

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 24th April 2013 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: John Cardy (JC), Chris Connick (CC), Allyson Evans (AyE), Alun Evans (AuE), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Fran Rolfe (FR), Alice Saville (AS)

Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), Owen Caughlin (OC), Claudine Conway (CC), Hamish Osborn (HO).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 11 March meeting.

Item 2. (Cycle Centre)

NG reported that Derek James had formed a small group, that cabinet member Nick Bradley was supporting it and that they hoped to work with *Gower Riders*.

Item 4. (Bikes on Trains)

Alun Kreppell (AK) was awaiting an answer to questions relating to bike provision on the new electric trains to run between London and Swansea. So far we have learnt that these "IET" trains are being designed by Hitachi for service in 2018, that provision for 8 bikes in 9 carriage and 5 in 5 carriage trains are planned. This we believe is insufficient. AK has asked that we hold off taking action on this until he has had a reply. In view of the urgency NG agreed to speak to him about this. **[Action NG]**

JC queried who should be contacted: the TOC? However we do not know who will hold this franchise in 2018 (currently First Great Western). DN advised that the same trains would be used for the East Coast main line. NG suggested that the DfT was the appropriate contact. GG proposed we find out from the internet to whom comments can be addressed and put the link on our website with the suggestion that individuals comment. **[Action DN]**

2. Report on 9 April CAP (Cycle Action Progress) meeting

DN reported on this meeting, which he and CC had attended on behalf of WR. Cllr Nick Davies had chaired it and with his and Chris Vinestock's support for cycling there were encouraging signs. Key points are as follows.

- Morfa Distributor Road (MDR). A 3m wide shared use path is planned to run along the east side of this road. This will be in addition to a path along the west side of the Tawe.
- Active Travel Bill and NCR 43. Significant funding for cycle infrastructure in addition to the Tawe/MDR work should be available from the Welsh Government. Furthermore £150k from NPT is promised to upgrade cycle infrastructure in the Swansea Valley. We noted that this needed to include signing of NCR 43 and reminded CCS of *Wheelrights* (WR) signing audits (available as pdf's on the 'Infrastructure' page of WR's website.)
- Cycle network. CCS had prepared a tube-style plan which linked commuter destinations in and beyond Swansea and included cycling times in minutes between them. DN circulated this and another plan tabled at the meeting which showed in different colours proposed cycle routes within the city. £17k has been ear-marked for work this year on one linking the Railway Station to the foreshore via Orchard Street and Princess Way.
- Gowerton-Kingsbridge link. A shared use link between the housing estate to the north of the railway line and the new north platform of Gowerton Station is to be constructed. Cyclists will be able to wheel their bikes across a new footbridge connecting the two platforms. This could link up with the proposed route across Stafford Common to Kingsbridge. WR noted that this was a short term measure and pressed for a long term solution which involved a new bridge spanning the current railway using the old railway bridge abutments, thus bypassing the station.
- Clyne Common. WR proposed that a cycle route be provided across Clyne Common. Of the options of a path along the S. side of the B4436 or a much shorter link between the top of West Cross Lane and Reigit Lane the latter was favoured, a factor being that it would go past Whitestone primary school. KR and FR cautioned that there could be environmental issues with this route as it would cross the site of an ancient stone circle.

- Seminar. This long planned seminar to instruct highway designers how to design cycle-friendly infrastructure is to be held on 1 May. Phil Jones, (an) author of *Manual for Streets*, will be a key speaker. It will be the second one the first having been given by John Grimshaw on 19 Oct. 2009.

DN's report (above) on the MDR work led to an exchange on the current NCR 43 diversions. GG emphasised the need to know the details at an early stage so that we can get necessary changes made. To achieve this we decided to write to CCS (NG and DN to draft), this to be followed up at the next CAP (on 10 July). Following a suggestion from FR DN agreed to send a freedom of information request to *Natural Resources Wales* (NRW). **[Action NG, DN]**

3. Bike Week

DN offered to prepare a flyer to promote the two mass rides. It was agreed to have 100 A5 produced (by the *Print Partnership*) and a few A4 which could be laminated. **[Action DN]**

Byron Davies AM had accepted WR's invitation to join the Blackpill - Castle Square ride. NG would organise events in Castle Square where the two rides would converge. **[Action NG]**

GG and FR offered to promote the rides on Facebook. **[Action FR, GG]**

4. Campaigns

NG updated us on the "1 in 10 campaign". A launch next spring is proposed. It would be supported by Ceri Griffin, who now works for *Cycle Solutions* and a Rob (?) of *Admiral*. He noted that Sustrans have a six month National campaign and has plans to involve them. Specifically he suggested that Sustrans' Georgina Harper be invited to speak at our next meeting (See 7 below.). He also suggested contributions of £100-£150 be made by WR and requested from other organisations to fund this campaign. CF indicated that this might be a possibility if this year's GCF was a success but that a separate account would be needed.

NG advised that a meeting in June was planned involving *Cycle Solutions*, *Urban Cyclery*, NRW and *Admiral*.

DN suggested that a start could be made that did not involve explicit funding by setting up a commuting competition between interested organisations: tentatively NRW, *Admiral* and *Swansea University* with NRW taking a lead. **[Action FR, HO, KR?]**

5. Gower Cycling Festival (GCF)

NG distributed flyers to those present and sought assistance in their distribution. We agreed to do this as follows:

- *Action Bikes* and *Urban Cyclery*: GG;
- *Tredz* and *North Dock Café*, Llanelli: ML;
- *The Hub*: FR;
- *Swansea University*: AyE;
- *Wheelies*, *Schmoos* and *Quadrant TIC*: NG;
- *Mumbles TIC*: Derek James;
- *Tenby*: Paul Elliot

NG noted that we should also distribute flyers at the BHF ride on 23 June.

6. AOB

(a) LDP. At GG's suggestion DN would email Paul Mellor of planning to request that we be consulted; also that NG write to Sybil Crouch. **[Action: DN, NG]**

(b) Projects. GG advised that Reena Owen was now "Director of Special Projects" and needed suggestions. Some were put forward. Ideas should be emailed to DN for passing to GG. **[Action: All]**

(c) Sail Bridge barrier. AyE noted that the hoops at the E. side of the bridge had not been removed. DN noted that CCS were committed to remove them; he would raise this at the next CAP. **[Action: DN]**

7. Date of next meeting

7.00pm on Wed. 12 June in the Environment Centre.