

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 7 November 2016 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Dawn Aplin (DA), John Cardy (JC), Peter Clarke (PC), Chris Connick (ChC), Claudine Conway (CIC), Allyson Evans (AE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Sarah Kersey (SK), David Naylor (DN), Hamish Osborne (HO), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), John Sayce (JS), Fes Simmons (FS), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Hilary Fielder (HF), Eifion Francis (EF), Gordon Gibson (GG).

Items 1-4 were chaired by Nick Guy, Item 5 by David Judd, then John Sayce took over.

1. Matters arising from 2015 agm (on 26 October 2015) and not covered here.

(a) NCR 43 (Item 6a). The new alignment of NCR 43 on the east side of the Tawe between White Rock and the Bascule Bridge has now been completed.

(b) Ben Hamilton-Bailey visit (Item 6c). This two day visit took place in January as planned with a well attended public evening meeting on the 19th.

2. Chairman's report (Appendix A)

NG enlarged on his report as follows:

Wheelrights was in good shape and that, with the present officers standing down, this was a good situation to be in. He was proud of what has been achieved.

He noted that by means of our sub-groups we have been involving more of our membership and that this process needs to continue.

Referring to his recent visit to New York he noted that the key to the good cycling infrastructure there was strong political support. This was also the case in Leicester. *Wheelrights* needs to follow suit.

He expressed his thanks to CF, DN and CW for their efforts and support, and to JS for his help with links to councillors.

3. Secretary's report (Appendix B)

DN added to his report reported as follows:

Referring to the ERM he noted that, thanks to DJ's efforts, we had been able to get a pdf file of Swansea Council's ERM. He has put it on the 'Infrastructure' page of our website. He then referred to the INM and made a plea for feedback from the membership on the potential routes shown on the map which he had recently put on the same page. (Under 'Swansea Bay cycle routes/General'.)

He also paid tribute to his fellow officers. Working with CF in the handling of membership sub.s and GCF payments had been a pleasure. Although he and NG frequently disagreed, due to mutual respect we had developed a good relationship. We had been able to "stand on each other's shoulders".

4. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report (Appendix C)

CF in addition to his report (which had been emailed to the membership) circulated copies of his account summary and the Gower Cycling Festival finances. (Included in Appendix C.)

He had taken over as Treasurer from Geoff Wood in 2010. Since then the balance in our account had steadily increased, mainly due to a surplus of income over expenditure from the annual GCFs, so that by the start of this year it was £1563. At the last AGM it was agreed to spend more on cycling related projects. This year nearly £600 had been thus spent, so reducing our balance to £966.

He noted a slight increase in paid-up membership, from 56 in 2015 to 61. (Associated with a fall in 'lapsed' members from 23 to 8 respectively.)

Finally he expressed his thanks to NG and DN, and wished the new Treasurer well.

5. Election of Officers

The officers were confirmed as follows:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Chairman	John Sayce	DN	PC
Secretary	Nick Guy	JS	JC
Treasurer & Membership Sec.	Chris Walsh	NG	AM
Vice Chair.	Claudine Conway	NG	DJ

6. President's comments

DJ thanked the retiring officers for their efforts over the years and for leaving the group in a good state.

He also mentioned the need to encourage younger members and thought that the website needed "modernising". (See Appendix B, Item 7, for DN's views.)

7. Sub-groups

JS, now speaking as Chairman, confirmed that there would be three sub-groups: Gower Cycling Festival, Routes and Campaigning. He circulated lists for people to indicate which groups they would be interested in joining.

8. AOB

- (a) Electric Bikes. NG had been approached by the Evening Post to enquire if *Wheelrights* would support a scheme for electric bikes, like 'Boris Bikes' in London, to be made available for public use in Swansea. We agreed with him that we should strongly support this. [Post meeting: an article about them appeared in the 8 Nov. Evening Post.]
- (b) City Centre. In a discussion following the Chairman's report the issue of the future of the Kingsway arose. JS noted that in the past (traffic) engineers very much controlled development, but now there was a change with the interests of cyclists and pedestrians having higher priority. The door was 'half open'. In this connection JC noted that there was coordination between Swansea and NPT Councils.
- (c) Future meetings. It having been agreed that much of *Wheelrights* business be done by the sub-groups and that the focus of the general meetings be talks of interest to the membership JS felt that some time should be made available for business before the talk. DN suggested that this time should be kept short, but KR felt that it was best to keep business matters separate from the general meetings.
- (d) Bikes on Trains. KR advised that First Great Western had backed down on their requirement that bikes be pre-booked. (See article on p.7 of this summer's *Wheelrights* Newsletter.)
- (e) Christmas Party. DA kindly agreed to book a table at the Mumbai in Blackpill for an evening meal tentatively on Thursday, 1 December. **[Action: DA]**

Notes prepared by David Naylor and Nick Guy

APPENDIX A

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2016 agm

SPREADING THE MESSAGE and SPREADING OUR CAMPAIGN

2016 was a positive year for Wheelrights.

- The Routes Group's prioritisation of new routes in north and east of Swansea helped achieve the new Pluck lake cyclepath connecting Bonymaen with the city centre, and progress with the proposed Gwerton – Pontarddulais routes.
- The Active Travel Act Conference was a successful contribution to the on-going task of educating and persuading Councils to implement the Act in a positive way.
- We have had constructive discussions with several Councillors, Morriston Hospital and DVLA about new routes and possibilities presented by the Active Travel Act.
- We have held public consultations around the Integrated Network Map. We submitted a proposed network of new cycle routes proposal as part of the LDP, which can form the basis of our submission to the Integrated Network Map.
- We have gained representation on the Swansea Rural Development Board, where we are pressing for a feasibility study of a network of new routes in Gower and Mawr
- Our seventh Gower Cycling Festival was a success, building deeper links with Bikeability and the Dunvant Rugby Club.
- The new "Capuccino Rides" attracted a small group of enthusiastic cyclists, and filled a gap for people seeking short accessible rides. We also made links with the new "Park Lives" initiative which could develop further in 2017/8.

CAMPAIGN IDEAS for 2017

1. We now have 2 established working groups: The Routes Group co-ordinated by Chris Walsh which explores and prioritises key new cycle routes which fit with CCS strategic priorities. The Routes Group will compile Wheelright's contribution to the Integrated Network Map, and seeks contributions from members and the wider public. The Gower Cycling Festival working group is co-ordinated by David Naylor, and is already planning the 2017 Festival.

2. I propose a new Campaigns Group to take forward our "political" work reaching out to Councillors of all parties, and large employers etc to gain support for the desired cultural shift towards cycling. This could also promote our public profile. For example Wheelrights and Sustrans have plans for a local community participation campaign around the Gowerton – Pontarddulais cyclepath, and this campaign could be taken forward in 2017. This group could also publicise Bike Week events, and improve our Social Media work etc.

3. Gaining new members. With the above three working groups taking on the main business tasks of Wheelrights, it is hoped that the public Wheelrights meetings could focus more on discussions, speakers and be more successful in drawing in new and younger members. The working groups (with co-ordination between them), could help spread the workload of Wheelrights business, and involve more people in our work.

4 Swansea Cycle Forum has been established with its own website. This will hopefully act as a networking group to help widen future activities eg during Bike Week, with ideas for "rides to work" being considered for 2017.

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chairman)
October 2016

APPENDIX B

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2016 AGM

I start with a note about the Active Travel Act (Wales) as it has been the focus of much of our activities in the past year. Then some stats on our meetings and rides, followed by the key events. Novel this year has been the introduction of the monthly Cappuccino rides. These are a follow up to the adult beginners classes which we discontinued at the end of last year. While the numbers have been small I think it can be said that these rides have been a success. BikeAbility has taken over the beginners classes but unfortunately there have been no takers.

Under 'Key Events' I cover the setting up of the Swansea Bay Cycle Forum, Bike Week rides and the Cycling Conference on 16 June. Nick Guy can take particular credit for the first and last.

I then cover our annual Gower Cycling Festival, which again was a success. I follow this with 'Infrastructure'. As you can read a certain amount has been happening.

Then our Newsletter and Website, and finally a note on the future of *Wheelrights*. We are at a cross roads with all three officers standing down. This should give a new lease of life to the group.

1. Active Travel Act (ATA)

Local Authorities were required to produce an *Existing Route Map* (ERM) by January of this year and an *Integrated Network Map* (INM) by September 2017. The INM will show planned routes which they are committed to develop.

The ERM produced by the City and County of Swansea apparently only covers the NCN routes 4 and 43. The map is meant to be accessible to the public but a search of the Council's website does not reveal it. *Wheelrights* attempted to support the Council in their preparation of the ERM, eg by auditing the routes, but the Council preferred to keep this in house. The Council have been criticised for only including these two routes in their ERM.

We are hoping to help them prepare their INM by advising them of suitable routes and much of the Route Group activities have been to this end in the past year. Sustrans are also involved and they together with *Wheelrights* have been working with the public in identifying routes. Potential routes are shown on a map in *Wheelrights* submission to the LDP (See the 'Campaigns' page of the website.) This is complemented on the 'Infrastructure' page where they are superimposed on an OS map and indexed. This page also provides detailed reports on some of them.

Our 16 June conference focussed on the implementation of the ATA. (See 3. below.)

2. Meetings and regular rides. Numbers attending shown in [].

- (a) General meetings. There were five in all of which two comprised talks: on the Rhondda Tunnel on 4 April and on the ATA on 26 September. They took place in the Env. Centre on the evenings of: 11 Jan. [13], 22 Feb. [7], 4 Apr. [23], 23 May [15] and 26 Sep. [16].
- (b) Routes group. This year the meetings and rides were combined with the ride (if there was one) following the meeting, generally on the first Saturday of each month. All were at 10.00am in the Civic Centre Café. They took place on the following dates of which the first two were in 2015: Nov. [3], 5 Dec. [2], 9 Jan. [2], 13 Feb. [4], 5 Mar. [3], 2 Apr. [4], 14 May [5], 4 June [2], 19 July [5], 10 Sep. [2], 8 Oct. [4].
- (c) Cappuccino rides. These generally took place on the first Monday of each month, meeting in the Coast Café. They met on the following dates: (The numbers in [] include the leaders, usually Allyson and Alice.) 4 April [7], 9 May [4], 6 June [5], 4 July [5], 3 Oct. [6]. The August and September rides were cancelled due to the weather.
- (d) Swansea Bay Cycle Forum. It met on 2 Feb. [25], 12 April [11] and 20 Oct. [8].
- (e) Gower Cycle Festival. The working group met in the Civic Centre Café on 23 Jan. [5], 1 Mar. [6], 30 Apr. [5], 23 July [5] and 8 Oct. [6].
- (f) Cycling Action Progress (CAP) meetings. These took place on 8 Mar. [6], 2 June [7] and 4 Oct. [6]. Normally *Wheelrights* are represented by Nick Guy, Chris Walsh and myself.

3. Key events

(a) Swansea Bay Cycle Forum. Nick Guy had set this up as a forum to bring together the various cycling organisations in the area. The first of the three meetings (See 2d above.) set it up. A website has been set up: <http://swanseacyclingforum.weebly.com>. Notes of these meetings are available on the 'Newsletters and Notes' page of our website. The initial response to this Forum was encouraging but the fall off in the subsequent meetings is disappointing.

(b) Bike Week rides (11-19 June).

I had initiated a plan for a mass ride in the city centre to promote "Space for Cycling", an ongoing theme of *Cycling UK* (Formerly *CTC*). Due to a lack of support from *Wheelrights*, uncertainty about Council support and liability concerns it had to be abandoned.

Wheelrights did however support a Sustrans off-road ride from Blackpill to the City Centre. This was meant to meet up with the annual 43-2-C ride which took place on the same day (Sunday, 12 June.) in Castle Square. There were only 4 on the Sustrans ride and the 43-2-C ride did what they normally do which was not to end up in Castle Square. The event was not therefore particularly successful at promoting cycling!

(c) Cycling Conference (16 June).

A more successful Bike Week event than the rides was the Cycling Conference. The theme was the *Active Travel Act*. Nick Guy and John Sayce had organised it. Around two dozen took part with Mark Child (Cabinet member for *Health and Wellbeing*), Julie James AM and Chris Roberts (Sustrans Head of External Affairs) giving key speeches.

4. Gower Cycling Festival (GCF)

This took place from 13-20 August. The numbers were similar but slightly up on last year and again the average per ride higher than in the earlier years. The problems of last year at the Duvant RFC campsite had been resolved thanks to the efforts of both David Judd and John Watkins of the RFC. This together with excellent weather for the first six days contributed to the Festival again being a success. As usual a detailed report on it is available on the 'Cycling Festival' page of our website. 2(e) above provides details of the working group meetings.

5. Infrastructure

(a) Kingsway and City Centre. *Wheelrights* attempt a year ago to have two-way cycling maintained on the Kingsway was overruled so that now cycling is restricted to the new cycle lane and is east-west only. We are lobbying for two-way on Orchard Street (which currently is the same as on the Kingsway) to complete a cycle link between the Railway Station and the Foreshore via Princess Way. Shared use cycle signs were this year embedded in the pavement on Princess Street and elsewhere, thus making it clear that cycling is legal in these areas.

(b) Upper Bank. This is the name given to the new cycle path which runs east from the Morfa shopping centre (Go round the north side of Morrisons to find its start.) under Nantong Way past Pluck Lake for 1¼ miles to end near the A4217 just short of Llansamlet. It was completed early this year and is a delightful tarmac surfaced path. Half a mile from the start it crosses the path which links Bonymaen with the Enterprise Zone via Atlantic Close.

(c) Bay Campus. There have been near misses by Baldwins Bridge on the cycle route between Swansea and the Bay Campus which was opened last year. *Wheelrights* have proposed solutions to the Council, but a decision is awaited on what is to be done.

(d) Morfa Distributer Road. Work has now started on this road which will bypass the Hafod, running east of the railway from Morfa Road to Morfa. It should be open by the year end. There is a two-way cycle path on its east side. We have asked the Council to ensure that continuity is provided across minor junctions. The drawings did not make it clear that there would be. Don't hold your breath!

6. Newsletter

This has continued to come out quarterly. Nick Guy was guest editor for the Autumn issue. While I am prepared to continue as editor I would be very pleased to hand this over as I think that there must be someone amongst our members with the necessary interest and ability who would enjoy doing it.

7. Website

I have continued to try and keep this up-to-date. It's role is I think now established as a source of information rather than a front for *Wheelrights*. It is in effect a library holding notes of meetings and past Newsletters, plus information on current activities. Facebook surely is the medium to sell us. There has been a link to it for two years, but it is not being used as effectively as it could be. This should be a priority for the coming year.

8. Future of *Wheelrights*

All three officers are standing down at the AGM. Nick and I have each done 9 years as respectively Chair and Secretary and Colin needs to stand down as Treasurer role as he is heavily committed (amongst other things) organising Swansea's annual Young Musicians Festival.

I will continue my involvement in other *Wheelrights* activities, namely running the website, editing the Newsletter (But see 6. above.) and, with others, organising the Gower Cycling Festival.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)
October 2016

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2016 AGM

2016 has been a successful year for Wheelrights and the Gower Cycle Festival. At the past two AGMs we agreed that we should use some of the money in the Wheelrights account to support cycling initiatives, whilst leaving sufficient funds for the Gower Cycle Festival and organisation of meetings.

The account summary on the next page shows that we started the year with £1563.34 in the account and have ended the year (31/10/16) with a bank balance of £1065.94 (£965.94 after the cheque to Bikeability has been cashed).

Wheelrights and GCF account summaries

Our sources of income are membership subscriptions (£291.13) up £25 from the previous year and the Gower Cycling Festival (£901.30).

Our main expenditures are the Gower Cycling Festival (£685.25), non-festival related secretary's expenses (£215), the hire of meeting rooms (£263.20) and Chairman expenses (£127.54). This year we also provided financial help and manpower for two other cycling developments. We gave £100 to support the Trilein Cycle Conference and £190 to help start up the Swansea Bay Cycle Forum (£100 for website development and £90 towards the cost of meetings held at the Environment Centre).

We also again gave a £100 donation to Bikeability Wales.

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.

The Gower Cycling Festival summary sheet shows three new items. First the collaboration with Lighthouse Theatre Company for the Life Cycle rides. Secondly, we received £75 from Swansea Council for organising some of the easy rides as 'Parklife' rides. We also bought a gazebo.

Membership

We have 61 members (31/10/16) who have paid the 2016 subscription and a further 8 who last paid in 2015 (the previous year's figures were 56 and 23 respectively).

The Future

This is my sixth and final year as treasurer. Nominations have been sought for a new treasurer. I am sure new members of the committee will bring a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas to the role and to Wheelrights.

Finally, I would like to record my huge thanks to David Naylor and to Nick Guy. Their hard work, persistence and ideas have made Wheelrights a very successful campaigning, teaching and festival organising group. David in particular made the job of treasurer and membership secretary much easier, setting up Paypal and by maintaining excellent accurate records. He was also always able to provide useful and thoughtful advice.

Colin Fielder
31 October 2016

Wheelrights account summary 2015/2016

Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount	Balance
Brought forward 26 Oct 2015	1563.34	Gower Cycle Festival expenses	685.25	
Gower Cycle Festival income	901.30	Environment centre *	263.20	
Membership subscriptions	291.13	Secretary's expenses (non-GCF)	215.00	
Donations	10.00	Chairman expenses	127.54	
		CTC affiliation	75.00	
		Cyclenation subscription (2016)	20.00	
		Trilein cycle conference	100.00	
		Swansea cycle forum website	100.00	
		Wheelrights website domain name	56.92	
		GCF website domain name	56.92	
		Donation to BikeAbility Wales	100.00	
		Total:	1799.83	965.94
Total:	2765.77	Bank balance 31 st Oct 2016	965.94	
		Expenditure plus bank balance **	2765.77	

* Room hire and annual membership.

** BikeAbility donation of £100 not yet cashed, bank account shows £1065.94 on 31 Oct. 2016)

Gower Cycling Festival 2016 summary

Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount	Balance
Gower Heritage Centre	100.00	Flyers	190.00	
Three Cliffs Coffee Shop	100.00	Gazebo	94.00	
Passes (cash)	135.00	Uplands Market	40.00	
Passes (cheques)	65.00	Ride 7 Pontardawe Riverside fee	15.00	
Passes (bank transfer)	95.00	Gower magazine advert	40.00	
Passes (Paypal)	143.93	GCF pass refund	5.00	
Bikeability share of gazebo	47.00	Launch music (Ian Chalmers)	40.00	
Life cycle ride tickets sold	118.50	Music at party	51.50	
Donations and money found.	21.87	Lighthouse Theatre Co. (Ride 4.)	200.00	
Parkrides donation (CCS)	75.00	Posters	9.75	
Total:	901.30	Total:	685.25	216.05