

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 7th March 2020

in Ripples Café, West Cross

Present: Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Bill Gannon (BG), Nick Guy (NG), John Sayce (JS).

1. **Matters arising** from 1 February meeting (and not on agenda).

Signing audit. (Item 2.) CW advised that the signing audit group's work is almost complete and that orders for signs have been placed with *Placemarque*.

2. **Proposed Routes.**

DN had emailed Ben George on 4 Feb. (as requested at the 1 Feb. meeting.) Ben replied on 6 March. He responded to the query about the 2020/21 routes as follows:

Swansea Central Bridge.

Cycle access to the bridge from the south and west will be via a ramp from the S.side of Oystermouth Road near Westway to the high level car park. He did not say what access there will be from the north, if any. Nor did he say if there will be direct access via the car park to the foreshore.

DN tabled a plan of the bridge which he had received from Ben via JS. JS had queried whether the 4.5m width at the centre met guidelines. DN noted that the Active Travel Design Guide (DE024) requires a minimum width of 4.0m, or 5.0m if the route is heavily trafficked. Parkin's book "Designing for Cycle Travel" gives the minimum as 5.8m. CW wondered if the bridge was on an AT route. If not the guidance need not apply. This is likely to depend on whether or not it can be accessed from the north as well as the south and on the need for people to cross the bridge to get to work. DN noted that Parkin's guidance applied to cycle routes in general and thought perhaps the AT guidance did too. He expressed his disapproval of the 'hour glass' design with its pinch point in the middle. He felt that a parallel sided bridge with a 6m wide carriageway would be more appropriate.

Mayals Road.

Bids have been submitted for funding for one way cycle tracks on either side of the road running westward, ie up the hill from Mumbles Road. Ben did not state whether these would be cycle lanes on the road or an upgrade of the footways to shared use, nor about how they would connect with Mumbles Road.

DN had met with cllr Linda Tyler-Lloyd on 11 Oct. 2019 at which they agreed to propose a cycle route on the south side of Mayals Road with a parallel crossing to Clyne Gardens and from there through the SE corner of the park and Roman Court to the Blackpill Toucan crossing. (DN's email of 11 Oct. to PT, JS, *et al* refers.) Ben expects to see this work carried out by next March.

Ben then responded to our queries about the other issues as follows:

Sketty.

They are reviewing their plans for a Gower College – Singleton Park link and have submitted a bid to continue design funding into 2020/21.

A48 link and Junction 47 crossing (of the A483)

Work on the former is proceeding well. A consultant has been employed to look at the A483 crossing. Tunnelling is one of the options.

3. **Blackpill – Mumbles path.**

David Judd had expressed concern that the pedestrian lane was disproportionately narrow. We agreed that it was, at least toward the Blackpill end. We expected that some changes to the path would be made in this area if it is decided to build the proposed new skate park here. We need to wait until a decision is made and then reconsider this.

4. **Loughor Bridge.**

DN reported that the path on the north side of the bridge has now been widened as has also the approach on the east (Swansea) side. The photos (overleaf), taken on 6 March, illustrate the work, now nearly complete. He noted that 'cyclists dismount' signs and a redundant pole in the middle of the path remain to be removed. A new crossing to Station Road is planned.



Looking west. Note obstructing pole.



View east from west end.



Looking west past boat club turn off.



The crossing will be at the top of the hill.

5. Mons crossing at Clydach.

ML reported that construction work is in progress here. We await information as to whether the unsatisfactory crossing there will be replaced. **[Action: ML]** to keep us informed please.

6. Next meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, 4 April, in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor