

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 9th January 2021

by Zoom

Present: Nick Guy (NG), David Naylor (DN), Jenni Nellist (JN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), Mike Lewis (ML), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Allyson Evans (AE), John Sayce (JS).

DN chaired the meeting. He welcomed JN of the British Horse Society (BHS).

1. **Matters arising** from last meeting on 12 December.

(a) INM. (Item 1b.) DN noted that the Swansea section of <https://wgactivetravel.commonplace.is/> has not yet been launched. (If you provide your email address you should be informed when it is.)

(b) Pontarddulais. (Item 5.) The Pentre Bridge is now open to cyclists and pedestrians.

2. **2021-22 Routes.**

We went through the document DN had previously circulated which highlighted potential routes. We reviewed these to provide the following list of recommended routes. They are identified by the initials in [] on the four maps on <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/infrastr.htm>.

SW Swansea

[CS] Clyne Val. – Singleton Park.

NW Swansea

[CE] Culfor Rd – Elba field – NCR4.

[GP3] Gorseinon – Pontarddulais.

SE Swansea

[MP] Manselton – Penlan.

[SB] Swansea – Bay Campus.

[UP] Uplands – City centre.

NE Swansea

[MD] Morriston H. – DVLA (incl. link to LD).

[LD] Llangyfelach – DVLA.

[PG] Penllergaer – Gorseinon (incl. A483 Xing).

[PL] Penlan.

[TI] Tirpenry

The Gower Access Path (GAP) has not been included, as Safe Routes funds are expected to be found for this.

It's now over to JS to pass this on to the Council. **[Action JS]**

3. **Sharing Routes with Horses.**

JN introduced herself as the Access Officer on the BHS SW Wales Committee. She also serves, along with DN, on Swansea's Local Access Forum. She welcomed this opportunity to meet with us and noted the need for dialogue between cyclists and horse riders. This is important as she expects more path sharing as new routes are created.

DN asked about surfaces, noting that on the N. Gower path a 1m wide cockle shell surfaced strip had been provided for horses alongside the tarmac cycle path. Now grassed over it is little used, but, apparently, for lack of demand rather than it being unsuitable. What about tarmac surfaces? JN explained that horses can be ridden on hard surfaces but only at walking pace and for relatively short distances. It is hard on their joints. A softer fibre surfacing has been tried in Pembrokeshire and is proposed for the Clyne Valley Olchfa link. She welcomes this. It can be used by cyclists so would extend the full width of the path.

DR noted that cyclists needed to be horse educated. JN would raise this with her group. NG suggested that she might write an article for Wheelrights Newsletter. JN said she would be happy to. (To DN if pos. by mid March. See <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/newsnotes.htm> for previous issues.) She also mentioned a video about this. (Perhaps include in the article?)

4. **Mayals Road.**

DN summarised the situation to date: Following extensive discussions (since last August) which led to a consensus that the hybrid cycle tracks were unacceptable but failed to reach agreement on what should replace them, JS, following a meeting of the Officers, emailed Cllr Mark Thomas on 28 Nov. proposing three alternatives, all of which involved SUPs on the N. side of Mayals Road. This was turned down by Alan Ferris. Subsequently (on 1 Dec.) DN had, on behalf of Cycling UK (CUK), emailed Alan Ferris a solution which involved off-road provision for cyclists on the south side only. He has not had a reply. He has recently updated the Mayals Road section on <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/infrastr.htm>.

DR advised that local residents plan to set up a Steering Group. Their attempts to get the work delayed and or reviewed have so far not been successful – refuted in long letters from Cllr Mark Thomas and Alan Ferris. Both experienced and inexperienced cyclists had noted that they would not use the downhill (north side) hybrid cycle track. DN read out selections from an article in that day's Evening post titled "Call to halt work on new cycle and mixed use paths" describing Senedd Member Dr Dai Lloyd's concern on behalf of local residents and cyclists about this project and that he has written to Transport Minister Ken Skates asking him to engage with Swansea Council with a view to postponing the works.

In further exchanges NG suggested that both the Steering Group and CUK now need to take a lead. DN had, just before Christmas, received an email from Gwenda Owen (Wales's CUK rep.) offering help. In his reply he asked her to try and get the funding terms of reference changed so that the plans could be changed and/or the end of March deadline extended. Not yet having had a reply he will follow this up. **[Action: DN]** NG also suggested that we look at the north end of the new Cockett Road SUP as a possible precedent for Mayals. The Steering Group is considering some form of public action which, we agreed, Wheelrights should support. CW suggested an online petition. **[Action: ?]**

5. **AOB.**

(a) Wheelrights meeting. DR advised that the proposed meeting with Tim John of Sustrans will be by Zoom on Wed., 10 Feb. at 7.00pm. He will give a talk on the INM.

(b) Making roads safer. NG said that there was a shift from SUPs to making better provision for cyclists on roads. The contra-flow cycle lane in Singleton Street was an example. He also referred to the classification of streets as 'Green Lanes' or 'Cycle Streets' and that cycle lanes could be 'mandatory' or 'advisory' (Marked by solid or broken white lines respectively.) DN (post meeting): Details of all these are provided in DE009-DE014 incl. of the Active Travel Design Guidance.

6. **Next meeting.**

10.00 am on Saturday, 13 February, 2021 by Zoom.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor