

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 5 October 2011 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Claudine Conway, Allyson Evans, Rhian Evans, Colin Fielder, Eifion Francis, Nick Guy, David Judd, Mike Lewis, David Naylor, Geoff Wood, Veronica Wood.

Apologies: Martin Brain, David Croxall, Phil Jones, John Roach, John Sayce,

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy.

Minutes of last agm (on 25 October 2010)

Acceptance of these was proposed by Nick Guy and seconded by Colin Fielder. Matters arising were covered by the Secretary and Chairman's reports.

Secretary's Report

David Naylor summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix A. This led to an exchange of views which focussed on the Boulevard and Tawe Bridges. DN indicated that some detailed points raised would be considered at forthcoming meetings with CCS.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Claudine Conway and seconded by Eifion Francis

Chairman's Report

Nick Guy summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix B. He focussed on CCS's Action Plan, the 1:10 Campaign and a new idea of his: a *Wheelrights* Manifesto, copies of a first draft of which were circulated.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Allyson Evans and seconded by Rhian Evans.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report

Colin Fielder presented his report which is included as Appendix C. He noted that the Gower Cycling Festival was close to breaking even. The balance sheet was healthy but £700-£800 remained from the Co-op grant to be spent on new bikes for the Adult Beginners Classes.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by David Naylor and seconded by Claudine Conway.

Election of Officers

There being no other nominations, Nick Guy, David Naylor and Colin Fielder were confirmed as *Chairman*, *Secretary* and *Treasurer* respectively.

Acceptance of this was proposed by David Judd and seconded by Veronica Wood.

AOB

None.

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David Naylor then gave a powerpoint presentation: ***Wheelrights 2011 – a Snapshot***. This consisted of a selection of photos covering *Wheelrights* activities from Bike Week to and including the Gower Cycling Festival. He followed this by the 7 minute video ***Cycling for Everyone***. This traced the development of cycling in the Netherlands since the war to become the World's leading cycling nation

Notes prepared by David Naylor (Secretary)

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2011 agm

This report covers the period from the previous agm on 25 October 2010.

The main events involving the Group this year were the *Mass Ride* and *Commuter Challenge* in Bike Week in June and our second *Gower Cycling Festival* from 10 to 17 September. All these events were successful but the Commuter Challenge stands out both because it demonstrated convincingly that it can be quicker to cycle (or even to run) to work than car, bus or train and also because of excellent coverage of the event by the Evening Post. The numbers attending the Festival were down a bit on last year, due, we believe, to the weather.. Details of these events can be found on the 'Various' and 'Cycling Festival' pages respectively of our website: www.wheelrights.org.uk.

In addition to this we have strengthened our links with Swansea Council and have been consulted by them over issues ranging from the Boulevard and Tawe Bridges to cycle provision in the west of the County. This is covered under 'Infrastructure' below.

A key to this consultation has been our meetings with Chris Vinestock, Head of Transportation. These, initially annual, meetings have recently been increased to quarterly. They will be supplemented by Technical Sub-group meetings. Recognising a common interest in the needs of cyclists and the disabled we have made contact with disability groups. A useful outcome from this is that the Council have agreed to consult with us together rather than separately.

Our other activities are summarised under the headings below.

Evening meetings

These took place in the Environment Centre on the following evenings (attendees in []): 17th January [15], 3rd March [5], 28th March [16] 5th May [9], 16th June [11], 25th July [14] and 7th September [12]. Notes of the meetings are provided on the 'Newsletters & Notes' website page.

The 25th July meeting was an open meeting in which the formal business was followed by a talk by Alan Kreppel, Chair of Traveline Cymru, titled: "Switching from the car: how Traveline can help". He gave a fascinating insight into the wide range of route planning this organisation offers.

As last year a small Working Group was convened to organise the *Gower Cycling Festival*. This group met in the Railway Inn on 6th & 31st January, 21st February, 21st March 18th April, 23rd May, 11th July, 26th August and 26th September. The last meeting was to evaluate the Festival and start planning the next. Another meeting is planned for 17th October.

Adult Beginners classes

Five took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays: 9th April, 14th May, 18th June, 6th August and 24th September. As in previous years most of the participants ended up pedalling but attendance was relatively poor.

At the end of March Claudine Conway, Rhian Evans, Colin Fielder, Nick Guy, Mike Lewis and myself took a two day course to qualify as *National Standard Instructor Assistants* (NSIA) thereby qualifying us to teach cycling up to *Bikeability* Level 2.

We received a £1200 grant from the Co-op to purchase new bikes for these classes and so far we have bought three. They were formally launched at the end of the 6th August class. This is reported in the Autumn Newsletter (www.wheelrights.org.uk/WRnews17.pdf)

Wheelrights rides

Last year, to encourage those new or returning to cycling, we organised gentle two hours rides on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. There was negligible take up so we have not provided them this year. We did however hold two North Gower rides: one on 26th March to celebrate Nick Guy's 60th and the other the traditional *Wheelrights* mid-summer ride on 20th June. There were seven on the former but the latter didn't happen because of heavy rain (except that a couple got as far as the Railway Inn).

In addition three of us joined one day stages of the *Pioneers Ride* which followed the Celtic Trail from Fishguard to Swansea between 28th April and 2nd May. This was organised by ex Sustrans supremos John Grimshaw, David Grey and David Judd. There were around thirty in the group.

As last year the Gower Cycling Festival dominated. The numbers were down from 154 last year to 125. We modified the programme slightly: extra rides at the weekend including a MTB ride and an innovative ride which ascended all the hills in Swansea. As last year, the feedback has been good. Details are on www.gowercyclingfestival.org (which accesses the 'Cycling Festival' page on our website). A report on it will be added when I manage to write it. The next Festival is planned for September 2012. (We have yet to decide which week.)

Infrastructure

Loughor Link

The long awaited new off-road section of NCR 4 to the east of the Loughor Bridge was eventually opened in April. It is complete except that the signing remains to be changed and it was not until early September (just before the Cycling Festival) that the barriers at the east end were removed. This provides a more pleasant and slightly shorter route which avoids the hill on Culfor Road.

Gowerton - Kingsbridge Link

We have been working with the Council to try and obtain the legal clearance for this to be built. As advised by them we wrote to agents for Somerset Trust (the trustees for the common land on which the path will lie) in August but received no reply. We need ways to get action.

North Gower Path

The Council are currently negotiating with the landowners to get clearance to construct the missing link west from Pont-y-Cob Road. Apparently progress is being made, but it is slow.

Boulevard.

In the early part of this year we were involved in consultation about the provision of a shared use path between the Civic Centre and Wind Street. Sustrans and the access groups were also involved. Some, but not all of our recommendations have been accepted. We expect the design of this section to be finalised in 2012.

Thanks to our continued lobbying a link from the Civic Centre along the south side of Oystermouth Road westward to the foreshore path is on the agenda as is also an off-road route on the City side of Victoria Quay from Wind Street to the Tawe Bridges. Implementation of these are key to providing traffic free routes from west to east and to the north.

Tawe Bridges.

We were consulted on the changes here at a late stage, shortly before work was due to start. We pushed for an E-W contraflow on the North Bridge but this was not accepted. Although there is adequate width on the bridge, how to access it at the ends was not clear; we were effectively presented with a *fait accompli*.

Positive outcomes include traffic light arrangements which should provide a better link to NCR 43 from a new section of NCR 4 on the east side of the Tawe. Also a link to NCR 43 from Pentreguinea Road north of the North Bridge has been agreed. On the west side of the Tawe we have pushed for an off-road from New Cut which will go under the North Bridge and link with the aforementioned route on the N. side of Victoria Quay. A decision on this is awaited.

Newsletter.

These have continued to appear quarterly. As Editor my problem is that *Wheelrights* members are not providing me with material so that I end up twisting arms and writing too much of it myself. So help please! At the very least send me some correspondence.

Website.

The number of hits has continued to increase. It has increased from an average of between 5 and 6 a day in 2010 to between 7 and 8 since last May. Constructive criticism would be appreciated. I have had some to which I have partially responded.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2011 agm

We live in exciting times! Cycling is on the increase in Swansea as more people appreciate the health, cost and fun benefits. At long last social and political attitudes towards cycling are changing. The Welsh Government is giving the development of more cycle routes a legislative basis.

Swansea Council is drawing up its own "Cycling Action Plan" with specific commitments.

Unfortunately this is happening at a time of huge cutbacks in public spending. The challenge for us is to discuss and act on priorities for local cyclists.

Wheelrights has developed a high level of credibility with CCS, the WG and recently with local businesses, who are recognising the economic benefits of cycling (eg 2 new bike shops in Swansea). During 2011 David Naylor and I have also started dialogues with Disability groups and Ramblers, both having differing interests in cycle routes, and some common issues.

Wheelrights continues to represent the interests of a wide variety of cyclists including learners, new cyclists, commuters and experienced cyclists. To take this work forward I have the following proposals for 2012:

CAMPAIGNS

1. **1:10 Campaign – to encourage more people to commute by bike.** This has attracted the interest of HSBC, DVLA, Liberty Stadium and CCS. Proposal is to launch a pilot scheme in early 2012, possibly with a charity bike ride from the Liberty Stadium during Bike Week. For details contact Colin or Nick.
2. **Cycling Manifesto for 2012 Council Elections.** These elections present an excellent opportunity for *Wheelrights* members to contact our local Councillors and Candidates to discuss cycling issues.

Proposal is to present a "Cycling Manifesto" to all parties/candidates asking them to commit to:

- Increasing the number of cycle paths in Swansea.
- Increasing the number of 20 mph zones in Swansea.

NEGOTIATIONS with the City and County of Swansea

These have made significant progress during 2011, notwithstanding the difficulties over the Tawe Bridges! *Wheelrights* and Sustrans now hold regular detailed discussions with key CCS Officers (incl Chris Vinestock). In addition DN has arranged an important Seminar for CCS staff on 10th October by Alasdair Massey (a CTC expert in cycling matters).

I believe a challenge for *Wheelrights* is how to involve the wider membership in providing ideas, deciding priorities and informing our negotiators on key issues eg:

- Boulevard – key new Cycle Routes linking NCN routes 4 and 43 with city centre.
- Cycling Action Plan – with specific costed commitments on infrastructure, and items encouraging behaviour change.

PROPOSALS TO INVOLVE MEMBERS IN CAMPAIGNS AND THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- Hold monthly Meetings during Autumn and Winter (eg try Urban Cyclery who have offered room for free) to focus on above issues and to plan campaigns.
- Then in Spring/summer change to monthly bike rides (fun element).
- Explore the possibility of developing an on-line Forum, restricted to *Wheelrights* members (several have asked for this), with adequate safeguards etc.
- Hold a Public Meeting in Environment Centre in 2012.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. **Adult Bike Training** : Build on generous grant (£1,200) from the Coop. Consider fortnightly classes in Spring with additional publicity eg posters in Bike Shops, gyms and "Whats On" etc.
2. **Gower Cycling Festival 2012** Build on success and the improved links with local businesses, cafes, pubs, gyms etc. Target tourists more in 2012 eg DN`s link with Cycling Holiday firm; NG`s link with Yurt rentals on Gower ; early meeting with Tourism etc.

CONCLUSIONS

WHEELRIGHTS is now recognised as a credible competent voice for local cyclists by CCS and several local businesses. We achieved a two page spread in the Evening Post for our Commuter Challenge during the 2011 Bike Week.

There have been good crossover links between the Gower Cycling Festival and our campaigning work eg 1:10 Campaign.

CCS plans to give cycling a higher priority with the Boulevard and a new Cycling Action Plan , during 2012; CCS welcomes *Wheelrights* contributions to both of these.

The challenges for us are to increase our campaigning, whilst keeping our focus on key priorities, and involving more members in achieving our aims.

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chair)

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2011 agm

Wheelrights Accounts (5th October 2011)

01/01/2011 to 5/10/2011

Income	£	Expenditure	£	
Brought forward (01/01/2011)	504.41	Cyclenation	40.00	
2010 extra T-shirt sales (GHC)	40.00	Environment C. membership	17.00	
Membership subscriptions	238.00	Environment C. room hire	115.50	
Donations	71.00	Secretarial expenses	233.75	
Co-op donation	1,200.00	Purchase of 3 new bikes	459.96	
Bike training fees	100.00	Gower Cycling Festival	1,806.94	
Gower Cycling Festival	1,892.50			
Interest on account	0.49			
				Balance
Totals	4,046.40		2,673.15	£1,373.25

Bank balance: 05/10/2011

[Ridler Webster cheque for £80
(GCF posters) not yet cashed.] 1,453.25

Gower Cycling Festival 2011

GCF 2011 Summary

Income	£	Expenditure	£	
Sponsorship	1,100.00	Webhosting	46.64	
Prepaid passes	90.00	Flyers	779.00	
Tickets and passes during festival	280.00	T-shirts	851.30	
T-shirt sales	304.50	Launch music	50.00	
Raffle	73.00	Posters	80.00	
Prepaid party tickets	45.00			
Totals	1,892.50		1,806.94	Balance: £85.56

Membership

70 ordinary members – subscriptions paid 2010/2011 – of which 30 from adult bike training.

Colin Fielder (*Wheelrights* Treasurer).