

# WheelRights Routes Group

## Notes of meeting on 2 August 2025

Present: Caroline Carter (CC), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Brenda Lillicrap (BL), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Patrick Tribe (PT).

1. NG chaired the meeting.

Apologies: John Britton (JB), Joe Muldoon (JM), Chris Walsh (CW).

2. **Matters arising** from 21 June meeting not on the agenda.

- (a) Llethrid path (Item 2d) DJ reported still no response from NRW, and their representative was not at the LAF meeting (Item 9 below). Time to take to higher level. **[Action: DJ]** DN reported that he recently cycled the route (N-S) and found gates unlocked.
- (b) Connection through Gowerton Station (Item 2g) NG reported continued delays due to Network Rail procedures (now CCTV installation and inspection).
- (c) Clyne Common (Gower Access Path) DJ submitted WR and personal support letters.

3. **Mumbles Foreshore**

Discussion of user interactions in the re-opened shared path between Oystermouth and Verdi's. Points covered:

- JS reported an exchange with Carrie Townsend-Jones of Mumbles Community Council who opposes segregation because the space is a 'destination' not a 'route' and suggests cyclists should 'use the road'.
- Segregation would be difficult because people will want to walk next to the sea wall and also use the seating and access points on the opposite side
- JS suggests a survey of user views; general feeling that response would be predictable
- There is an obvious difficulty at the start of the new surface where people cycling arrive expecting the segregated space to continue while pedestrians tend to wander into an inviting space not expecting people on cycles.
- Signs could perhaps help but can make places feel unwelcoming.
- The road is not suitable for inexperienced riders or children but faster cyclists could be encouraged to use it. DN suggested the creation of an exit point at the end of the segregation, possibly with a surface cycling sign.
- More, and more obvious, bike parking at the start of the new section could nudge people to carry on on foot when cycling is clearly not going to be enjoyable.
- 'Shared' roundels at all access points might help pedestrian awareness..

Two actions were agreed:

- JS liaise with Matt Howell (see Item 8) re his research into user experience. **[Action: JS]**
- BL draft letter to council setting out WR views. **[Action: BL]**

4. **Kidical Mass Family Ride**

PT reported that an approx. two mile route based on Sandfields has been ridden. Contact has been made with Sophie Gordon (CyclingUK) and other Kidical Mass information sources. Kidical Mass Facebook page set up. NG suggests contacting Roger Dutton. Aiming for date in September. **[Action: PT]**

5. **Active Travel Fund Update 2025/26**

Discussion about the items listed in the council's update of work for this financial year (two schemes for delivery, the rest 'development only'). Discussion points (see also Item 6 below):

- The works listed may not be priorities for a long term connected network useable by everyone at all times but the council is disinclined to do anything else
- It's good that routes on the WR map for up to 15 years are making some progress
- When funding is very limited investment should be where it can have the most impact
- No works planned for the NE Swansea cycling desert – but what is the demand?

- The council has no strategic framework for allocating funding
- 'Safe Routes to Schools' could have great impact as starter nodes. (NG offered the info that the official designation must meet police requirements which are not always easy to achieve.)

Agreed that JS will write a WR response to the council emphasising the need for a strategic approach to achieving modal shift.

**[Action: JS]**

CC pointed out the need for allies; NG to ask his contact about genesis of Sandfields work. (Post-meeting note, description of the work is at <https://www.urbanfoundry.co.uk/sandfields-suds-project-urban-regeneration/>)

**[Action: NG]**

Noted that WR need to agree a response for the forthcoming Active Travel review.

## **6. Rhyd-y-Defaid/Clyne Link**

(Surfacing included for the current year in the AT Funding Update, headed as link to Killay. Covered by discussion in Item 5 above.) Suggested that surfacing should follow the bridle path to NCR4 south of the Railway Inn rather than go to Clyne Valley Road and the A4118

## **7. DDA Assessment of Proposed Access Control, Gors Avenue**

Painted marks in link between Gors Avenue and Heol-Y-Gors at the community centre prompted BL to email Active Travel (AT) at the council to ask if access controls were proposed and if so if a DDA assessment had been carried out. AT replied quickly that they had no knowledge of any works and had forwarded the email to Highways. No further response. DJ suggests going via [contact@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:contact@swansea.gov.uk).

**[Action: BL]**

## **8. Feedback from "Shared User Pathways in Swansea" Event (23 July)**

JS and BL attended this workshop organised by Dr Matt Howell (MH) of Swansea University School of Social Sciences. (Summary by BL, JS had left) Matt and his students are studying user experiences on the Foreshore and Clyne Valley SUPs, noting their different segregation policies. The study seemed to have reported a far higher incidence of (potential) conflict that has ever been BL's experience (walking or cycling). The workshop used pen portraits of user types to invite participants to engage with the experiences and feelings of different users. MH plans to continue this investigation, JS will liaise (see Item 3 above).

## **9. Swansea Local Access Forum 23 July meeting**

DJ reported that support for the Clyne Common GAP was not even lukewarm, with the Commoners resentful of their perceived treatment by the council.

NG requested that DJ ask about the date for distribution of a map of cycle routes at Rhossili given reports of local opposition.

**[Action: DJ]**

## **10. Any Other Business**

- NG plans to organise a ride to use and promote the Heart of Wales line cycle carriages (though availability not yet predictable), probably during September.
- CC is part of a new group forming to lobby for better bus services. The Appendix shows the dates for public drop-in consultation on bus reform proposals.

## **11. Next Routes Group Meeting**

Saturday 13 September, 10am, Ripples Café (TBC)

Notes prepared by BL

## APPENDIX

### Bus Reform community drop in sessions - South West Wales

Location	Date	Time
Ostreme Centre (Mumbles)	06/08/2025	10am - 1:45pm
Port Talbot Library	07/08/2025	9am - 3pm
Quadrant Shopping Centre (Swansea)	07/08/2025	9am - 7pm
Swansea Bus Station	08/08/2025	9:30am - 1:30pm
Ammanford Library	14/08/2025	9am - 4:30pm
Llanelli Hwb	19/08/2025	9am - 3pm
Pontardawe Arts Centre	20/08/2025	10am - 4pm
Torch Theatre (Milford Haven)	26/08/2025	9am - 1pm
Fishguard Town Hall	28/08/2025	9am - 4pm
Phoenix Centre (Goodwick)	28/08/2025	9am - 4pm
Cymmer Afan Library (Port Talbot)	03/09/2025	11:30am - 5:30pm
Swansea Train Station	04/09/2025	10am - 4pm
HaverHub (Haverfordwest)	05/09/2025	9am - 5pm
Morrison Library	08/09/2025	12:30pm - 5:30pm
Townhill Library	08/09/2025	9am - 12pm
De Valence Pavilion (Tenby)	10/09/2025	12pm - 7pm

