

Wheelrights

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

Present: Chris Connick (CC), Alan Cram (AC), Mike Cherry (MC), Owen Caughlin (OC), Derek James (DJa), Paul Elliott (PE), Alun Evans (AE), Rhian Evans (RE), Nick Guy (NG), Phil Jones (PJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Hamish Osborn (HO), Kerry Rogers (KR), Fran Rolfe (FR), Richie Saunders (RS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), John Cardy (JC), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Alan Kreppell (AK), Alice Saville (AS)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 11 February meeting.

Item 1. (Matters from 14 January meeting)

Adult Beginner's Classes. DN distributed the A5 posters 100 copies of which he had had made. HO, KR & RW were reminded to check bikes on 23 March. **[Action HO, KR, RW]**

Gower Cycling Festival. NG noted that there was a plan to combine the 2014 Festival with CTC's Welsh Cycling Festival.

2. Proposed Cycle Centre

DJa outlined plans for a new Cycle Centre and indicated that with support from Nick Bradley, Cabinet member for Regeneration, the 'ball was rolling'. The requirement was for a large indoor facility which would have space for BikeAbility Wales's activities, have provision for MTB/BMX riders (but probably not at the same time as BikeAbility), bike shops and other cycling related facilities. He described some precedents in Cornwall. There were a number of potentially suitable large premises in the Swansea area of which the bus museum south of Fabian Way across from the Park and Ride (GR 681931) was a favoured venue.

He proposed the formation of a group to progress this. Its members should include David Judd, MC, Phil Williamson, NG and probably others. DJa to convene? **[Action Dja?]**

This proposal was strongly supported. DN noted that a Cycle Centre in the bus museum would fit in well with a South-of-Fabian cycle route (Item 3 of 11 Feb. meeting notes.) and would support the case for this route (and vice versa).

3. Cycle Promotion

NG suggested a "1 in 10 campaign" as a follow up to last year's successful Swansea Cycle Challenge (SCC). There was clearly a nation wide increase in cycling, eg a 4% increase in London in the past year. He noted that the key to the SCC success was their website, an element of competition and prizes.

That we should do something was supported. As its objectives were essentially the same as for the SCC it made sense to proceed on similar lines. In an exchange of views:

- NG identified the *Urban Cyclery*, *Halfords* and *Cycle Solutions* as potential sponsors. He suggested that there should be a WR budget. We felt however that this was premature, particularly in the absence of our treasurer, CF. (Due back from Australia early April.)
- RW noted that there was a European equivalent to the SCC which only cost €1,000 (SCC: approx £40k.) We were too late for this year but should consider this for 2014.
- HO noted that with the Active Travel Bill soon to become law now was a good time to promote cycling. He and KR with support from others could take a lead.
- In response to a query from PJ we confirmed that our campaign would extend to the west as well as east, ie from Llanelli to Port Talbot.
- CC commented that we needed to take into account the provision employers make for cyclists, ie secure storage, showers, etc.
- DN commented that we needed to start by identifying contacts in organisations which might participate.

We agreed on the following course of action:

- HO would contact Jayne Cornelius to seek her advice on whom we might contact and to arrange a meeting, probably linked to a SNITI meeting. This would be attended by representatives of interested organisations. **[Action: HO]**
- NG would contact Ceri Griffen (who now works for *Cycle Solutions*) again to identify contacts (eg from *Admiral.*) and obtain advice. **[Action: NG]**
- DN would email Mark Durdin of Swansea University to find a Uni' contact. **[Action: DN]**

NG tabled a paper which listed 'Ideas for Cycle Promotion' under the headings '1:10 Campaign', 'Try a Bike Sessions', 'Cycle Training', 'Destination Signs', 'Specific Route Leaflets' and 'Swansea Cycle Centre'. This was briefly discussed. Most of the material is covered under the appropriate items in these notes and in those of previous meetings.

4. Bikes on Trains

AK, in recent correspondence with NG and DN, has drawn our attention to the need to take urgent action to try and persuade the Government to require TOCs to make provision for the carriage of more cycles on the new electric trains to run from London to Swansea. This service is due to start in 2018 and the design of the rolling stock is probably already underway. AK's information is that the planned provision for cycles is only half that currently provided on the 125s. This needs to be contested.

DN explained that he, on behalf of WR, had taken up this matter with Martin Caton in 2007 and with Arriva (ATW) in 2010. Martin had in turn contacted Tom Harris, the Minister then responsible for transport and cycling, and key people in First Great Western and ATW. None would agree to carry more bikes. However increased bike parking at stations was to be (and has been) provided. Nor did the 2010 approach to ATW achieve anything significant.

In a discussion led by PE we agreed that the provision of more bike space on the trains to be upgraded for London – Swansea electrification should be tackled separately from that of bike carriage by ATW, this primarily being a matter for the Welsh Government. DN and NG would pursue the former with AK, while DN and PE would deal with the latter. DN in collaboration with PE would draft a letter making the case for more bike space on ATW trains, in particular by the provision of more flexi-space. Suggested recipients were Julie James AM and/or Carl Sargeant, WG minister responsible for Transport (amongst other things). **[Action: PE, NG, DN]**

5. AOB

- (a) What's On. DN has arranged for the Adult Beginner's Classes and Bike Week to be listed.
- (b) WR talk. NG would contact the writer Rob Penn to see if he would give a talk at a WR evening meeting. **[Action: NG]**

6. Date of next meeting

7.00pm on Wed. 24 April in the Environment Centre.

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