

# **SWANSEA ACTIVE TRAVEL STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

## **Meeting Notes 20 September 2023 (09:30-11:00) Microsoft Teams**

### **In Attendance**

<b>Chloe Lewis</b>	<b>(CL)</b>	<b>Swansea Council</b>
<b>Jack Palmer</b>	<b>(JP)</b>	<b>Swansea Council</b>
<b>Ioan Brannigan</b>	<b>(IB)</b>	<b>Swansea Council</b>
<b>Neil Williams</b>	<b>(NW)</b>	<b>Your Voice Advocacy</b>
<b>David Naylor</b>	<b>(DN)</b>	<b>Cycling UK</b>
<b>Dareyoush Rassi</b>	<b>(DR)</b>	<b>Wheelrights</b>
<b>Cari Jones</b>	<b>(CJ)</b>	<b>Swansea Disability Liaison Group</b>
<b>Roger Dutton</b>	<b>(RD)</b>	<b>Sustrans Cymru</b>
<b>Cllr Ryland Doyle</b>	<b>(CRD)</b>	<b>Swansea Council Champion for Walking</b>

### **1. Welcome / Introductions**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Jenni Nellist, Andrea Gordon, John Sayce, John France, Jayne Cornelius, Cllr Joe Hale and Cllr Andrew Stephens. JP welcomed stakeholders to the meeting and facilitated a round of introductions of the names, roles and organisations of different stakeholders.

### **2. Update: ATF Schemes for Delivery**

- 2.1 JP provided an update on the progress of schemes which are being

delivered over 2023-24. Swansea's 'main' bids for delivery are grouped together into three 'packages' of schemes based on geographical areas and strategic routes. Engineers in the Council have been working to appoint contractors and finalise plans for construction, and two schemes which aim to link up the Pontarddulais and Morrison areas, are 'multi-year' schemes which will be delivered in phases, with some parts constructed in 2023-24 while other phases are still in development or consultation. Two further schemes, 'Loughor to Gowerton' and 'Clasemont Road to Morrison Link', have only received partial funding to revisit design and secure land before resubmitting for funding to deliver next financial year.

2.2 One main scheme is to deliver a range of improvements on the existing network between Kingsbridge and Grovesend. This is on track to be delivered in the new year, but JP updated stakeholders that some works being delivered by Welsh Water which will see a section of the route between Railway Terrace and the top of Garden Village closed between 02 October 2023 until around 22 December 2023. There will be a diversionary route in place, but it is likely that cyclists will need to dismount for this section.

### **3. Update: ATF Schemes for Development**

3.1 JP provided an update on the development of 'Core Allocation' schemes which are being developed through ATF funding. Schemes are at different stages of development due to how long they have been funded for, their size and complexity. The majority are developing design proposals ahead of plans to engage with stakeholders and residents in the relevant communities. DN requested that stakeholders are involved in the development of proposals before they are finalised. JP responded that all schemes have their own consultation and engagement and stakeholders will be engaged on proposals along with residents and other scheme specific stakeholders once they are ready to be. DN also asked whether the Penclawdd to Gowerton scheme is to complete a 'missing link' in existing provision between the two localities, which JP confirmed.

### **4. Update: ATF Minor Works**

4.1 JP provided an update on the smaller projects which make up 'minor works' across the whole network, which includes signage and wayfinding, access barrier removal, cycle hire strategy development, cycle parking development and funding for promotion and engagement. RD asked for more information about a proposed secure

cycle hub in an empty retail unit near Swansea Bus Station. JP responded with details of this location and added that consultants had mapped out different options for layouts which will inform engagement with stakeholders. DN praised the work being done to remove physical barriers to active travel, and raised that improving junction crossings should also be prioritised, at locations such as Fairwood Road in Mayals, to show how cyclists have right of way over these locations.

## **5. Focus On: Sustrans Cymru**

- 5.1 RD from Sustrans Cymru gave a presentation on the background to Sustrans as a walking and cycling charity and its activities in the Swansea area:
- 5.2 'E-Move' delivers free of charge access to e-bikes to those suffering from transport poverty in five locations across Wales, including Swansea. E-Bikes and E-Cargo bikes have been loaned out to individuals and organisations to introduce their benefits to people without needing to purchase an e-bike. E-Move is funded by Welsh Government until 31st March 2024, and Sustrans are looking for funding and partnership opportunities to ensure that the e-bikes remain available to the community after this date. If you have any suggestions or would like to partner with us on what comes next, please contact [liz.rees@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:liz.rees@sustrans.org.uk)
- 5.3 Sustrans also provides support to members organisations of the 'Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter', which is a group of large employers in the Swansea Bay area which aims to develop and encourage more sustainable and healthy forms of transport for their staff and customers.
- 5.4 The 'Active Journeys Programme' – funded by Welsh Government and delivered by Sustrans – seeks to facilitate behaviour change and travel modal shift in schools through skills training and upskilling staff. There are a number of Primary Schools being engaged in the Swansea area and Sustrans is also going to deliver some engagement on behalf of the Council over the coming year.
- 5.5 Sustrans manages and promotes the 'National Cycle Network' of cycle routes which link up different parts of the country. Two main routes, NCN4 and NCN43, run through the Swansea area and are among the busiest routes on our network. Sustrans is aiming to make the network traffic-free or 'Quietways', and has also been working to remove physical barriers on NCN routes through the 'Paths for Everyone' campaign.

- 5.6 CJ asked whether accessible forms of cycles, such as trikes, were available through the E-Move project. RD replied that there were not at present but this was something that has been previously raised and would be considered in the future, and that specialist organisations such as 'Bikeability' can support with accessible forms of cycles. NW asked how adults with learning difficulties can get involved and have their say and CJ added that there can be issues with accessibility of forms, for example for people with partial sight. JP responded that while Sustrans are delivering school-specific engagement for the Council, there are different ways that residents can get involved and different forms of engagement are also being piloted for people with accessibility requirements.

## **6. Active Travel News & Updates**

- 6.1 CJ updated attendees on the work of 'Pennard Active Travel Group' which campaigns for increased provision in the Pennard and Southgate areas of West Gower. [An online petition](#) has over 300 signatures and the group continues to meet.
- 6.2 DR updated that Wheelrights has continuing campaigns for different routes across Swansea and underlined the request for meaningful consultation on the development of routes and offered the expertise and experience of members in commenting on proposals.
- 6.3 CL added links to information about access forums and resources which exist on the Council website. CJ commented that there are issues with existing forums being organised, to which CL replied that this is something officers in this team can signpost to, they are unable to set up themselves.
- 6.4 RD commented that there are plenty of volunteering opportunities within Sustrans for anyone interested in active travel. CJ added that there are two paid part-time roles being advertised within the charity 'Bikeability' which would be beneficial for attendees to share.
- 6.5 JP updated attendees that he would be leaving his post soon to start a new job, and CL is about to go away on maternity leave. While a new Active Travel Officer is being recruited, any correspondence or issues can be raised with [activetravel@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@swansea.gov.uk) and the next meeting (planned for 09:30-11:00 on Wednesday 06 December 2023) is going ahead as planned.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

- Wednesday 06 December 2023 (09:30 – 11:00)