

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 17th May 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).

Apologies: Caroline Carter (CC), Alyson Evans (SE), Patrick Tribe (PT).

JB chaired the meeting.

1. Review of actions from 19 April meeting and not on agenda.

- (a) Facebook and member engagement (Item 1b). NG reported that the group had not yet met. He will put a note on Facebook to encourage member engagement. **[Action NG]**
- (b) Spring public meeting(s) (Item 1c). Laura Laker not having responded to DJ's latest attempt to contact her, we agreed to keep her in reserve for a future meeting as we have a speaker (Sophie Gordon) for our 10 June meeting.
- (c) Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Consultation. (Item 1d). BL and JS had met with Julie James (Swansea West AM, and Counsel General and Minister for Delivery) on 2 May. There was agreement that the SW Wales RTPs are of a very low standard, She expects they will be rewritten. by TfW. She offered to send a letter, drafted by JS, primarily about the very poor level of consultation to the Regional Transport Planners. **[Action JS]**
- (d) Cycling UK Representative. (Item 1e). PT has offered to take this over from DN. A meeting between DN and PT attended by DR to discuss this is planned. DN suggested the Lamplighter Café in Bishopston as the venue. DR & PT to arrange. **[Action DR, PT]**
- (e) Walter Road. (Item 1f). Andrew Stephens has still not followed up his offer to arrange a meeting about Walter Road.
- (f) Llethrid. (Item 3). We noted the need for the site visit which DJ is trying to arrange. Regarding the new kissing gate at Llethrid. **[Action: DJ]** DN noted that the adjoining gate had previously always been unlocked so that cycle access had not been a problem. Apparently it is now locked. BL observed that since the northern section of the path is a right of way as a footpath (not a bridleway) there is no legal requirement for cycle-friendly gates. [Post meeting: DN, who had in 2014 made an (unsuccessful) application to have this footpath reclassified as a 'Restricted Byway', has written an article about it to appear in the forthcoming Summer Newsletter.]

2. Barrier at S. end of Clyne Valley path.

We noted that this barrier which had caused access problems for BikeAbility (Wales) was promptly removed following a request from them.

3. Barriers: update and next steps.

DN has updated the list of sub-standard barriers on the Barriers document (Routes page of the website) so that there are now 34 on it. These are only some of the several JS has recently photographed which DN has on his PC. JS reported that there are many in Fforestfach, notably in the area within 400 yards of Cadle school. There were mixed feelings as to whether it is better to have a complete or a short list. The Council has some core funding to replace/remove barriers but, as this will not cover all, prioritisation will be necessary. After discussion it was agreed:

- To group the list, noting those (a) near schools and (b) on designated cycle routes. **[Action: JS]**
- That JS would ask at the ATS meeting on 28 May how WR can help the council prioritise the list for action. **[Action: JS]**

Sandfields. NG noted that the recommended measures had been taken. He would write to Stephen Williams to convey our appreciation. **[Action: NG]**

4. Newgale and EuroVelo 1.

JB explained that due to pebbles being washed on to the A487, a key route into Newgale, the road was to be diverted inland. There would not be room for a cycling facility alongside it. This was a matter for Pembroke CC and for the Welsh Gov. It was suggested that DJ (who had raised this issue but had left the meeting early) contact John Mather (a member of the Welsh Cross Party Active Travel Group). **[Action: DJ]**

5. Pier Street Party (on 14 June).

NG offered to set up a Wheelrights stall; he had some Swansea bike maps to distribute (also there should be Wheelrights Newsletters, including the summer edition, due out shortly). JB has the WR banner which he would bring along. It was decided not to offer a group ride to the event as in previous events there had been little support. NG and JB will run a workshop entitled "Making Swansea more bike friendly" **[Action: JB, NG]**.

6. Connection to Gowerton Station.

This is expected to be completed in June or July. New bike parking has been provided at the station. NG suggested that there be an official opening. He had got nowhere with Stephen Williams when he raised this with him but will try again. It was suggested that Nick should contact Eve Sherratt to see if she was aware of the opening and would be doing anything for a launch event which wheelwrights could support <https://www.southwestwales.co/contact/>. NG and JS will forward a piece for Facebook to JB. **[Action: NG, JS]**

7. Wheelrights public meeting (on 10 June).

DR had hoped to set up a Zoom link but may not be able to use the University facility as he has done in the past. Neither he nor JB will be able to attend. The Environment Centre may be able to help with the Zoom link; JS would ask them. **[Action: DR, JS]**.

8. AOB

(a) Route to Ammanford. In the contest of new cycle routes NG promoted the idea of extending the link to Pontarddulais north to Ammanford alongside the railway.

(b) Consultation JS, noting the lack of consultation by the Council when developing new routes, proposed raising this at the 28 May ATS meeting. The following were identified as of particular concern: **[Action JS]**

- Mumbles Foreshore. An issue was the possible need to separate pedestrians and cyclist on the new SUP. (The original intention had been to provide an alternative route for experienced cyclists – presumably the road.)
- Culfor Road. JS questioned why Culfor Road could not be made one way (E-W) for motorised traffic thereby freeing up a lane for two-way cycling. This would be simple and a lot cheaper than the proposed off-road cycle route.
- Carmarthen Road. JS had met with Simon Le Good who advised that there was (or would be) a feasibility study about active travel on this road.
- Penllergaer to Llangyfelach. With a proposed railway station at Felindre a shared use link to it passing under the M4 from the existing route LP (on the NE Swansea map) will be needed.

(c) DR reported that WR had received an invitation to SCVS's annual members' event t 10.00 on 18 June. He will attend. **[Action: DR]**

(d) DR will email members with the following: **[Action DR]**

- Reminder of public meeting
- Inviting members of informal coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month: 10.00 in Ripples Café, starting on 28 June 2025.
- Information about the Pier Street party.
- Notice of Taliesin talk on 2 July: Carlton Kirby on the Tour de France.

9. Next Routes Group meeting.

10.00am on Saturday, 21 June in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor and Brenda Lillicrap