

CYCLING ACTION PROGRESS GROUP

Meeting Notes – 5th May 2020

Microsoft Teams Meeting Attendance:

Councillor Nick Davies (Chair)	(Cllr. ND)	Swansea Council
Councillor Mark Thomas	(Cllr. MT)	Swansea Council
Ben George	(BG)	Swansea Council
Chloe Lewis	(CL)	Swansea Council
Gwenda Owen	(GO)	Cycling UK
John Sayce	(JS)	Wheelrights
Nick Guy	(NG)	Wheelrights
Mike Cherry	(MC)	Bikeability
Ryland Jones	(RJ)	Sustrans

1. Matters Arising

- 1.1 JS raised point 1.1 from the previous meeting, to look at the possibility of making improvements to the crossing at the Mond in Clydach. BG advised that Traffic team have advised that a consultation will take place on the design. Alan Ferris (AF) is leading the project, group encouraged to contact AF to discuss detail (Alan.Ferris@swansea.gov.uk). BG will additionally seek an update and share this with the group.
- 1.2 JS raised point 1.2 of the previous meeting regarding the widening of Wellington Street. BG advised that work is being undertaken on this and have included for shared use as part of the redevelopment.
- 1.3 JS enquired about Walter Road progress and whether this would be taken to a Cabinet Meeting in the near future. BG advised that a consultancy have been reviewing the options for the route and have issued a draft report to Officers which is being worked through to be fed back for revisions. Final report pending, to then be shared with Cabinet Member.

2. Active Travel Fund Bid (2020/21)

- 2.1 BG presented a summary of the funding bids that were submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in February 2020, for the Active Travel Fund.
- 2.2 Three packages of work were submitted, summaries below:
- 2.3 CITY CENTRE LINKS - £3,428,000
A package of works to deliver:
 - Swansea Central Bridge
 - Carmarthen Road Shared Use Path (Dyfatty to Fforestfach Cross)

- Townhill Northern Link (The Ravine)
- Townhill Road Shared Use Path
- St. Helens Road Shared Use Path

2.4 SKETTY & MAYALS NETWORK LINKS - £1,877,000

A package of works to deliver:

- Mayals Road Shared Use Path
- Sketty Park Links
- Olchfa Link

2.5 PONTARDDULAIS LINK – £854,000

A package of works to deliver:

- Pontarddulais Link (Phase 1)
- Coed Bach Park Link

2.6 CORE ALLOCATION - £773,000

Design and minor works projects.

2.7 JS would like to see Clase, Penlan and Blaenymaes as a priority for future years.

3. Active Travel Fund Projects 2019/20

3.1 BG advised that the events of recent weeks has inevitably impacted on the delivery of the schemes.

3.2 WG has extended the financial year to July, for the completion of projects from 2019/20.

3.3 All site works are temporarily on hold with no clear timescales as to when work can, and will commence.

3.4 Kingsbridge Link is largely constructed and surfaced from Kingsbridge to the Welsh Water road, with work outstanding from this point to Alder Way. The southern end of the route requires a new bridge and new bridge abutments, which will recommence at the earliest opportunity. It is unknown what impact the delay will have on the timescales for completion.

3.5 NG suggested that a grand opening take place upon completion. NG advised that he had discussed this previously with Cllr. Rob Stewart, and would also be keen for Cllr. MT and Cllr. ND to be involved, and suggested combining the opening with a bike ride. NG also advised that he has links with Rob Penn (Cycling Journalist) who he would contact.

3.6 Broadway and Gors Avenue have also been put on hold.

3.7 Swansea Council elected to go back to WG regarding the Townhill Northern Link scheme and seek a deferral of the scheme to next year, due to issues with the

removal of trees along the route, which would result in a steeper gradient along the route than planned. The route has been resubmitted for funding in 2020/21.

- 3.8 Gors Avenue is largely complete, there are however issues with its conformity in sections, which will be reviewed by the engineering team in the coming weeks.
- 3.9 JS advised that he has raised this issue with the Local Councillors for further discussion.
- 3.10 JS advised that Cwm Level Road section to Brynhyfryd Surgery has been completed.

4. Minor Works

- 4.1 NG raised Cwm Road to Eaton Road section as a potential route for improvements, suggesting that additional signage and line painting could greatly improve the route. NG has put together a paper on this route and will circulate his report in the coming months.
- 4.2 NG raised barrier improvements and drop kerb improvements in the Uplands area that would benefit from amendments. NG will put together a list and send on to the Council.

5. Signage

- 5.1 CL gave an overview of the signage review which has been undertaken to audit all of the signage on the cycle network and complete associated works identified as part of the process.
- 5.2 As part of the successful bid by Placemarque Ltd, Wheelrights were named as one of the parties which would make up the consortium of companies undertaking work for the commission.
- 5.3 Work commenced in January 2020, with Wheelrights undertaking audits of the signage on the network, recording amendments, removals and new installation requirements.
- 5.4 All signs have been ordered, however the project is currently on hold until lockdown measures are eased.
- 5.5 As part of the same commission, a new cycle map has been developed under the newly branded network name of Swansea Bayways, which has been developed by MGB Communications as part of the Active Travel Promotion campaign. This large-scale map will be placed at key entry points to the network in the coming months.

- 5.6 The Swansea Bayways campaign is also currently on hold, but has so far featured the launch of a new website and social media platforms, to promote active travel to the general public, communities, education establishments and employers.
- 5.7 Toolkits have been developed for employers to download to assist in encouraging employees to use active travel as part of, or all of their daily commute.
- 5.8 More information, toolkits, and hint and tips can be found at swanseabayways.co.uk.
- 5.9 NG advised that the majority of the first phase of signage is in place, but a minority have some mistakes. CL advised NG to send any issues through, so that these can be rectified before the commission with Placemarque ends.

6. AOB

- 6.1 JS raised that with current lockdown restrictions in place, Wheelrights would like to see the construction of temporary cycle lanes to assist with social distancing, particularly on the foreshore. Wheelrights therefore wishes to suggest the first should be on Oystermouth Road to relieve pressure on the foreshore.
- 6.2 Cllr. ND advised that he has raised the issue of sand on the foreshore with the Council.
- 6.3 RJ advised that funding is likely to become available from WG for this type of infrastructure.
- 6.4 Cllr. ND advised that he will raise this with Cllr. MT.
- 6.5 RJ advised that the Sustrans website has lots of examples on what type of interventions can be made at this time.
- 6.6 JS suggests that this is an opportunity that will only be available for a couple of weeks, and so will be producing a list of roads that they would propose changes on, within the next week.
- 6.7 MC advised that the Santander Bike Scheme has been temporarily closed due to concerns over multiple users, and inability to ensure bikes are cleaned between users. Swansea Council's Environmental Health department advised that the scheme must close immediately.
- 6.8 GO advised that Nextbike in Cardiff is continuing to operate, and is seen as a priority.
- 6.9 NG involved in Living Streets project that was due to be launched before the lockdown, will be launched once lockdown measures are eased.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th of September 2020 at 10:00am in Cabinet Conference Room, Guildhall.