

## Wheelrights Routes Group

### Notes of meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

Apologies: John Britton (JB), Allyson Evans (AE), Bill Gannon (BG), Nick Guy (NG), Joe Muldoon (JM), Patrick Tribe (PT), Chris Walsh (CW).

JS chaired the meeting.

1. **Review of actions** from 11 January meeting and not on agenda.  
Local Access Forum (LAF). (Item 1d) DJ has now been formally accepted as a member.

2. **Consultation on the SW Wales Regional Transport Plan (RTP)**

Consultation on the RTP is ongoing. <http://www.cjcsouthwest.wales/2025consultation> is a link to a summary and the (rather long) full document. Consultation closes on 6 April. Swansea is in the SW Wales region; similar consultations for three other regions cover Wales. Every council is responsible for the proposals for their own areas.

JS noted that it shows strong support for sustainable transport, particularly for buses and trains. LA's have contributed individually to the RTP. JS was impressed by Carmarthen's in that it was clear about what they would deliver but that Swansea's plan lacked specifics. He proposed, in collaboration with us, to draft a response making key points which should be in the RTP, namely: a focus on issues affecting people, including children, the old and the disabled. It should include sections on inequality and provision for the disabled. He proposed coordination with other groups, in particular Cycling UK, to try and ensure our response has their support.. A meeting is planned next week. He will report back to us. DR agreed to assist by reading the document. **[Action: DR, JS]**

3. **20 mph Speed Limit**

BL noted that we can be guided by Dutch practice. We had previously agreed that the criteria for making a key road an exception to the 20 mph default should include the requirement that there is separate provision (ie off the carriageway) for cyclists and walkers. JS noted that the Council were taking little heed of this guideline.

4. **Updates on Ongoing Projects**

- (a) North Gower Access Path. JS reported that some of the funds previously allocated for Walter Road were to be used to upgrade the existing SUP west from Mill Street in Gowerton to the junction at Pont-y-Cob Road. JS felt that separate cycle and pedestrian lanes are needed. (Currently there is a c.3m wide divided SUP.) DN wondered if there was space to widen the existing SUP and felt that upgrading the Ffordd Beck and Pont-y-Cob Road crossings to meet Active Travel Guidelines should be a priority. Monies will also be spent on upgrading the existing path from Penclawdd to the Rake and Riddle.
- (b) Walter Road. JS and others, including Leonie Ramondt (LR) of Mount Pleasant 'Hub on the Hill' had met with people at Uplands Market on 1 February when nearly all supported the plans (especially people with children) and opposed their postponement. He suggested a 'Kidical' Mass ride to promote it. It would involve Uplands Living Streets. The ride might consist of an anti-clockwise circuit of about three miles: starting at St James Church then along Walter Rd and Gower Rd before heading south through Singleton Park to the coast then east before returning to Brunswick St. and Walter Rd to end where it started. DN noted that WR had held a similar mass ride in Bike Week in June 2013. (Covered in <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/campaignarch.htm> under 'Bike Week Events'.) On that occasion the ride occupied a lane on Mumbles Road and the Council obliged by phasing the traffic lights in its favour. LR later had an email exchange about the Walter Road funding reallocation with Cabinet Member Andrew Stevens (via Steven Williams) who is offering a meeting.
- (c) Gower Access Path (GAP). It is assumed that the Council's only bid for AT funds next year will be the GAP project, as the planning process has yet to be completed.

(d) Sandfields. While we support what is proposed there remain two outstanding issues: priority across the Argyle Street crossing and the barrier at the south end of William Street. (See Item 4 of Notes of last meeting; this was an action for NG and JS.)

(e) Parkwood 'No Cycling'. The 'No Cycling' sign on the road between the Heritage Centre and the Green Cwm car park having now been removed there remains the issue of the ban on cycling on the short length (c.300m) of privately owned public footpath between the north end of Park Woods and Llethrid. DN briefly gave the background:

In 2012 he had emailed the land owner (David Jones) requesting permission for cyclists to use the path. David Jones replied that he was happy for cyclists to use the footpath but promptly followed it with an email cancelling this permission. (It appears that this was at the request of his cousin, Paul Beynon). In 2014 DN, having obtained evidence from 20 people that they cycle on this path, set in motion an application to have it designated a 'restricted byway', thereby allowing cycling. In 2019 this was turned down. The reason given was no more than that insufficient reason to make the change had been provided – as if the evidence DN had provided was not sufficient!

It was suggested at our meeting that DN take this up with Cycling UK under their 'Trails for Wales' campaign and with our AM (Rebecca Evans). He noted that there had been a move some years ago to get a Welsh 'Right to Roam' which would allow cycling on paths such as this one, but it seems to have 'got kicked into the long grass'. **[Action: DN]**

## **5. 200 Year Celebration of Mumbles Railway.**

DJ suggested a ride on 22 March from Dylan Thomas Square to Mumbles. It would start at 10.00am, stop for refreshments in Blackpill where there would be a marquee. He offered to organise it. **[Action: DJ]**

## **6. Facebook and Member Engagement.**

We await feedback from JB on his proposals at our last meeting to set up *What's App* and Communications groups, and from DR for a coffee morning. **[Action JB DR]**

## **7. AOB.**

(a) Wheelrights Panel Discussion. Arrangements for this need to be made. At our 16 November meeting (Notes: item 1c.) DR reported that Alan Tapp and Ian Walker had accepted our invitation to participate in a panel discussion in February. **[Action DR]**

(b) Spring public meeting. We would invite Laura Laker (Author of "Potholes and Pavements", reviewed in last Newsletter".) to give a talk. DJ agreed to invite her. **[Action DJ]**

(c) Presumed Liability Petition. Thanks are due to BL for providing a link to a petition which would change the law so that liability for civil cases relating to certain road collisions would shift the burden of proof on to, usually a driver, to show that they were not the cause of the accident. The link is: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/700451>. The petition close on 18 May. We are all encouraged to sign it and are asking that DR pass this on to the membership. **[Action DR]**

## **8. Next Routes Group meeting.**

10.00am on Saturday, 15 March in ~~the Environment Centre~~. Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by  
David Naylor and Brenda Lillicrap