

Notes of Wheelrights Committee Meeting

23 April 2024 (in the Secret Café, St Helens, Swansea)

Present: Caroline Carter (CC), Allyson Evans (AE), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS),

Apologies: John Britton (JB), Nick Guy (NG), Chris Walsh (CW).

1. Wheelrights General Meetings.

While Christine Boston in her presentation at our 10 April meeting identified the challenges Sustrans faced (See: <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/wr24apr10nm.pdf>) she did not make it clear how they would address them. Jack Thurston was suggested as the speaker for our next general meeting (possibly in July). AE agreed to invite him. **[Action: AE]**

2. Proposed Active Travel Movement.

We agreed to NG's suggestions that the funds for the mock-up website should be used for the development of a website for the new AT movement. To get this going we should take part in the meeting on Sustainable Travel, 10.00-11.45 on 3 May in the Environment Centre. We are asking NG to coordinate this. Also to contact the Ramblers as potential partners. **[Action: NG]**

3. Current Wheelrights website.

DN reported on the arrangements underway for handing over his webmaster role. Bill Gannon (BG) and Tim Lewis (TL) have between them set up <https://wheel5.gannon.me.uk/> to replace <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/>. It was initially created by TL and then BG took it over. The new site retains the content of the existing website (as yet not all of it) but, as can be seen, the style is quite different. The idea is to run the two sites in parallel until they are 'in tune' and then make the switch. DN suggests 1 Feb. 2025 as a deadline as this is when the registration (with 123 reg) of the existing site expires. BG has agreed to DN's suggestion that he (BG) would take over as webmaster.

The new site features a new logo. DN suggested that both the new site and the logo need to be approved by the membership before the switch is made. It was agreed that first of all the Committee would look at both sites and judge on this. **[Action all]**

BG is setting up a Content Management System (CMS) so that someone without the technical know-how to alter the source code can update it. CC, her husband, Chris, BG and TL have been involved in earlier discussions and Chris has indicated his willingness to take on the updating. DN suggested that they work out between them how they would do this. **[Action: CC's, BG, TL]**

4. Swansea LDP2 Consultation.

JS felt that it was important that we are involved and asked for volunteers to take this on and, in the first instance, attend a drop-in Session on 7 May (9.30-18.30) in the Library, Civic Centre. Planning is a key issue and he was pleased to advise that at a recent meeting with Julie James he had learnt that as Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change her remit will include planning.

5. Tawe Corridor.

We support the provision of the proposed path on the west side of the Tawe but that, it being primarily a public amenity (with tourist potential), should be funded as a development rather than with Active Travel money. This was discussed at some length at the last Routes Group meeting. (Item 2 of <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/RG24apr13nm.pdf>.)

6. 20 mph.

The issue is: what is Wheelrights position? JS noted that in N. Wales there had been no exemptions. DJ thought that classified roads (ie main A and B roads) should be exempt. DN noted that we had previously agreed that off-road cycle provision should be a condition for exempting a main road. This view was supported; also that there should be a 20mph limit in the vicinity of schools and libraries and similar places visited by the public.

We wondered what Cycling UK's position was on this. DN and JS would email Gwenda Owen to ask her. (Post meeting: both did this promptly.) **[Action DN, JS]**

7. Bike Week (8-16 June).

NG has suggested that we organize something. We are asking him to coordinate this. DN noted that in the past we had organized events, in particular the Commuter Challenge in 2011 had been a great success. (<https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/events-arch.htm> - last event on the page.) It was suggested that we consider this at our next Routes Group meeting. **[Action: JB, NG]**

Notes prepared by David Naylor.