

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 15th March 2025

Present: John Britton (JB), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Brenda Lillicrap (BL), David Naylor (DN), John Sayce (JS).

Apologies: Carolyn Carter (CC), Joe Muldoon (JM), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), Patrick Tribe (PT), Chris Walsh (CW).

JB chaired the meeting.

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

- (a) 200 year celebration of Mumbles Railway (Item 5). DJ confirmed details of the two rides: the first from Dylan Thomas Square to Blackpill, leaving at 10.00, and the second from Blackpill to Mumbles and back leaving at 11.00. Then at Blackpill, from 12.00 to 4pm, where there will be a full programme of festivities. Details on WR's Facebook page and the Events page of our website. JB would put a note on WR's Facebook page and inform Swansea's Scoop. **[Action JB]**
- (b) Facebook and member engagement (Item 7b). The setting up of *What'sApp and Communications* groups has been transferred to from JB to NG. **[Action NG]**
- (c) Spring public meeting (Item 7b). DJ, who has spoken to Laura Laker, reported that she is turning down our invitation as she is busy working on a new book. As a freelance she would need to be paid. JB suggested that if we could cover her fee plus expenses she might change her mind. DJ would contact her about this. **[Action: DJ]**

2. **Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Consultation**

Further to his comments at the 15 Feb. meeting (See notes) JS noted that the plan failed to cater for the needs of young people, particularly children, whom it appears were not consulted. He has spoken to the Children's Commissioner about this. He also noted that active travel was not covered, nor was walking and safe routes to schools. There was nothing about how the aims (which we support) would be achieved. He will try and arrange a meeting with Julie James (now Minister for Delivery) about this. **[Action: JS]**

The consultation deadline is 6 April. JS has an online meeting with other campaigning groups on Wed 19 March and will draft a WR response before he goes on holiday for two weeks on Sat. 22 March. Suggestions for inclusion in it should therefore be sent to him by 21 March. We are asking DR to inform members and suggest that they respond to the consultation as individuals. JB would put a note in Facebook. **[Action: JB, DR, JS]**

3. **Active Travel Funding update**

Widening of existing routes in Clyne Valley and Gowerton. We felt that widening of routes such as these should be funded from maintenance rather than Active Travel (unless the AT funding would otherwise be lost).

4. **Cycling UK Representative**

DN has stood down as CUK's Swansea rep. JS had indicated that he was not keen to take this on but suggested DN contact Gwenda Owen, which he did. She replied that she and JS already work well together and that she would contact a couple of CAN rep.s in the Swansea area to see if they are interested. CAN (Cycle Advocacy Network) is a UK wide group linked to CUK which hold monthly Teams meetings which DN had been attending. They are a forum attended by rep.s from across the UK. Suggestions or volunteers for this role to be considered at the next meeting. **[Action: All]**

5. **Updates on Ongoing Projects**

- (a) North Gower Access Path. No further developments.
- (b) Walter Road Andrew Stephens (Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure) has offered a meeting which would include Leonie Ramondt and Steven Williams (Active Travel Officer). He has not however responded to the dates offered. **[Action JS]**
- (c) Gower Access Path (GAP). Could PT update us on the planning process? **[Action: PT]**

- (d) Sandfields. NG reported that CCS's position is that because the whole of the Sandfields area is permeable to cyclists they would not give priority across Argyle Street as we have requested. However a counterflow on Richardson Street is being considered. The barrier at the south end of William Street has yet to be upgraded.
- (e) Parkwood 'No Cycling'. DJ would contact NRW employee Rhys Jones about the ban on cycling on the short length (c.300m) of privately owned public footpath between the north end of Park Woods and Llethrid. **[Action: DJ]**

6. AOB.

Gowerton Station NG thought that a proposed link to Gowerton Station from NCR 4, which would cross the B4295 and then east of Station Road to the station, should be given priority. It was accepted that confident cyclists would use Station Road but DN questioned the need for an alternative cycle route as he thought that this short length of road was suitable for cyclists. (Perhaps Station Road should be designated a cycle or quiet street?) We would seek JM's opinion. **[Action: JM]**

7. Next Routes Group meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, ~~12 April~~ 19 April in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor and Brenda Lillicrap