

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 16th July 2013 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Nick Bacon (NB), Chris Connick (ChC), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), Philip McDonnell (PM), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Fran Rolfe (FR), Alice Saville (AS), Phil Snaith (PS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Owen Caughlin (OC), Claudine Conway (CC), Allyson Evans (AE), Alun Evans (AuE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Phil Jones (PJ), Hamish Osborn (HO), John Sayce (JS)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 12 June meeting and not on agenda.

Bikes on Trains. NG reported that Alan Kreppell had provided a summary of the situation re. our lobbying for better cycle provision on the new IEP (Intercity Express Programme) trains. DN noted that we appear to have 'hit the buffers' here and that it might be more fruitful to try and get Arriva to improve the cycle provision on Welsh services. He offered to contact their Mike Bagshaw (whom we lobbied to no avail in 2008). KR noted that the timing is now ripe as improved sustainable (rail?) transport is proposed to offset the forthcoming M4 bypass round the Newport tunnel. Byron Davies AM (Shadow Transport Minister) is a potential ally. KR would let DN know of a Welsh Government contact. **[Action KR, DN]**

Seminar DN had written to Phil Roberts in Planning on 2 July but had not yet had a reply.

2. Swansea Cycle Challenge (SCC)

PM gave a presentation on the planned SCC from 9-29 September. He outlined its aims which are basically: get more people cycling, more often and to work. He gave statistics indicating the large number of people and organisations *Challenge for Change* (CfC) have involved in these challenges. He noted the success of last years SCC. Some key points he made are as follows:

- Companies or individuals could register and large companies could be sub-divided.
- Champions need to be identified within organisations.
- People are asked to cycle for 10 minutes. It is this and not the miles that count. These try-a-bike sessions are key.
- Prizes are an important motivation.
- Last years website: www.swansea-cyclechallenge.org.uk is still accessible but is being updated. The new site will retain the name so the transfer should be seamless.
- A new "Love to ride" app. is being developed. This will enable ride logging using GPS.
- Benefits of cycling, as well as improved health, include less absenteeism.
- This year, in addition to the SCC, there would be a challenge in Newport.

FR described how last year's SCC got her cycling. She now commutes by bike. KR noted how in his company those whom the SCC got cycling to work continued to do so even after it moved from SA1 to a less accessible location.

In the ensuing discussion DN noted that WR would not be able to provide logistic support in the form of transporting bikes to and from the Civic Centre compound as they did last year. CCS however have a trailer and PM suggested that this could be hired. We should be able to support the try-a-bike sessions and NG offered to attend three.

A meeting in early September is proposed to make the arrangements.

3. Gower Cycling Festival

DN noted that already over 50 had registered and the indications are that we will have more than in previous years. Most of the gaps on his helpers list are now filled. (Thanks to FR for her offer to fill two.) He expressed concern that stewards may be overloaded. RW suggested that this could be eased by eg the back marker helping the steward.

Martin Caton MP and Byron Davies AM have been invited to the launch but DN has yet to check that they can attend. Cllr Nick Davies is also expected to attend. John Grimshaw has accepted our invitation and will say a few words. NG advised that the stunt cyclist Adam should also be there. **[Action DN]**

NG and RW have GCF flyers for distribution. The banner is currently at the Gower Heritage Centre.

A Railway Inn meeting of the working group is planned for Wed. 7 August.

4. Cross Hands and Sainsbury's

PS sought our advice concerning a proposed Sainsbury's store near Cross Hands. He tabled a drawing which showed this store with the line of an old railway, which was earmarked for a cycle route, passing through the middle of a proposed car park. The proposals contravene planning procedures and PS is seeking ways to get the plans changed. He already has local support with a petition signed by over 400.

There is a school to the north of the proposed store and a housing estate to the south. There were therefore two issues: the need for a satisfactory E-W cycle route (which will link with NCR 47 to the west) and a S-N walking and cycling route between the housing estate and the school.

Alternatives for the former were: a long diversion round the north side of the store; a route past the south side of the store between it and the car park; or a route to the south of the car park. We discussed their relative merits. PS did not indicate a preference. It was noted that the southerly option (which would connect with the A48 underpass) would be the most direct, but was complicated because the path would pass through or by a planned petrol station and roundabout.

A link between the housing estate and the school would logically be to the east of the Sainsbury's development.

In reply to a query from KR PS advised that the developer was Sainsbury's and the engineers: White Young Green. The planning application is number S/27809 (Accessible from www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk.)

PS was interested to learn how WR operated as he was considering setting up a similar group in Carmarthenshire. We supported this. We could for example help by providing a page on our website.

We advised PS that a key element of WR's campaigning is a close link with the Council. Having RW as both an employee in Transportation and a WR member is important as are our quarterly meetings with that department. (Now chaired by cllr Nick Davies.)

6. AOB

None.

7. Date of next meeting

7.00pm Tuesday, 3 September in the Environment Centre.

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