

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 24th November 2025

Present: John Britton (JB), Phil Brophy (PM), Ruth Callaway (RC), John Cardy (JC), James Dewitt (JD), Allyson Evans (AE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Eddie Hall (EH), Jon Hand (JH), David Judd (DJ), Alan Kreppel (AK), Alice Mander (AM), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR) Patrick Tribe (PT), John Sayce (JS), Jessika Venn (JV), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Caroline Carter, Nick Guy, Joe Muldoon, Pat Purcell.

John Sayce chaired the meeting.

1. 2024 AGM

The notes of the last AGM on 10 Dec. 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising.

Item 6. WheelRights has, as agreed, become a member of Swansea CVS.

3. Reports.

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and Routes Group Chair gave their reports, attached as Appendices A, B, C and D respectively. All reports were accepted by the meeting. There were no questions except for some observations on the Treasurer's report as follows:

- The small excess of expenditure over income arose because of payment of the 10-yearly fee for the domain name.
- Wheelrights has applied for a grant under the Welsh government's St David's Day 2026 Pilot Support Fund.
- Members are still largely from older age groups. Future Kidical Mass rides will be opportunities to engage parents. JV offered to share a report on attracting younger members to voluntary organisations.
- DJ observed that the death of a member could be acknowledged, for example with a small notice in the newsletter.

4. Election of Officers and Committee.

No nominations had been received for the officers' positions. JS wishes to step down after nine years as Chair but JB not being able to take on the role (See Notes of 2024 agm.) he agreed to continue. DR's role as Secretary was intended to be temporary but he also is willing to continue. AE has stepped down as Vice Chair. DR nominated BL as Vice Chair. CW is willing to continue as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. There being no dissent the officers are therefore:

Chair:	John Sayce
Vice Chair:	Brenda Lillicrap
Secretary:	Dareyoush Rassi
Treasurer/Mem Sec:	Chris Walsh
President:	David Judd

John Britton will continue as Chair of the Routes Group.

Committee members: Caroline Carter has stepped down from the committee. Continuing members are John Britton, Allyson Evans, Nick Guy, David Judd and David Naylor.

5. Amendment to WheelRights Constitution

The following amendment recommended by Swansea CVS was accepted unanimously.

In Section 3, Powers of the committee, add 2 new lines:

- Apply funds to carry out the work of the organisation
- Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the aims

DN has altered the wording on the 'About us' page of Wheelright's website accordingly.

6. Programme for next year.

The meeting agreed that WheelRights should continue to hold general meetings. DJ offered to take on the role of finding speakers (live or online). Suggestions offered included Police and Crime Commissioner, Living Streets, Transport for Wales, Welsh Government Active Travel representative (after the election), panel discussion.

7. AOB.

It was agreed at DN's suggestion that the 'Campaigns Group' would be removed from the website as its activities now fall under the Routes Group umbrella.

JH observed that he would value the opportunity to meet other members while cycling and volunteered to organise some social rides, liaising with DJ.

8. WheelRights' Response to the ATNM Survey

Due to lack of time it was decided to postpone the general discussion of Swansea's Active Travel Network Map. Instead it was agreed to hold a combined Routes Group/ATNM workshop on Saturday 13 December in the Environment Centre. (The Survey closes on 4 January 2026).

APPENDIX A

Chairs Report

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Active Travel Act (Wales) which many in the cycling world saw as ground breaking. Literally in this case, as monies then started to flow to make up for the decades of failure to invest in cycling infrastructure. Much of this was due to the vision of a few politicians in the Senedd. Most notable was transport minister Lee Waters who had previously worked for Sustrans and understood the need not just for leisure routes but to construct routes for every day journeys. This boost in financial backing for cycling was sustained and even increased when Mark Drakeford, a cyclist himself, became First Minister in 2020.

The cycling world in Wales started to become used to the annual increase in resources for building cycling provision that might, in the future, mirror the pavement provision for pedestrians and the huge investment in roads for motor traffic (eg. the billions spent on the Heads of the Valleys revamp). Some local authorities like Cardiff and Monmouthshire really got ahead of the game and created cycle facilities that many Councils can only dream of! Swansea's allocation of monies per head of population was slightly above average for the last 5 years. It was mostly spent in areas where it was easy to build on rather than answering the travelling needs of the public. The good news was an acceptance by the officers that providing routes on the main arterial roads was the next step forward. However, despite years of lobbying for 3 routes: Clyne Common, Gowerton - Penclawdd and Walter Rd., nothing has happened.

Even worse news was to follow. This spring Swansea was the only council in Wales that didn't get a project approved for core funding. And then there were changes at the top of Welsh government with 2 non-cyclists becoming First Minister and Transport Minister in the new cabinet formed a few months ago. An immediate change saw the end of ring fencing of the Active Travel monies and its dispersal to the 4 Regional bodies. We are now awaiting the guidance from Cardiff about how this will work, but it seems that the planning and evaluation role of Transport for Wales will be sharply diminished.

Truly we have been in a golden decade for cycling in Wales and it feels as if the tide is now definitely going out with the current questioning of action on Climate change. It is a little appreciated fact that transport is the only sector in the Welsh economy that has shown no significant decline in carbon emissions in the last 30 years.

In the last 2 years I have been emphasising the need to make links with other groups and seek support from those who are not car drivers. It is refreshing to report that there is an embryonic transport group that will hopefully advocate for proper transport planning for non-car users in Swansea. In the meantime, Wheelrights still has a strong role to play in ensuring the voice of everyday cyclists is heard as it has been in many other towns and cities in the U.K. We need to recognise the continuing efforts of small groups of local residents lead by stalwarts like Patrick Tribe and Joe Muldoon who have not been downhearted by the length of time it takes to effect change in the Swansea area.

In looking outward to recruit new members, I hope we can continue to carry forward the momentum from our successful Kidical Mass ride and also to do surveys of public opinion. I am personally greatly heartened by unprompted conversations with walkers about the need to separate pedestrians and cyclists in any new shared use provision. The lack of separate cycling provision in 2 recent schemes at Mumbles promenade and Eversley Rd in Sketty are worrying indications about the failure to consider cycling as a normal activity to be encouraged and promoted.

I need finally to acknowledge the help and support of several individuals. Dareyoush is an extremely conscientious and efficient secretary and we are lucky to have his calmness and good humour. Another person to single out is John Britton who has led the Routes Group with aplomb, keeping it on track by making sure that everyone's opinions are recognised and included. He has also opened our eyes to both the advantages and shortcomings of social media.

Finally, It has been my decision as I step down from the role of Chair after 9 years to start a Chair's award for 'an outstanding contribution to cycling in Swansea'. The first recipient is a very worthy winner of this first award for the time and effort that he has put in over many years. He appears unfazed by any obstacles he encounters gathering together a great deal of support and goodwill in his locality.

Diolch yn fawr i bawb!

John Sayce
Chair

APPENDIX B

Secretary's Report

Since our last AGM in December 2024 we held a public meeting at the Environment Centre, Swansea, in June in which Sophie Gordon of Cycling UK gave a presentation entitled "Kids want to cycle – let's prove it". This was an inspiring introduction to the Kidical Mass rides which have been taking place around the world. She gave practical tips on how to plan such rides which came useful when WheelRights organised their first Swansea Kidical Mass ride earlier this month (more about which later.)

WheelRights were well represented in the 'Pier Street Party' organised by the Environment Centre to mark Bike Week and Great Big Green Week on June 14th. This is now well established as a popular annual event for community and environmental groups in Swansea and we look forward to continue our cooperation with the Environment Centre in the coming year. Ideas for other activities during Bike Week are most welcome.

During 2025 the WheelRights Routes Group held nine meetings at the Ripple Café under the new Chair, John Britton. We urge more members (especially younger and female members) to participate in these meetings which normally take place on the first Saturday of every month.

Four editions of the quarterly WheelRights Newsletter (nos. 71-74) were published during 2025 and we are very grateful to David Naylor for his expert editorship of these informative and widely appreciated journals. Copies of the newsletters, as well as the notes of all the meetings can be found on our website www.wheelrights.org.uk.

WheelRights officers continued to attend various meetings including the Active Travel Stakeholders (organised by Swansea Council), the Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel Planning Group (organised by Swansea University) and the Cross-Party Group on Active Travel (organised by the Welsh Government), as well as ad hoc meetings organised by different organisations to address specific issues.

The Cappuccino rides, led by Allyson Evans, continued throughout the spring and summer and were popular as ever. As in previous years these rides are paused in winter but they will resume as usual next March or April, depending on weather. Keep an eye on the “Rides” page of the WheelRights website for announcements of these (and other) rides.

There was disappointing news about shelving of plans for an active travel route along Walter Road, and there has been little progress on the Gower Access Path (GAP) across the Clyne Common and the ‘missing link’ between Gowerton and Penclawdd (NGAP.) We continue to campaign for these and other priority routes which we have identified, as detailed on the four maps under the heading “New cycle routes in Swansea” on the WheelRights website. We also continue to press for the removal of some remaining cycle path barriers placed at various locations which restrict the movement of cargo bikes, tandem bikes, disability scooters etc.

There have also been some positive developments including the completion of the sea defences in Mumbles and the improvements to the promenade there, the official opening of the active travel route through the Gowerton station, deployment of new railway carriages on the Heart of Wales route with increased capacity for carrying bicycles, and some improvements for bike permeability in the Sandfields area.

As I mentioned at the beginning, our first Kidical ride took place on Sunday 2nd of November, mainly thanks to the efforts of Patrick Tribe and Chris Walsh. More than thirty participants, including many children of various ages, completed the ride through centre of Swansea and the children’s delight at being able to ride safely their city streets was palpable. We are hoping to make this a regular event and Jai Fear has taken on the challenge of organising a ride every month. This is a very worthwhile cause and I urge you all to get involved and encourage children to experience the joy of independent travel which may well have a life-long impact (it did for me and my wife!)

It only remains for me to wish everyone a Happy Festive Season. I thank you for your continued membership; please support us by getting involved in our work and by sharing your ideas.

Dareyoush Rassi
Secretary

APPENDIX C

Treasurer's Report

Accounts:

Expenditure exceeded income by £92.88 with the year end bank balance £753.09.

Wheelrights Financial Report

Year ending 31 Oct. 2025

Opening balance: £845.97.

Income	Amount £	Expenditure	Amount £
Membership subscriptions	345.00	Website Domain reg. (to 1 Feb. '35)	155.88
		Cycling UK Subscription	88.00
		Kidical Mass Ride	76.00
		Banners and Newsletters	56.00
		Environment Centre meetings (2)	42.00
		Environment Centre subscription	20.00
Sub Total	345.00	Sub Total	437.88

Income less Expenditure -£92.88

Closing Balance: £753.09

Membership on 31 Oct. 2023: 73

New members joining this year: 6

Members leaving/non responders 7

Change in membership -1

Subscriptions for 2025 remain at £5 pa, now due.

Refer to our website (<https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/joinus.htm>) for our current payment options.

Standing Order is our preferred method as once set up this simplifies things considerably and reduces further 'nag-mails'!

Chris Walsh
Treasurer

APPENDIX D

Routes Group's Chair's Report

A summary from me of what the Routes Group have achieved this year.

First: thanks to David and Brenda for their excellent notes and support, and Dennis of Ripple's Café for hosting our meetings.

I wouldn't claim the Group can claim all the credit for the following achievements but at least we contributed to:

- Securing the removal of the "No Cycling" sign at Park Woods and prevented the ban from being reinstated.
- Continuing to drive progress on the North Gower Access Path, working with Joe Muldoon to keep the pressure up. And the same for Clyne Common with Patrick and others.
- Influencing the South West Wales Regional Transport Plan by submitting a formal response.
- Delivering the 200-year Mumbles Railway celebration ride, raising the profile of active travel and strengthening community engagement. Who can forget Brunel's (aka David Judd) stovepipe hat!
- Achieving the prompt removal of the restrictive barrier at the south end of the Clyne Valley path, thereby improving access for Bikeability's adaptive cycles.
- Producing an updated audit of sub-standard barriers and supplying the Council with a detailed prioritised list with grid references and web links to support systematic removal. The Council have made some progress in removing some.
- Getting the recommended safety measures in Sandfields implemented after raising concerns with Urban Splash about crossings and access barriers.
- Nick, Joe and I running the "Making Swansea More Bike Friendly" workshop at the Pier Street Party, Where we listened to people telling us what the priorities should be – generating new supporter involvement and shaping future campaigning priorities.
- Establishing and delivering the city's second Kidical Mass family ride, with full planning, risk assessment and community partnerships in place for the November event. Patrick and Jai in particular did a great job on this.

All these things have involved really **good teamwork**; as I say, Routes Group isn't trying to claim ownership of these things but I just wanted to **celebrate** all the work that people have done.

John Britton
Routes Group Chair