

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 9th October 2021

in the Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY

Present: Allyson Evans (AE), Bill Gannon (BG), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML),
David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Phil Brophy (PB).

DN chaired the meeting.

1. **Matters arising** from 11 September meeting.

(a) Signing (Item 1a). NG reported that Chloe has turned down our offer to do a signing audit. We would however report any signing issues to the Council.

(b) Mayals Road (Item 3). DN and DR attended the meeting in Clyne Farm on 23 September. A vote of no confidence in cllr Mark Thomas was passed. Cllr Wendy Fitzgerald attended the meeting to raise her concerns about the plans for Gorseinon Road which she feared would result in problems similar to those at Mayals. She sought DN's advice. This contact could be of use to us as we decide how to respond to these plans. (See 4 below.)

2. **IPP** (Improve the Promenade Petition).

DR reported that about 500 had signed the petition. We decided to prepare a press release which NG & DR would draft. It would include the petition link and give a deadline for signing of a week or two. We would then submit it to the Council. **[Action: NG, DR]**

3. **ATNM.**

JS Explained that the ATNM routes were intended to be constructed over the next 15 years and that the map would be revised every three.

JS and DN had had a Teams meeting with John Phillips, Chad and Claire of Arcadis. This had been a constructive meeting at which Arcadis indicated that they were receptive to Wheelrights feedback. DN noted that Arcadis had adopted our suggestions in the past, in particular the widening of the north side footway on Loughor Bridge, and the access to it on the east side. They have also recommended our proposed route (CE) between the north end of Culfor Road and the B4295 via the Elba playing fields. We do not know if the Council have accepted this. A site visit with Chad to look at routes identified by Wheelrights but not by Arcadis is planned. JS to arrange. **[Action: JS]**

At the meeting with Arcadis we agreed to audit existing routes. JS has asked for help with this. He is covering the Enterprise Zone and DN west Swansea. This audit should identify substandard, eg too narrow, parts of existing routes. Members are asked to report on those in the other areas to JS a.s.p., ie in the next few days. **[Action: All]**

DN reported on the response he has had to our request to Wheelrights members to assess the Arcadis ATNM routes. Of those present BG and NG (together with AE and DR) had responded, as had Paul Edwards and Ian Masters. Paul had highlighted Route 78 between Bishopston and West Cross which links several schools; Ian noted a lack of routes in the Uplands and links to the coast; NG highlighted 12 routes which are already on the four maps; and BG two routes in the Clydach area: 98 to Craig Cefn Parc and 64 on a disused railway line which runs south from Clydach to Llansamlet. To get more feedback we would renew our request to the Membership (DR's email of 18 September). **[Action: DR]**

DN then suggested that we prepare a report which would assess the Arcadis routes, assigning for each a measure of their need and the practicality of their construction (He had used the term 'cost' as a measure of this.) This was not accepted. JS noted that we were required to assess the routes on the basis of the need for them and CW added that we were not in a position to price them. DN accepted that we could not actually price routes but argued that we were competent to assess the feasibility of constructing them. He could not see how we can meaningfully prioritise routes without taking at least some note of their feasibility. (Post meeting note: at the Arcadis meeting DN had sought clarification on how the quite different criteria of need and feasibility should be balanced. Arcadis indicated that they would take note of Wheelrights recommendations, implying that this includes our views on route feasibility. He therefore feels that this should be included in our assessment.)

4. Gorseinon Road.

DN circulated an A4 print-out of the Council's plans for this road. They show an SUP on the north side extending east from the pedestrian crossing where the Afon Lliw cycle path starts (Our route GP2.) to Gelli Gynore, opposite Lidl's. Here a Toucan crossing is proposed and the SUP continues on the south side of the road up the hill, ending at the A483. The road is wide so there should be sufficient space for cyclists and pedestrians. We decided to visit the site before passing judgement. JS offered to find a date for a site visit and, in the meantime, take some measurements of the road width. **[Action: JS]**

5. Priority routes.

JS has been asked by Chloe for our priorities for 2022/23 funding. We selected the following:

- Gower Access Path (GAP)
- Walter Road. (UP)
- Cwm Level Road to DVLA. (CD)
- DVLA to Morrision Hospital. (MD)

6. Blackpill Bridge/Mayals Road link.

DN questioned the desirability of a bridge across the Mumbles Road at Blackpill and suggested that the funds would be better spent on our proposed link via Roman Court to Mayals Road (Route MR). We have not been consulted by the Council about this bridge. Time being short it was not discussed but needs to be. At our next meeting?

7. Next meeting.

10.00 am on Saturday, 13 November in Ripple's Café.

The ride

BG, DN, NG and DR cycled to Green Close half way up Mayals Road where they met with cllr Louise Thomas and a few others who were lobbying for a crossing there. (A key omission from the controversial Mayals Road works.) On the way DN and DR took BG along the proposed link to Mayals Road via Roman Court.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor