

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 12th October 2024

Present: John Britton (JB), David Judd (DJ), Nick Guy (NG), Joe Muldoon (JM), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR). John Sayce (JS),

Apologies: Caroline Carter (CC), Patrick Tribe (PT), Chris Walsh (CW).

JB chaired the meeting.

1. Review of actions from 15 June meeting.

- (a) Special events: diversions. (Item 2.) DJ has not had a response from the Council about the lack of diversions for cyclists at events such as the Ironman on 14 July, but will continue to pursue this. JS will send him his previous emails about this. **[Action DJ, JS]**
- (b) Sustainable website. (Item 3.) NG reported that whereas the Sustainable Group had been established they had not yet found an administrator for the website. **[Action NG]**
- (c) Tawe Riverside Corridor. (Item 5.) We await CC's advice. **[Action CC]**

2. Project updates.

- (a) North Gower Access (NGAP). JM reported that the Council are planning a further consultation before the end of this year.
- (b) Gower Access Path (GAP). PT has been in touch with cllr Lyndon Jones who has informed him of developments. He (PT) recently spoke to the Commoners' chairman who is pleased with the changed plan (to locate the path on the south side of the fence) and now supports it. We noted that there may be objections and discussed how these may be countered. A potential source of support was the Gower Society. We wondered who to contact to find out if they would. We thought that Hamish Osborn (WR member who lives on the peninsula) may be a member. DN would contact him to find out if he was and if so sound him out on this issue. **[Action DN]**
- (c) Walter Road. Noting that the plans have been put on hold we discussed what we could do to try and ensure that the work goes ahead. JS has been trying to get the Council to reopen a debate about it. We felt that the benefits of the plans (which, apart from some issues about access to the SUP from across the road, we whole heartedly support) needed to be highlighted. All – pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and (arguably) shop keepers – would benefit. JS had carried out a survey which showed amongst other things that women cyclists in particular (illegally) used the footway, thereby strengthening the case for off-road provision. He also noted that there was urgency lest we lose the funding.

3. Active Travel Stakeholders (ATS) meeting.

The meeting scheduled for 24 September has been cancelled. We await a new date.

4. Tom Wharf's presentation.

- (a) When and where. Our preference is for this to be at our AGM in late November or early December in the Environment Centre. DR would make the arrangements. **[Action DR]**
- (b) Gowerton Railway Station Bypass. We hope to use the occasion of Tom Wharf's visit to take up with him our proposal for an active route (GS on the NW Swansea map.) crossing the railway on a new bridge founded on the abutments of the old railway bridge.

5. AOB.

- (a) Wheelrights Xmas ride. DJ proposed a seasonal ride between BikeAbility and the Environment Centre on Saturday, 14 December. He would organise it in collaboration with BikeAbility. **[Action DJ]**
- (b) Mumbles Railway anniversary. An event to celebrate the 220th anniversary of the Mumbles Railway is planned, probably in the New Year. (Said to be the world's first ever passenger carrying line. Visit <https://londonrail.uk/historical/the-mumbles-railway-1804-1960/> for details.) We acknowledged the legacy that railway routes have given us in terms of safe cycle paths with engineered grades and infrastructure such as bridges and culverts. JB suggested that Wheelrights have a presence; it was also suggested that Recycle should be involved. DR would contact them and he, DJ and NG would make the arrangements. **[Action DJ, NG, DR]**

- (c) Stephen Williams (SW) meeting. JS had met with SW in August and would circulate the minutes and actions of that meeting. **[Action JS]**
- (d) Quarterly ride with Stephen Williams. The last, attended by just JS & SW, was on 17 April so is overdue. JS would take this up with SW when they next meet. **[Action JS]**
- (e) A Wheelrights Panel Discussion¹. We consider the opportunity of organising a panel discussion at the University. JS had spoken to a Prof. Alan Tapp, whose speciality was behaviour change². He is a candidate for a speaker at a potential Panel Discussion in the New Year, along with Prof. Ian Walker. DR (in collaboration with JS) to contact him. **[Action DR]**
- (f) Sandfields. NG tabled two maps which showed details of proposed arrangements to facilitate active travel at the junction of Vincent St and Burrows Rd. and at the west end of Fleet St where it joins St Helen's Rd. He confirmed our proposed alignment of a route through Sandfields (Route SF on the SE Swansea map.) noting that it should use Bond St rather than Beach St to link Fleet and Vincent streets. He also suggested that Richardson Rd be made two-way to avoid the need for a cycle counterflow. NG and JS would take this forward and meet with Kate from Urban Foundry. (DR to arrange.) **[Action NG, JS, DR]**
- (g) Santander Bikes. JS advised that now these have been rebranded as Swansea University Bike hire with new bike stations at the Guildhall and the Bus Station, replacing those at the Civic Centre and waterfront Museum³.
- (h) Local Access Forum. DN, who had represented cycling at this Forum, has stood down from it. DJ has agreed to take over from DN but has yet to make the necessary formal application to join. He has however attended the most recent meeting. **[Action DJ]**
- (i) Barriers. DN in collaboration with JS would update the Barriers document on the 'Routes' page. [Post meeting: Done: now just 9 sub-standard barriers are on the list; 18 previously.]

6. Next Routes Group meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, 9 November, in Ripples Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor

¹ During a panel discussion, a group of experts in a particular field come together to discuss a specific topic, often guided by a moderator. The audience can also participate by asking questions.

² Prof Tapp is an advisor to the Welsh government about road safety.
<https://www.uwe.ac.uk/news/research-supports-welsh-20mph-limit>

³ See
<https://www.facebook.com/Wheelrights/posts/pfbid0oK2icsPMW45DawgDiUUS7wMThLj7A1uCSP8SXbhKgRfn7vR8NZmgGwKQ7Nq82F4XI>