

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 14th January 2013 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Martin Brain (MB), Chris Connick (CC), Paul Elliott (PE), Allyson Evans (AE), Alun Evans (AE), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Hilary Fielder (HF), Nick Guy (NG), Hamish Osborn (HO), Phil Jones (PJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Fran Rolfe (FR), Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: John Cardy (JC), Alan Cram (AC), Eifion Francis (EF)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 3 September 2012 meeting.

Item 2. Pathfinder presentation

HO agreed to represent WR at a meeting in Llandrindod Wells on 24 January. This will relate to Alice Cowell's Pathfinder report, now complete. **[Action HO]**.

2. Cycle Action Plan: report on 8 January meeting.

This meeting was the latest of regular three monthly meetings with Chris Vinestock (CV) and other CCS staff. CF, NG and DN represented WR. Cllr Nick Davies also attended. He is Chairman designate for a revived Cycle Forum (expected to meet probably twice a year). NG and DN summarised key points as follows.

North Tawe Bridge. A ramp connecting NCR 43 to the east end of the bridge had been designed and is expected to be constructed soon. Designation of the footway to which this leads as shared use is pending because the parapet is less than the recommended height. Confirmation that this is guidance and not a requirement is awaited. (Post meeting note: RW had looked into this last year and it appears that guidance applies here.)

Crossing at west end of Fabian Way. DN had at the meeting again raised the issue of the dangerous crossing at the east end of the S. bridge. The danger is that a green light for an E-W crossing at the north side can be interpreted as applying to the S-N crossing. KR knew of somebody who had nearly got run over by W. bound Fabian Way traffic and both PE and DN had nearly been caught in this way. CCS have been asked to provide a solution. DN offered to email Ben George to remind him of the urgency of this. (Done 16 Jan.)

Morfa. A new road – the Morfa Distributor Road (MDR) – is to be constructed from New Cut along Morfa Road and thence north to the Landore Park & Ride. It is expected to accommodate a cycle path. A problem is that W-E access from the Hafod along Maliphant Street will be cut-off as the level crossing over the railway sidings is to be closed. A footbridge is planned. In view of Network Rail's apparent policy of not catering for cyclists there seems little possibility of this bridge being made suitable for cyclists.

Active Travel Bill. This is expected to become law by the Autumn. A key feature is that a significant proportion of the transportation budget (We were told 31%) is to be earmarked for sustainable travel. WR have communicated our 'wish list' to CCS. (See appendix.)

Gowerton – Kingsbridge. Network Rail (NR) have been approached but are not prepared to modify their planned footbridge across the lines to be doubled at Gowerton to make it suitable for cyclists. Their interest is only to get passengers between platforms. We need a bridge to take the proposed Gowerton-Kingsbridge path across the railway. Logically this would use the existing abutments which used to support a railway bridge. We recognised that to get anywhere pressure at government level needs to be put on NR to incorporate the WG's green policies. At the CAP meeting cllr Nick Davies had offered to speak to CCS's Cabinet member Sybil Crouch. However, this being a National problem we need to go beyond the council and HF suggested that we write to NR's CEO. It was agreed that we do this and also write to our MPs Martin Caton and Edwina Hart. DN, with NG's help, would draft these letters. In addition members are asked to write to their own AM. (Post meeting note: we have been asked to hold fire on these actions since Sustrans are currently in negotiation with NR. The advice is that good progress is being made so we don't want to 'muddy the waters'.)

North Gower Trail. Negotiations with the three landowners of the missing half mile west of Pont-y-Cob Road continue. Getting the path past the Half Way House is a sticking point. Seminar. A seminar focussing on the *Manual for Streets*. is planned for the Spring.

3. **Bike Week** (15-23 June)

DN and MB had been invited by Philip McDonnell to provide details of cycling events for inclusion in the annual *Environmental Events* booklet. DN had previously provided him with an entry for the Gower Cycling Festival and more recently MB had provided entries for some CTC rides. These comprise 'easy' rides to Aberavon, Pembrey and Aberdulais on respectively the 16th, 20th and 23rd June and a '100 miler' on the 23rd. We decided also to hold an Adult Beginners' Class (ABC) on Sat. 15th and Wheelrights annual N. Gower ride on Friday 21st. We deliberated on further plans for the week as follows.

We would follow the ABC with a mass ride from Blackpill timed to arrive at Castle Square probably at 1.00pm. RW offered to book Castle Square, the idea being that some form of event would be organised and that other rides or walks be planned to converge on the square at that time from different parts of Swansea, eg Clydach or St Thomas.

Another idea for bike week is to organise a cycle challenge. This could take the form of a commuting challenge (as in Bike Week, 2011) or 'try-a-bike' sessions as in last year's Swansea Cycle Challenge (SCC). As the SCC website will still be active people could be encouraged to record Bike Week trips on it. To progress the cycle challenge HO and KR offered to contact the Countryside Council for Wales and/or the Environment Agency for ideas. We should also involve Admiral Insurance as they were most pro-active in last year's SCC. The challenge would take place on the weekdays of Bike Week (CF's suggestion). We need to firm up plans at our next meeting. **[Action: HO, KR]**

NG noted that as we had not heard anything it seemed unlikely that an SCC was planned for this year. RW agreed to contact Ceri Griffen about this and NG would make enquiries of SWWITCH. **[Action NG, RW]**

DN would advise Philip McDonnell of the additional events, ie the ABC and mass ride on 15th and WR's ride on 21st. He would also ask for a mention to be made of our other plans and give WR's website for details. (Post meeting note: DN emailed PMcD on 15th June.)

4. **Adult Beginners Classes**

DN proposed the following dates, all of which corresponded to last year's: 13 April, 11 May, 15 June, 13 July; 31 Aug., (21 Sep.?) No clashes were identified. He would put them on the website events page.

Vee Wood, having left Swansea, a replacement to support RE coordinate these classes is needed. AEs offer to fill this role was gratefully accepted.

The Evening Post having let us down in advertising these classes we decided to have them entered in *What's On*. DN offered to see to this. Also RE asked that a poster be prepared. DN had a suitable poster and would get copies made. **[Action DN]**

RE raised the problem of the poor state of repair of our bikes. HO, KR and RW agreed to meet at 10.00 on Sat. 23 March by the Civic Centre compound to review their state and possibly carry out minor repairs. They would advise on appropriate action. This might be to pass the u/s bikes to *Re-cycle* and look into purchasing replacement refurbished bikes from them. RW advised that another source was ATC in Fforestfach. Alternatively, if we have the funds, we might purchase new bikes. We need about 15 bikes in all. **[Action HO, KR, RW]**

5. **Gower Cycling Festival** (10-18 August)

DN advised that plans were advanced. He had updated the 'Cycling Festival' page of WR's website to relate to this year's Festival. (<http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/GCF13.htm>) He had also made progress sorting problems with the on-line registration software. It now works on the browsers Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox but not on Internet Explorer. DN is working on a solution which is browser independent. **[Action DN]**

NG noted that the flyer should be ready by the end of March. **[Action CF, NG]**

6. AOB

- (a) One-way streets. RE drew attention to the need for certain one-way streets to be made contraflow for cyclists. Dynevor Place is the one precedent in Swansea.
- (b) 20 mph zones. NG raised this. Following an exchange of views we agreed that more of these was needed. One detail is that where provided near schools they should extend sufficiently to enable the children to walk or cycle to school.
- (c) CTC affiliation. CF advised that our £60 sub. would be waived if we got 4 new affiliated members at £16 each. DN would raise this in his next email to members. **[Action DN]**

7. Date of next meeting

7.00pm on Mon. 11 February in the Environment Centre

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

APPENDIX

Wheelrights infrastructure 'wish list' (Emailed to members on 2 January 2013.)

City Centre and Tawe. Unfinished business in the vicinity of the Railway Station; a West Tawe cycle path; a link from it to NCR 43 across the N. Tawe Bridge; upgrading of NCR 43 associated with the planned Tawe flood defences.

Boulevard. Upgrading to shared-use of the footpath on the south side of Oystermouth Rd west from the Civic Centre to the foreshore path (NCR 4); continuation of this path eastward to Wind Street; and thence along the NW side of Quay Parade to Parc Tawe and the Tawe Bridges.

Fabian Way Corridor. Promotion of cycle links on N. side of Fabian Way to Coed Darcy and on S. side to link the new University campus both to Swansea and to the east. Both Swansea and NPT councils are involved.

Gowerton-Kingsbridge. Promotion of a new path to link NCR 4 with the existing cycle path to the north. We are having difficulty getting this off the ground.

North Gower. Construction of the missing half mile of path between Pont-y-Cob Rd and Berth-lwyd. Land ownership negotiations are bogged down.

Swansea West. Links from residential areas to NCR 4 in the Clyne Valley; a new path across Clyne Common and measures to make cycle access to Pennard more friendly. The latter was fruitlessly promoted many years ago. The time may now be ripe to revive it.

Signing. The ball is at the Council's feet to replace the Sustrans stick-on signs on NCRs 4 and 43 by permanent, mainly fingerpost, signs.