

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 18th March 2014 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Dawn Aplin (DA), Don Ashman (DA), Mike Cherry (MC), Chris Connick (ChC), Lindsey Curtis (LC), Helen Davies (HD), Paul Elliott (PE), Allyson Evans (AE), Aileen Flynn (AF), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Phil Jones (PJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Rob Wachowski (RW), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Alun Evans (AE), Eifion Francis (EF), David Judd (DJ), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

The meeting started with a presentation by Lindsey Curtis, SW Wales Manager titled:

Sustrans and Swansea: current projects and future plans

First she introduced herself: She is a qualified planner, had worked for 18 months for Swansea Council and five years for Cardiff Council. She then identified priorities which included trouble shooting NCN problems and land inspections. Part of her brief is to focus on urban areas and to develop a design policy for Sustrans Cymru with a view to influencing LAs to raise the quality of infrastructure. She continued as follows:

Working in Swansea.

She hopes to work with CCS (City and County of Swansea) on the City Centre and their implementation of the Active Travel Act. She is looking for opportunities to reduce clutter and improve the walking and cycling experience, for example by removing "Cyclist dismount" signs.

In the City Centre she indicated that Sustrans support CCS's plans to develop a Princess Way, Orchard Street route. Sustrans have an aspiration to extend NCR 43 through the City Centre to the Railway Station and will work with CCS to try and achieve this.

She referred to the need for a route along Langdon Road which would link with the proposed Tidal Lagoon and (as came out in the subsequent discussion) with the Bay Campus.

Current projects.

Noting that there had been a 75% increase in Walking and Cycling in the area of the Clydach Connect2 project she outlined the plans for developing it further. These are:

- A new loop off NCR 43 through the Players Estate (SW of Clydach);
- a new route along the canal north of Trebanos, and
- the formation of a garden in the Clydach 'Depot' (through which NCR 43 runs).

Also a project involving Swansea University to train hospital staff on how to get employees to engage in a more active (and therefore healthy) lifestyle should start in April.

Future Plans.

A project known as "Riderspoke" is planned for Swansea. This is a sort of orienteering game to get people on bikes. Cyclists carrying computers respond to directions from controllers. <http://www.blasttheory.co.uk/projects/riderspoke/> provides an insight. In connection with this Sustrans has applied for funding from the Arts Council Wales to deliver a participative arts project to celebrate 20 years of the National Cycle Network.

Sustrans plan to make an ERDF bid for European funding for built environment design. A key objective would be to promote active travel for lower skilled workers.

Developing the urban design theme she spoke of a bottom up approach where, by means of a dialogue, the needs and movements of people would first be studied. This would lead to the formulation of detailed objectives. These might identify a need for signing, new street layout or whatever. She showed a picture of the new 'shared space' layout of Euston Circus as an example of an outcome.

Finally she noted that a meeting of senior Sustrans staff is planned in the Waterfront Museum on Friday, 11 April. It has been agreed that *Wheelrights* will have a stall at it.

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NG thanked Lindsey for her interesting and informative presentation. A discussion then followed which unfortunately had to be cut short for lack of time.

1. Matters arising from 18 February meeting.

- (a) NCR 43. (Item 1.3f) Completion not now expected until early April.
- (b) Cycle Routes (Item 2) DN had prepared a map of cycle routes and had put it on the Infrastructure page of Wheelrights' website. He needed feedback to identify priorities and correct mistakes. So far he had only had this from NG. To help progress this NG proposed the formation of a "Routes Group". See 3(b) below.
- (c) North Gower Trail (Item 3) DN had written to CCS. He had not had a reply at the time of the meeting but one from Ben George was received the next day. The reason for ceasing negotiations was lack of funds and resources but "... the Council has not ruled out returning to this scheme in the future.". We decided to update the Penclawdd community with the thought that they would put pressure on the landowner who is blocking an agreement. DN agreed to do this. [Since the meeting he has received the contact details of Andrew Spowart and Dave Williams. Thanks: HD and RW.] **[Action DN]**
- (d) Adult Beginners Classes (Item 4) The dates are now on the website. DN has put in a request for the 10 May and 14 June classes to be listed in the May/June *What's On*.
- (e) Cycle Training (Item 5) MC advised that BikeAbility have the Coastal Housing High Street event on 3 April in hand. If they need help he will contact DN or NG.
DN was waiting on Sustrans' Tim John to contact him about the possibility of sponsored training of instructors. (He, Tim, had been trying to contact Nick Canham about this.)
- (f) First Aid Training (Item 7c) NG has had no further information on SCVS sponsorship. CF and MC agreed to look into this. Note: Those interested in being trained have been asked to contact NG. **[Action: CF, MC]**

2. Spring/Summer programme

MC advised there will be a *BikeAbility Wales* fun day from 11.00 – 3.00pm on 21 June. We also decided to hold *Wheelrights* summer solstice North Gower ride that evening, leaving the Railway Inn at 6.30pm. Other events include:

- 5/6 April: Cycling Festival at the Velodrome, in Newport. MC advised that BikeAbility will have a stand and would appreciate display material.
- The Dylan Thomas Centenary Laugharne – Swansea ride on 6 July, leaving Laugharne at 10.00 am.
- An event to promote cycling on 12 July, organised by CCS's Sports Development Officer, Gareth Govier. AF hoped to represent Wheelrights at a meeting this Thursday, 20 March. [Post meeting: 20 March meeting postponed and event now planned for 19th or 20th July.] **[Action AF]**
- Gower Cycling Festival (9-16 August). DN advised that 4000 A4 flyers were currently being printed. NG asked for help in distributing these and will be seeking volunteers to do this.

3. AOB

- (a) CCS Walking and Cycling Officer. RW informed us that this post was to be discontinued and that he would finish on 2 June. We decided to write to Jack Straw (CCS's Chief Executive) to draw attention to the increasing importance of cycling and to request a review of this decision. PE and NG would draft a letter for DN to send, with copies to David Phillips (CCS Leader), Phil Roberts and cllr Nick Davies. **[Action PE, NG, DN]**
- (b) Routes Group. NG proposed a working group be set up to consider routes and infrastructure in general. He invited volunteers; the following put their names forward: ChC, NG, PJ, ML, DN, RW & CW. DN will arrange a meeting in due course. **[Action DN]**

4. Date of next meeting

To be decided.

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