

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 26 October 2015 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), John Cardy (JC), Chris Connick (CC), Allyson Evans (AIE), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (BG), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Richie Saunders (RS), John Sayce (JS),

Apologies: Dawn Aplin (DA), Philip Brophy (PB), Alun Evans (AuE), Eifion Francis (EF), Dale Hall (DH), Hamish Osborne (HO), Fran Rolfe (FR), Chris Walsh (CW).

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy.

1. Matters arising from 2014 agm (on 27 October 2014)

None.

2. Secretary's report

DN in summarising his report (Appendix A) reported that:

- (a) Adult Beginners' Classes. Due to falling numbers we have decided to discontinue these. Bikeability will take them over. They now have the three Trek and three folding bikes.
- (b) Gower Cycle Festival was considered a success with broadly the same rides as 2014. Apart from a complaint about the showers camping at Dunvant RFC had worked well.
- (c) Active Travel Act. This requires Swansea Council (CCS) to audit routes. They have chosen to do this in-house and have turned down our offer to do some. Our role, by means of the Routes Group, is to take an overview, ie vet the routes being audited including those on the Swansea Bay 'tube map'.
- (d) Kingsway. We have lobbied for a cycle friendly outcome to its reorganisation: specifically for two-way cycling in the spare lane vacated by the eastbound bus lane.
- (e) Fabian way. The cycle path comprising NCR 4 to the NPT border has been upgraded by CCS for access to the new campus and is now well used by students.
- (f) Bike Week in June had no events.
- (g) Green Cwm. DN's January application to have the public footpath at Llethrid upgraded to a *Restricted Byway* is in the pipeline. He will check. **[Action: DN]**

In a discussion on DN's report DJ noted a lack of bike storage on the Bay Campus. NG advised that work is in progress on covered storage. Routes Group to check this out.

3. Chairman's report

NG in summarising his report (Appendix B) reported that:

Routes group have now identified five priorities and have taken forward the work, so that two of them (including a Bonymaen link) should be built in 2016.

CTC/Cyclenation Conference on 24 Oct. was attended by NG. Enthused by it he flagged up our limited membership participation with too few fun events.

Cycling activity has increased by 20% per year for the last 4 years in Swansea and many bodies are now consulting with us.

He proposed that:

- Monthly meetings should alternate between business meetings and public events.
- £100 be given to a community based organisation that is campaigning for a Gowerton to Pontarddulais cycle route. This was agreed subject to a proviso that the group is properly organised with a minimum of six members.
- £100 be given to the Regional Cycling and Walking conference planned for June 2016. This was agreed.
- David Judd on behalf of Wheelrights withdraw his objection to the Stafford Common railway line land being assigned back to the commoners. Following discussion it was decided that this be conditional on the commoners agreeing to a cycle track being made on their section of the old railway track. DJ agreed to withdraw his objection. **[Action: DJ]**

4. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report

CC in summarising his report (Appendix C) reported that:

We started the year with £1,689 in credit and ended with £1,563. This includes the £100 sponsorship just received from Three Cliffs Café.

The Gower Cycle Festival raised £275. Donations of £100 were made to BikeAbility and the Environment Centre. We are affiliated to the CTC (for insurance cover) and to Cyclenation.

Our membership has been 'weeded' and remains static at around 85.

5. Election of Officers

The officers were confirmed as follows (DN had resigned but was re-elected.):

<u>Post</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Chairman	Nick Guy	GG	DJ	
Secretary	David Naylor	AS	AIE	
Treasurer	Colin Fielder	GG	KR	
Minutes Sec.	John Sayce	NG	GG	New post.
Membership Sec.	Fran Rolfe			KR to approach her.
Routes Group convener	Chris Walsh			
Campaign Gp convener	Kerry Rogers			

6. AOB

- (a) NCR 43. RS asked about developments in the Morfa area. ML, referring to the closure between the Liberty Stadium and the Mannesman Bridge, did not know when it would reopen. (It is diverted to the east side of the Tawe.) Concern was expressed about the safety of the existing temporary route alongside the Cross Valley Link road. (CC had been attacked here.) It was noted that the route would eventually follow the east side of the Tawe, go under the Cross Valley Link and cross the river on a restored Bascule Bridge. This route can currently be used albeit by wheeling across a short rough bit at the south end and crossing Brunel Way at the north.
- (b) Morfa-Bonymaen. JS reported that this proposed cycle route, which would go under Nantong Way past Pluck Lake, is under threat from a developer. He will make enquiries. **[Action: JS]**
- (c) Public meeting. GG is arranging a two day visit in early 2016 of Ben Hamilton Bailey to meet Council officers. He is an authority on cycle friendly infrastructure, known in particular for the Poynton scheme. We agreed to provide up to £100 to fund a public meeting.

7. Cycling in 2015

Following a tea break DN gave a short powerpoint presentation featuring photos taken during the past year. He started with the 6 April *Defiance* ride and a CTC cycling holiday in June, then some pictures taken on the Continent to illustrate what's needed here, and finally the *Gower Cycling Festival*.

Notes prepared by John Sayce and David Naylor

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2015 AGM

This report covers key events of the past year. I leave it to the Chairman to look to the future. The main events concern the implementation of the Active Travel Act (ATA) (It became law in Nov. 2013.), proposed changes to the Kingsway and the construction of some cycling infrastructure. I report on these below. The ATA, in that it requires Councils to carry out Cycle Audits and produce Existing Routes Maps, has involved us. Most recently we have had discussions with the City and County of Swansea (CCS) and Sustrans about the Kingsway, and before that the upgrading of NCR 4 alongside Fabian Way, the Gowerton-Pontarddulais link and the signing of cycle routes.

With the numbers dwindling we decided to make this the last year to hold our Adult Beginners classes. We are however making provision for BikeAbility (Wales) to take them over.

Chris Walsh, Chair of the Routes Group, initiated 'routes Rides' on the first Saturday of each month. Since the first on 6 Dec. 2014 they have taken place on nearly every month. Attended by typically around half a dozen they are serving an important role by helping us identify key issues. There has been some work on preparation for the proposed 2016 Cycling Conference. Nick Guy, will cover this in his Chairman's report.

We continue to work with CCS at the quarterly 'Cycle Action Progress' (CAP) meetings. These are usually chaired by cllr Nick Davies and attended by CCS's Ben George, Sustrans' Lindsey Curtis, Mike Cherry of BikeAbility, Nick Guy, Chris Walsh and myself. These people are our key contacts.

A detailed breakdown of events follows.

1. Adult Beginners Classes

Five took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays (Attendees in []): 13th April [4], 9th May [2], 13th June [0], 18th July [?], 22nd August [1] and 20th September [4]. Rain on 13th June and 22nd August explains the lack of attendance. We cancelled the latter even though one person turned up. The classes were all listed in *What's On*.

As mentioned above we have decided that these classes are not viable. During the summer, with our permission CCS removed the unserviceable bikes (They were the small wheeled children's ones.) leaving us with the three folding bikes (one of which needs a part) and the three Trek bikes. These we have given to BikeAbility. Mike Cherry collected them on 22 September.

2. Gower Cycling Festival (GCF)

This took place from 8-15 August. The numbers were slightly up on last year with the average per ride significantly higher. This was largely due to our provision of camping at the Duvant RFC. Most of the campers stayed the full week thereby enabling them to join more rides. Also this resulted in more from afar. Apart from some problem with the showering facility at the RFC (which should be sorted by next year) the feedback from the Festival has been excellent. A detailed report on it is available on the 'Cycling Festival' page of www.wheelrights.org.uk.

Meetings to organise it were held on 1st December, 26th January, 23rd March, 18th May, 22nd June, 3rd August and after the Festival on 14th September. All were in Volcano's High Street office.

3. Meetings

General meetings dates. These took place in the Environment Centre on the evenings of: 14th Jan. [15], 25th Feb. [15], 13th April [8], 6th July [8] and 21st Sept. [9]. (Attendees in [].) *

Routes subgroup. This group met in the Pump House prior to each of the General meetings..*

Cycling Action Progress (CAP) meetings. These took place on 20th Jan., 21st April and 20th Aug. * A fourth meeting is scheduled for 1 Dec.

* Notes of these meetings are on the 'Newsletters & Notes' page of our website.

4. Active Travel Act

The potential for this Act to bring about much improved provision for cyclists in Wales has not been backed up by the necessary funding, and CCS, along with other LAs, do not currently have the resources to implement it properly. However it does provide us with ammunition, mainly from the Active Travel Design Guidance (ATDG) document, to try and ensure that cycle infrastructure is up to standard. This 430 page manual provides the necessary detail. It can be accessed as a pdf from the 'Infrastructure' page of our website. There is also an index to it on the website. (This is a separate document which I prepared. Suggestions for improving it would be welcome.)

CCS are required to provide Existing Routes Maps (ERM) by 22 January 2016. We are concerned that although they have identified a dozen or so cycle routes it seems their ERM will cover little more than NCRs 4 and 43. Linked to providing these maps is the need to carry out Cycle Audits of the routes. The audit procedure is spelt out in the ATDG.

Sustrans produced the specification for the Cycle Audits. It is very detailed. Some of us have been trained (by Sustrans) to do them. We offered to help CCS with the Swansea audits, but they declined – they will do them in-house. Our role is to provide an overview: to pick out key issues lost in the detail of the audit.

5. Kingsway

Following the second of two fatalities on the Kingsway early this year CCS have decided to make major changes to it. These are to be in two stages: a short term one on which work is scheduled to start on 1st November, and a long term solution in two or three years' time.

We have been putting pressure on the Council to try and ensure a favourable outcome for cyclists. While we have been given assurances that the long term solution will involve a 'greened' Kingsway with reduced traffic and adequate provision for cyclists and pedestrians, we are not happy with the short term proposals. It has been decreed that only East-West traffic, including cyclists, will be allowed. Together with Sustrans we are arguing strongly for two-way cycle provision in the short as well as the long term. At the time of writing CCS have not accepted this. This is such an important issue that if two-way provision is not provided I think we should take further action.

6. Fabian Way

The section of NCR 4 along the north side of Fabian Way between Port Tennant and the Swansea/NPT county boundary was upgraded this summer. It is now 3m wide with a smooth tarmac surface – excellent for cycling apart from its proximity to the busy road. There was no space for a separating verge. At its east end there is a link under Baldwin's Bridge to the Bay Campus. The upgrade therefore forms part of the link between the two University campuses.

7. Newsletter

This has continued to come out quarterly. Nick Guy, as a guest editor, produced a bumper Spring issue. I have edited the rest.

8. Website

As webmaster I have continued to try and keep this up-to-date. Last year I added a link to Facebook. I am not aware what use it serves, if any. I don't use Facebook myself but am aware that this is a medium to be exploited: a task for someone else in Wheelrights?

9. Comments

For whatever reason we failed to organise a key activity in Bike Week (13-20 June.) In previous years we had organised such things as a mass ride and, one year, a commuter competition. In fairness we did hold an Adult Beginners class on the 13th (even though no one turned up) and held our annual North Gower Summer Solstice ride on the 21st. (Nine came on this. However only three were Wheelrights members!) We should do more in future Bike Weeks. Perhaps a car-free-Kingsway day with rides, stalls and other events on it?

As I indicated at last year's AGM I had hoped that somebody would emerge to replace me as Secretary. Nobody has, so I have allowed myself to be nominated again for the coming year. Both Nick Guy and I feel that somebody 'in the wings' is needed for both our posts. Accordingly we are proposing the appointment of a deputy Secretary and a deputy Chairman.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)

October 2015

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2015 agm

2016: OPPORTUNITIES and CHALLENGES

Wheelrights now has a very positive reputation, and credibility and we are regularly consulted by a range of organisations wishing to access the views of local cyclists (eg Sustainable Tourism Gower, River Tawe project, Tidal Lagoon, etc.)

However despite an annual 20% increase in cycling in Swansea we haven't increased our membership.

The Kingsway issue has shown our weakness in campaigning and persuading key Councillors despite some recent progress with developing contacts with key Councillors.

I believe we have to think of new ways to connect with the increasing numbers of local cyclists and growing range of cycling organisations, and I hope some of the following ideas may assist us to do this more successfully in 2016. These suggestions could also strengthen our campaigns:

CAMPAIGNS

1. Build on the successful work of the Routes Group in prioritising key new cycle routes which fit well with CCS strategic priorities. The Active Travel Act provides an excellent opportunity with its next stage of developing an Integrated Network Map. Wheelrights should involve members (and other cyclists), in highlighting improvements needed and new routes, despite the bureaucratic and financial drawbacks.
2. The Kingsway and City Centre routes need a new public campaign. The idea of a City Centre mass Fun Ride in 2016 could take this forward, in addition to increased lobbying of key Councillors.
3. In connection with the City Centre, a new campaign has been suggested around safe and considerate cycling. BikeAbility (Wales) may wish to assist and link it into the growing success of their Cycle Training sessions.
4. Gowerton – Pontarddulais cycle routes: Wheelrights and Sustrans have plans for a local community participation campaign around this long delayed proposal, and this campaign could be taken forward in 2016.
 - An agreement to contribute £100 to this campaign would help provide materials and stalls for this public campaign?
 - David Judd wants a Wheelrights decision about whether to withdraw his objection, to registration of common land, which may help speed up work on this important route?
5. Wheelrights, Carmarthenshire Cycle Forum, Sustrans, CTC and other key stakeholders are planning a major Regional Cycling and Walking Conference in 2016. This is targeting senior Councillors and Officers from the 4 West Wales Council areas. A key aim of the Conference is to help major organisations change their culture and approach to cycling and walking.
 - Conference planners are asking each participating organisation to contribute £100 towards the Conference costs. Would Wheelrights agree to this?
6. Short Rides group: there have been exploratory discussions about the need for these to encourage new (mostly women) cyclists interested in short rides (3 - 8 miles) on traffic free cyclepaths. Through word of mouth we now have a potential group to kickstart this in Spring 2016, and the Coast café are interested in hosting them and helping promote the group.

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

In order to implement the above campaign ideas more effectively I suggest the following organisational changes are needed to widen our base of support, and improve our links with other cycling groups:

1. Spreading the load. As David Naylor suggests we wish to involve more activists in sharing the work of Wheelrights. As well as electing deputies, we could have other positions eg a, Campaigns co-ordinator, recruitment, etc?

2. Meetings have often got bogged down with business which has limited discussion and our attraction of new members. It's been suggested that we alternate meetings between:
 - Business/committee meetings: These could be open to members but involving the officers to sort the details of our campaigns /publicity, etc.
 - Public Meetings with speakers and/or discussion topics.
 - As a pilot I suggest monthly meetings from January (alternating the above), with review in May?
3. Swansea Cycle Forum (or Swansea Cycling City). The idea is to bring together all the various cycle groups, organisations and shops to discuss joint issues. Wheelrights could be the catalyst with useful spin offs in terms of wider publicity for campaigns (eg Mass Rides, Bike Week etc), also strengthen specific campaigns eg over Kingsway and city centre, as well as widening distribution of the new Swansea Bike Maps etc

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chairman)

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2015 agm

2015 has again been a successful year for Wheelrights and the Gower Cycle Festival.

The account summary on the next page shows that we started the year with £1689.31 in the account and have ended the year (5/10/15) with a bank balance of £1602.31.

A questionnaire was sent out last Christmas (cost £78.44) to ask members how we could best spend some of the money in our account. So far we have given £100 donations to Bikeability and to the Environment Centre, as part of the Gower Cycle Festival.

Wheelrights and GCF account summaries:

Our sources of income are membership subscriptions (£267.41) down £40 from the previous year, the adult bike class fees (£55) down £55 from the previous year and the Gower Cycling Festival (£816.68).

Our main expenditures are the Gower Cycling Festival (£441.30, excluding the donations and camping fees collected on behalf of Dunvant Rugby Club), secretary's expenses (£273.99), the hire of meeting rooms (£217) and the donations (£200).

A copy of the full Wheelrights account spreadsheet will be available for inspection at the AGM. Please contact me or David Naylor if you would like a copy.

Paypal was again a popular choice for GCF registration. For each £5 paid via Paypal we receive approximately £4.63. Bank transfer has also increased in popularity and is the best method for both Wheelrights and the treasurer!

Membership

We have 56 members (20/10/15) who have paid the 2015 subscription and a further 23 who last paid in 2014 (the previous year's figures were 63 and 19 respectively).

The Future

I would again like to ask Wheelrights members to consider how we could spend up to £1000 from our account. We are discontinuing the adult bike classes, in view of reducing numbers attending over the past four years. As many of you know, these classes were part of the original remit of Wheelrights since 1995. Bikeability will be providing increased lessons for all ages and abilities and will be using some of our newer bikes.

Finally, this is my fifth presentation of the annual accounts. I would be happy to stand down as treasurer this year. There is huge scope for anyone with the necessary skills, to expand fundraising for cycling and Wheelrights. Please contact David Naylor if you are interested.

Wheelrights account summary 2014/2015

Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Bank balance brought forward 21 Oct 2014	1689.31	Gower Cycle Festival expenses	990.30
Gower Cycle Festival income	1365.68	Environment centre (room hire and annual membership)	260.60
Membership subscriptions	272.04	Secretary's expenses (non-GCF)(25/2/15)	153.95
Bike classes	55.00	Secretary's expenses (non-GCF)(22/5/15)	120.40
Donations	90.00	CTC affiliation	60.00
Uplands market reimbursement	25.00	Treasurer expenses (questionnaire)	78.44
		Cyclenation sub. (2015)	20.00
		Cyclenation sub.(2014)	(£20 not cashed) 0.00
		Harrisons (bike class cards)	(£6 not cashed) 0.00
		Environment Centre donation	100.00
		Bikeability Wales donation	100.00
		Uplands market	50.00
Total	3497.03	Total	1933.69
		Bank balance 5th Oct 2015	1563.34
		Sum of expenditure plus bank balance	3497.03

Colin Fielder (Treasurer)
October 2015