

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 11th January 2025

Present: John Britton (JB), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Brenda Lillicrap (BL), Joe Muldoon (JM), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Patrick Tribe (PT), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Allyson Evans (AE),

JB chaired the meeting. We welcomed Brenda, who has recently moved to Swansea from Glasgow.

1. **Review of actions** from 16 November meeting.

- (a) North Gower Access Path (NGAP). (Item 2a) We have learnt that the Council plan to request the Senedd for funds to enable construction next year. (Post meeting: JS has had confirmation from Simon Le Good of TfW that part of this year's money will go towards the NGAP).
- (b) Walter Road. (Item 2b) JS, noting the unreasonableness of the Council's decision to abandon this scheme (and spend the £4m on a football stadium), suggested that we set up a campaign to overturn it. For a start he suggested we seek local support at the next monthly Uplands (Gwyder Square) market on 25 January and proposed the formation of a WR "Save Walter Road" group. BL responded to his request for volunteers by offering to join it. He also noted that *Living Streets* are a potential source of support. **[Action JS]**
- (c) Gower Access Path (GAP). (Items 1a & 2b.) DN has been in touch with Gower Society member Ruth Callaway (whose WR membership has lapsed but says she will renew it). She has in the past raised cycling issues with them but they have not been supportive. She has offered to bring up GAP when the opportunity arises. PT noted that there has been a public consultation, but it was not clear whether it started or ended on 31 Dec! We are assuming the former. He will report on the outcome. JS will ask TfW about the funding. **[Action JS, PT]**
- (d) Local Access Forum. (Item 1d.) DJ is awaiting confirmation of his membership. Key issues for which he will seek their support are NGAP and GAP. **[Action DJ]**

2. **Commemorating Late Members**

A ride to celebrate the lives of those who have passed away has been suggested. After discussion it was agreed that DJ's proposed "Easter Bunny" ride could serve this purpose. **[Action DJ]**

3. **Parkwood "No Cycling"**

The "No Cycling" signs on the road between the Heritage Centre and the Park Woods car park have been removed. DJ had been in touch with NRW when he pointed out to them that they purportedly support cycling. He learnt that they are happy for the sign not to be replaced.

We noted that this is part of a key cycling link between south and north Gower, use of which is technically illegal due to the cycling ban on the northern section between Park Woods and Llethrid. JB will put this on the agenda for the next RG meeting. **[Action JB]**

4. **Sandfields**

While we are happy with Kate McCabe's proposals presented at the last RG meeting there are some remaining issues. A key safety issue, pointed out by JS, is that due to the priority cars have on the one way (north) Argyle Street where it crosses Vincent/Richardson Streets, children walking or cycling between the Vetch Field and St Helen's Primary are endangered. NG agreed to draft a letter to the Council about it. A separate matter is the non-conforming barrier at the south end of William Street. (Both issues are covered in item 4 of the 16 Nov. RG meeting Notes.) JS will take them up with TfW. **[Action NG, JS]**

5. Celebration of 200 years of Passenger Rail Services.

NG suggested we involve the *Lighthouse* acting group “Life Cycle” run by Adrian Metcalfe. They featured in the 2016 Gower Cycling Festival. It would involve a ride between Mumbles and the Junction Café in Black Pill with actors featuring the erstwhile railway. DJ thought that this ride could be part of the SWWCO Community Rail group’s plans for a celebration of the Mumbles Railway on 22 March. He will take this up with them. **[Action DJ]**

6. Facebook and Member Engagement.

JB made two suggestions: the setting up of a *What’s App*. group and a Communications group which will cover all types of communication: electronic and in person. This was supported. **[Action JB]**

We noted that the website NG is setting up would have a key promotional role. (The existing website being primarily a source of information.) **[Action NG]**

DR suggested WR coffee mornings, starting in March. These would be informal and serve as a members’ forum. This was supported. **[Action DR]**

7. AOB.

BL spoke briefly about her experience with the cycling campaign group in Glasgow (website: <https://www.gobike.org/>). That group mainly tries to influence provision and design of cycling infrastructure by responding to the many consultations of all kinds, including by posting on the website a frequent digest of live consultations, hoping individuals (members or not) will respond to them. BL had drafted a lot of the group’s own responses. She had come to the view that social media channels are needed to show decision makers (especially the ones looking for votes) that a lot of people would like safe provision for active travel.

8. Next Routes Group meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, 15 February in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor