

Wheelrights Routes Group
Notes of meeting on 19th April 2025

Present: John Britton (JB), David Judd (DJ), Brenda Lillicrap (BL), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS).

Apologies: Nick Guy (NG), Joe Muldoon (JM), Chris Walsh (CW).

JB chaired the meeting.

1. Review of actions from 15 March meeting and not on agenda.

- (a) 200 year celebration of Mumbles Railway (Item 1a). The ride took place on 22 March as planned. 11 took part. DJ regretted the lack of children on it but noted that the festive events at Blackpill were well attended.
- (b) Facebook and member engagement (Item 1b). NG advised (by email) that he has yet to convene a Communications meeting but hopes to do so soon. **[Action NG]**
- (c) Spring public meeting(s) (Item 1c). DJ, had asked Laura Laker about costs, has not yet had a reply but will continue to try and contact her. **[Action: DJ]**
JS has arranged a Zoom presentation on Kidical Mass by Sophie Gordon (CUK) at 7.00pm on 13 May in the Environment Centre (subject to availability). DR to check. **[Action DR]**
- (d) Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Consultation. (Item 2) JS had responded on behalf of Wheelrights, as had DN as an individual but also on behalf of Cycling UK. Their reports are on the Campaigns page of our website. They highlight the lack of plans to provide for children (esp. by safe routes to school) and the lack of consideration of walkers.
JS has arranged a meeting with Julie James for 2 May re. issues arising from the RTP, in particular that its focus is on motor transport rather than people; children and walkers are ignored. BL took up his invitation for somebody to come with him. **[Action: BL, JS]**
JS has met with Stephen Williams (CCS's Active Travel Officer) at which he (JS) raised the need for work at the east end of Gors Ave (Route GA1 on our SE Swansea map) and on the key link between Loughor and Gowerton along Culfor and Pont-y-Cob Roads. (Routes NCR4 and GE on the NW Swansea map.)
- (e) Cycling UK Representative. (Item 4) DN noted that the ball is now at the feet of Gwenda Owen to find a replacement for him. Pending one being found he will continue to wear that 'cap'. He would let DR know what the role involves. [Post meeting: done.] DR will then call for volunteers when he next emails the membership. **[Action: DR]**.
- (f) Updates on Ongoing Projects (Item 5). We discussed the issues of the misuse of AT funding (See 2. below.) JS noted how much more funding Monmouthshire has obtained compared with Swansea. Richard Youle in an article in the 16 April S. Wales Evening Post has covered this and related issues. DN will scan and email it to RG members. [Post meeting: done.]
Walter Road. The meeting Andrew Stevens has offered on Walter Road (Item 5b) has yet to happen. JS to follow up. Related issues can be raised at this meeting. **[Action: JS]**
Gower Access Path (GAP). No progress. Only £50k has been allocated for it in the 2025/26 award, whereas c.£1m is required.

2. Active Travel Funding update

JB had responded on behalf of Wheelrights to a Senedd consultation invitation. In it he highlights what we see as a misuse of active travel funds, namely a failure to spend them on key schemes such as the North Gower link (NGAP) and Walter Road, but instead on minor works and resurfacing which we think should count as maintenance. He also underlines the importance of active travel and rejects the notion that cycling is "not an inclusive mode of transport" (apparently held by some in the Senedd). He makes key recommendations.

3. Llethrid

DJ had raised the issue of the ban on cyclists using the short length of path between Park Woods and Llethrid (designated as a 'Public Footpath'.) at a Local Access Forum (LAF) meeting, but received no support. He is meeting Chris Dale (LAF convener) next week to discuss this. Post meeting: DJ advised that new narrow gates have been installed at the Llethrid end of the path.

Aware that the support of Natural Resources Wales is crucial we felt that a site visit with them is needed. DJ will try and arrange this. NRW board member, Calvin Jones, and Hamish Osborn, Swansea NRW Team leader, might be involved. JB had spoken with Calvin Jones who agrees that the Park Woods path is OK for cycling and that NRW should encourage (not just tolerate) cycling. He has offered to "make sure the Head of Place for SW Wales is aware (about the Park Wood temporary cycling ban), and that he communicates down to his teams that this should not happen." **[Action: DJ]**

4. Gowerton Station

Ongoing work on the Gowerton – Kingsbridge path (Route GP1 on NW Swansea map) has connected it to the N. platform of Gowerton Station. Cyclists using GP1 to travel south on NCR4 would have to either detour through Gowerton or wheel their bikes across the railway footbridge. With this in mind DN felt that now was the time to raise again the need for a 'station bypass', ie the proposed route GS which would link GP1, from where the path turns east to the station, to NCR4 via a new bridge using the old railway bridge abutments and across the large car park between the S. abutment and the B4295. We agreed that access to the bridge should be protected. We would review this in six months time.

5. AOB

(a) Cycle parking at stations. JB has made an individual response to a TfW consultation invitation.

(b) Barriers BL noted that the barrier at the Olchfa end of Dunvant Road did not meet the guidelines. (Chicanes too close.) DN to add it to the list (on the Routes page) and enquire of Stephen Williams when this and the other sub-standard barriers will be brought up to standard. BL would send DN a photo of this barrier. **[Action BL, DN]**

6. Next Routes Group meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, 17 May in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor and Brenda Lillicrap