

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 11th February 2013 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), John Cardy (JC), Mike Cherry (MC), Alun Evans (AE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Chris Connick (CC), Alan Cram (AC), Allyson Evans (AE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Derek James (DJa), Hamish Osborn (HO), Kerry Rogers (KR)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 14 January meeting.

Item 1. (Matters from 3 Sep. 2012 meeting)

The meeting in Llandrindod Wells on 24 January which HO was to attend was cancelled.

Item 2. (Cycle Action Plan)

Gowerton – Kingsbridge. RW advised that there was an existing cycle track constructed alongside Lliw Valley Close that ends near the N. abutment of the old railway bridge. With the S. abutment being adjacent to the large car park near the Commercial it made sense for a new bridge using these abutments to be constructed to carry the G-K link. We agreed to push for this.

Item 4. (Adult Beginners' Classes)

CF reported that *Re-Cycle* should be able to provide suitable bikes, including some with small wheels. We noted that HO, KR & RW planned to meet on 23 March to check our existing bikes. **[Action HO, KR, RW]**

DN had prepared A5 posters about these classes; available on the 'Novices' page of the website: <http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/ABCposter.pdf>. It was agreed that he would run off 100 copies which he would bring to the next meeting for distribution. DJ noted that these should be targeted, eg at people who use gyms. RW offered to contact *Positive Steps*, a CCS organisation which promotes exercise. **[Action DN, RW]**

Item 5. (Gower Cycling Festival)

DN had sorted the software problem so that on-line reservation is now available for all.

Item 6(b). (20 mph zones)

DN advised that Rod King, originator of *20's Plenty*, would be addressing a meeting at 7.00pm on 21 Feb. in the *Windsor Arms*, Cardiff. NG suggested that 20 mph should be on the agenda for our next meeting

2. Bike Week (15-23 June)

We discussed the proposed mass rides on 15 June and narrowed these to two: one from Blackpill and the other from the Liberty Stadium, both converging on Castle Square. Both would leave at 12.15. DN would lead the former and ML the latter. ML would decide whether to take his group through the Hafod (difficult crossings near the start) or down NCR 43. The Blackpill ride would follow Mumbles road and then go through Sandfields, hopefully through the Vetch. (NG would check with *Vetch Veg.*) **[Action NG]**. We would provide A4 placards to pin on riders' backs for both rides as we have done previously.

RW would try and arrange for the Mumbles Road lights to change in our favour. **[Action RW]**

We would invite the following to participate in the mass rides: Byron Davies AM (DN to invite), Reena Owen, cllr Nick Davies and cllr Sybil Crouch (NG to invite) **[Action NG, DN]**

Feeling that we have enough on we dropped the idea of a cycle commuting challenge.

DJ agreed to lead the mid-summer ride on 21 June. CF suggested *Druids* as a theme.

JC described the 100 miler on 23 June (It is mostly flat.) and advised that it would probably also be a National TriVets event. (For the over 50s.)

3. Cycle Route S. of Fabian Way

DN explained that the strongest case for this route was to provide west and east links to the new University Campus.

Other reasons for it include cycle access to the proposed Tidal Power lagoon. The northern boundary of this would be the existing south wall of the docks. DN had recently had a meeting with Joanna Lane of *Tidal Lagoon Power*. They are planning a cycle route round the 10km long lagoon periphery on which there would also be tourist attractions. They therefore support the idea of a cycle link to it. A key requirement would be a cycle crossing of the dock entrance and she thought that a swing bridge would be required. JC queried if this was necessary as it should be possible to cross on the existing dock gates.

DN noted that there were three possible alignments between Swansea and the University Campus: a southern one via the Queen's Dock S. wall as described above, a central route via Langdon or King's Road and a northern one which would cross under Baldwin's Bridge (immediately west of the Campus) to join the existing NCR 4. There was an exchange of views on these options from which it emerged that the central one was favoured as it was the most direct and would pass close by a proposed Cycle Centre at the east end of Langdon Road. This centre is being promoted by DJa. DN was authorised to continue discussions with *Tidal Lagoon Power* but to note that promotion of the southerly route should not jeopardise the other options in case the Lagoon does not go ahead.

DN described proposals for the eastern part of the route. Details are given in his 2009 report on the 'Infrastructure' page of our website: <http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/FabWayLink.pdf>. The alignment described in this report ends just east of the Amazon Roundabout. From there the route could follow the existing path along the S. side of Fabian Way. However a more attractive route would use existing roads/airfield runway(?) which run parallel to but well clear of Fabian Way. This proposal was strongly supported.

DN asked for the names of contacts to help promote a S. of Fabian Way route. RW emphasized the need to involve the planners in NPT. It was however accepted that client contacts were also needed. Mark Durdin was suggested as a University contact. We already have Geoff Marquis from NPT and DJ noted that the Coed Darcy developers, St Modwen, would be appropriate contacts for the eastern part of the route.

4. Infrastructure

We reviewed the 7 'wish list' items listed in the appendix to the 14 Jan. meeting notes. All except the penultimate 'Swansea West' item were already in the pipeline and the need to continue pressing for them was confirmed. We focussed on Swansea West as follows:

Links to NCR 4 in the Clyne Valley: Of the two existing links RW advised that the one to Woodcote from just north of the A4118 is a bridleway and had recently been upgraded. The final short stretch connecting with Woodcote is a muddy track which needs replacing. The other link is that through the Duvant RFC. RW noted that this is across Duvant RFC land who allow cycle use and would need to be consulted about any signing proposals. MC said that there have been problems with cars driving on the pitches so that a barrier may be added to deter them and we need to check that cycle/pedestrian access will be maintained. DJ suggested that the path through Olchfa Wood, currently a bridleway, should be upgraded for cycle use to link Rhyd-y-Defaid Drive with NCR 4. **[Action MC]**

Pennard. We agreed to revive the proposal for a cycle route across Clyne Common. DJ had raised this recently with the relevant community council and DN & PJ had raised it with cllr Lynda James in connection with plans to improve cycle access to Southgate. Of the alternatives of a route along the south side of the B4436 and a link between West Cross and Reigit Lanes we liked the latter as it was about 1/3rd the length of the former and also went past Whitestone primary school. It would however involve cyclists using the narrow and twisty Mansfield Road. Some thought this was a disadvantage, others not.

5. AOB

MC suggested that the Wheelrights cycle training assistants may be able to attend/assist at Duvant at future BikeAbility Wales training sessions. Possibly starting with recent Level 1 trainees who failed at the first attempt and are returning to brush up their skills.

6. Date of next meeting

7.00pm on Mon. 11 March in the Environment Centre.

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