesto

JS advised that a launch was planned for March. The letter inviting election candidates to support key issues (www.wheelrights.org.uk/WRmanifesto.pdf) had already been sent out (by Cllr Paul Meara) to Lib-Dem councillors. JS asked those present to contact at least one councillor and ask them to commit their support. DJ asked if NPT councillors were to be contacted. NG replied 'No' as this would be too much at present. [Action: All]

6. Gwrhyd Common Cycle Path

DM described what was proposed (See Appendix). He had already received a number of emails of support and also support from the Swansea and SW Wales CTC Member Group. DN proposed sending a letter to a Welsh Gov. address given him by DM to express WR's support, the text of which he read out. This was approved subject to minor rephrasing to make it clear that our support is for the cycle path rather than the wind turbines. (Sent 24 Jan.)

7. AOB

(a) Swansea Rural Development Plan..

PJ drew attention to aspects of this plan (See www.swansea.gov.uk/rdp) which relate to walking and cycling provision in N. Gower. He felt that we should get involved, particularly as this could be a useful source of publicity. RW advised that Steve Hopkins would be an appropriate CCS contact. PJ and DN would follow this up. [Action: DN, PJ]

(b) Closure of Foreshore Cycle Path..

JS, referring to the proposed closure from 1-3 March of the foreshore path between Sketty Lane and the Marriott Hotel in connection with the beach motorbike races, thought that we should take action to retain access for walkers and cyclists along this stretch. He proposed that the Council be asked to allocate the seaward lane of the main road for path users. This was agreed. JS would draft a letter to Jack Straw, copy to Chris Holley, to be sent in NG's name. **[Action: JS, NG]**

(c) Membership and Finance..

CF said that we had 76 members about half of whom had paid their 2012 sub. He would be pleased to receive payment from the rest. He advised that there is now close to £700 in the Bank.

8. Date of next meeting

The next general meeting will be at 7.00 pm in the Environment Centre on Mon. 27 February.

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

APPENDIX

Proposed Cycle path across Gwrhyd Common

This is based on Dan McCallum's 11 January email to DN. Dan is the manager of *Awel Aman Tawe*, a community energy charity based in Cwmllynfell, north of Pontardawe.

He is asking for our support for the creation of a new cycle path across Gwrhyd Common. This path would double as access to two wind turbines for which planning has been approved. While they have land owner agreement to use the proposed path as a cycle route Section 194 consent is needed to take the path across the Common land.

The path would connect with the A474 to the west where there is a minor road crossing opposite the Pwllfawtkin mine (3 miles N. of Pontardawe) to link with Gwrhyd Road to the NE. The proposed path is 2.2 miles long and is shown as the red line on the drawing (GwrhydCycleP.pdf). Although not asphalt a high quality gravel surface is to be specified to make it suitable for ordinary bikes.

He has requested support in the form of emails from individuals and one or two from the membership would complement a Wheelrights letter. He has asked that these be emailed to him at: DMcCallum@awelamantawe.co.uk. He has suggested the following form of words (but of course alter as you see fit).

Re: Awel Aman Tawe Community Wind Farm, Cefn Gwrhyd Common, Swansea

Section 194 Application

I am writing to support the provision of a cycle track across the above common as part of the community wind farm development. The project consists of one turbine on the common and one on a neighbouring farm, as well as the access track. This cycle track will enable some good circular routes from the west side from the A474 (turning opposite Pwllfawtkin landfill) or from the east where the track comes out on the Gwrhyd Road which runs north to Cwmllynfell and south to the A474 at Rhydyfro (Travellers Rest pub). Links can be made to the existing cycle track from Ystalyfera to Pontardawe and the Amman Valley cycle route from Lower Brynaman to Ammanford.

Awel Aman Tawe is a registered community energy charity which seeks to enable low carbon regeneration and I fully support these objectives.

Note prepared by David Naylor
January 2012