

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 14th January 2015 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Phil Brophy (PB), John Cardy (JC), Chris Connick (CC), Allyson Evans (AyE), Alun Evans (AuE), Colin Fielder (CF), Dale Hall (DH), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Phil Jones (PJ), Hamish Osborne (HO), Fran Rolfe (FR), John Sayce (JS).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 22 September 2014 meeting.

- (a) Gower Cycling Festival. (Item 4) DN advised that the dates are 8-15 August and that the web page (www.wheelrights.org.uk/GCF15.htm) is now live. He would appreciate it being checked, in particular the on-line registration. He will highlight it on the home page on receipt of confirmation that it's OK.

DJ suggested an auction for the party in the Dunvant RC planned for 12 Aug. DN wondered if the local male voice choir which contributed to the success of the Sustrans party there on 1 July 2007 could be called upon. He would enquire. **[Action: DJ]**

The role of Facebook for promoting the Festival was highlighted. See also 6(a) below.

- (b) Access Forum. (Item 8) JC, who was recently appointed to represent cyclists on the NPT Access Forum reported that he had attended one meeting. He explained that their role was to advise the Council. We agreed at the last meeting that cyclists should be represented on Swansea's Access Forum. KR offered to make enquiries. **[Action: KR]**

2. Questionnaire

CF advised that he had had 25 responses from the 80 members who had been sent the questionnaire before Christmas. He has prepared a summary of the responses, included as the Appendix. The essence of the answers to the three questions is as follows:

- 1) Nominations for Secretary. Four candidates were named: AyE, AuE, GG and CW. None were asked if they would be willing to take it on, nor did anyone volunteer at the meeting.
- 2) How should £1000 be spent? The main preferences were: advertising, learn-to-ride classes plus short rides for beginners, and bike repair and maintenance classes. See the Appendix for the other points. Some key points in the ensuing discussion were:
 - DN had had the Adult Beginners Classes advertised in *What's On* and AyE had made separate efforts to advertise them. She thought that the attendees heard about the classes from various sources, many by word of mouth. Suggestions for promoting them included Evening Post publicity (DJ thought that they were more likely to be supportive than before and offered to contact the editor.), by means of a video and by Facebook. DN noted that since the departure of Rob Wachowski these classes were not well publicised within the Council. In the past many had come from there.
 - Learning that Julian of Schmoos would likely be happy to give evening bike maintenance classes as he did for the CTC early in 2012 we agreed to approach him. These were popular then. They would take place here in the Environment Centre.
- 3) Focus for the next five years? Recommendations included: better signing, safer infrastructure, dissemination of the Active Travel Act legislation and links with other campaign groups. See Appendix for detail.

3. Routes Group

CW after reminding us of the three shortlisted routes: City Centre – Liberty Stadium, Liberty Stadium – Bonymaen and Gowerton – Pontarddulais, noted that the current focus was on the last. He then explained that the work of the group divided into three "bubbles":

- Items for the CAP agenda.
- Appendix 1 covering issues with existing routes.
- Appendix 2 covering aspirational routes

There followed an exchange on the following lines.

(a) Gowerton – Pontarddulais.

The next 'Routes Ride' on Sat. 7 February will start at the Urban Cyclery, Kingsbridge at 11.00am. It will be to Pontarddulais to look at potential routes, in particular the options proposed by Sustrans and amended by DJ..

It was agreed that a meeting with appropriate people was needed to promote this route. NG and DJ would be involved, also Jason Hier and possibly Pontarddulais residents. DJ however advised caution regarding landowners and cited a case where difficulties had arisen from a local representative. NG to arrange this meeting. **[Action: NG]**

NG proposed that Wheelrights offer £100 to help promote this route. While some expressed reservations this was supported if it served a 'pump priming' role.

(b) Tawe Valley.

GG has been employed to look into development along the Tawe, including Kilvey Hill. He hopes that this will set useful precedents for the City. He also advocated mountain bike routes on Kilvey Hill.

(c) Bay Campus link.

DN had attended a meeting on 26 November with the Tidal Lagoon Co. attended by rep.s from Swansea and the Met. Universities, CCS and NPT Council representatives. This year NCR 4 would be improved between Port Tennant and the county boundary to provide a cycle link which would pass under Fabian Way at Baldwin's Bridge to connect with the Bay Campus. It was agreed at the November meeting that a more direct route along Langdon Road, which would be restricted to buses, taxis and bikes, continuing along the proposed access road to the Tidal Lagoon (The east end of which is close to the Campus.) should be provided. This however is at the moment an aspiration.

4. Campaign Group

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Adult Beginners Class

This year's classes are proposed for the Saturdays: 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 18 July, 22 August, 19 September. 09.30-11.30 in the Civic Centre east car park as before.

6. AOB

(a) Facebook. The need for Wheelrights Facebook page, a link to which is provided on the home page of our website, to be managed was raised. NG advised that his neighbour neighbour, Scott, was qualified and willing to do this. GG had originally set up the page but did not have the time to maintain it on his own. PB, DH and AS offered support. NG to arrange a meeting with these people to progress this. **[Action: NG]**

(b) Defiance Cycle ride. JC drew attention to this ride which will take place on 6 April, the 130th anniversary of a ride from Llanamon to Swansea on a locally manufactured Defiance bike. It will cover (approximately) the same route. Registration for the ride is now open on www.defiancecycleride.com. He and DN are on the steering group.

(c) Dylan Thomas ride. PB advised that Huw Morris (Swansea University) is planning to repeat this ride this year. DN declined to be involved due to his other commitments.

(d) DMRB. DJ noted that we needed access to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges as this contained *requirements* relevant to cycle infrastructure as opposed to *guidelines* which the Active Travel Act Design Guidance contains. He thought access to this could be obtained for £50. We agreed Wheelrights could afford this. KR said he had a link that would give free access which he would send it to DN. (Post meeting: link rec'd from KR.)

7. Date of next meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday, 25 February in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by David Naylor
(Wheelrights' Secretary)

Appendix – Wheelrights Questionnaire

A summary of the answers to the three questions

1) Nominations for Secretary.

No offers from prospective candidates. Some suggestions were: Allyson, Chris, Colin, Alun and Gordon.

2) What to spend money on.

- (a) Advertising to promote Wheelrights, attract new younger members, promote specific campaigns, promote cycling, a car driver awareness campaign and regularly advertise the bike classes.
- (b) Advertise short (beginner) bike rides.
- (c) Classes on bike repairs, tools, equipment and new bikes.
- (d) Van hire to move bikes to different class venues.
- (e) A bike repair and maintenance course.
- (f) Donations to CTC and to Gowerton-Pontarddulais campaign.
- (g) Cycling conference (jointly with CTC and Sustrans)
- (h) Wheelrights and/or GCF branded promotional material (bells, pumps, etc).
- (i) Purchase promotional leaflet stands (for use in shops, cafés, campsites, etc.)
- (j) Yellow tabards for GCF stewards for safety and promotional purposes.
- (k) Fund bigger grant applications.
- (l) Match funding for campaigns, projects, bike racks, with bigger partners.
- (m) Better GCF festival stalls.

3) Campaign focus for next 5 years.

- (a) Improved signage, road and path markings for cyclists
- (b) Improved safety: lights on bike paths, yellow marking of street furniture.
- (c) Promote the Active Travel legislation and get Swansea Council to vigorously promote active lifestyles and cycling.
- (d) Link with other campaign groups in South Wales plus further afield. Learn from best practice elsewhere (eg London).
- (e) Better cycle provision on roads and on public transport. More cycle routes.
- (f) Specific campaigns for cycle routes in North Gower, Llansamlet, Pontarddulais/Gowerton, new University campuses, railway station, suburbs and villages.
- (g) Campaign for covered bike stands at all hospitals, GP surgeries and around town.
- (h) Help for disabled cyclists.
- (i) GCF - name change to Swansea Bay cycle festival, combine Wheelrights/GCF meetings.
- (j) Rebrand Wheelrights. Be more visible and confrontational, improve public image, update website.
- (k) Well done and keep up the good work (X4)!

Colin Fielder