

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 15th March 2010 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Ruth Callaway (RC), Mike Cherry (MC), Rhian Evans (RE), Eifion Francis (EF), Claudine Conway (CC), David Judd (DJ), Nick Guy (NG), Brian Ledbitter (BL), David Naylor (DN), John Roach (JR), Lynda Shuker (LS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: David Callaway (RC), John Cardy (JC), Colin Fielder (CF), Phil Jones (PJ), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Wheelrights rides programme.

DN tabled the 2010 programme and noted that the first ride was the North Gower ride, this coming Saturday, 20th March (Railway Inn: 10.00am).

He had drafted a Press Release covering the complete programme of 12 rides (most on the third Saturday of each month) which he had passed to CC and NG for taking up with the Evening Post. (Post meeting note: a shortened version appeared in the 17th March issue.)

2. Adult Beginners Classes

These are already scheduled for Saturdays 10 April, 12 June (in Bike Week) and 24 July. and the question was raised whether to have a fourth. We decided that we were too committed to hold one during the Cycling Festival and left this open.

3. Public meeting

NG proposed that we invite Chris Vinestock to give a talk which would include a discussion. This was agreed and it was decided that the meeting should be open, in Bike Week if possible and the venue here (Environment Centre). DN undertook to invite him. [**Action: DN**]

4. Campaigning

We identified a number of areas where action was needed. These are as follows. What we might do is indicated where this is clear, although to a large extent we were at a loss how to proceed due to a general lack of will by the authorities concerned to cater for cyclists

Wheelrights wish list.

DN noted that at a meeting on 16 November with Chris Vinestock, attended by himself, NG RW and 3 other senior Council officers, our wish list was prioritised. We need to keep track of the implementation of this work, eg tying up some loose ends in the 2009 Alexandra Road cycle provision, in particular at the Railway Station end.

Railway Station

DN advised that he had (that morning) sent off on behalf of *Wheelrights* a submission to a WAG enquiry about access to railway stations in Wales. He had drawn attention to the planned renovation of Swansea Station and the need for adequate cycle parking (enough for 5% of those travelling daily) together with signing and other info. for arriving cyclists. RW said that stands for 40 bikes were planned within the station with more outside. Currently there are 14 stands – enough for 28 bikes – inside and none outside. DN can e-mail our submission to anybody interested.

Gowerton Gorseinon Link.

RW reported that progress on clearing the way for this work to proceed was being held up because a common-land issue had still not been sorted. This was to retain ownership of the strip on which the path would lie which the old railway used to occupy. This was to have been swapped for the land occupied by the A484.

Fabian Way corridor.

We have in the last two years campaigned for cycle routes linking Swansea to Coed Darcy north of Fabian Way and to Briton Ferry south of it. (See the 'Amazon Roundabout' section in www.wheelrights.org.uk/various.htm. for details.) Both of these were proposed by DN on behalf of *Wheelrights* at two WAG "Fabian Way Corridor Transport Assessment" Workshops

on 4 December 2008 and 26 February 2009 They were organised by Arup. An e-mail from Arup's Debbie Judd dated 28 Oct. 2009 confirmed that our proposal for the northerly route had been accepted but that the route to the south had not due to security problems in the docks area. At that date a final report on the Workshops had not been prepared.

RW referred to the dock security problem and noted that any south-of-Fabian Way cycle route would have to cross to the north to join NCN 4 at the west end of Elba Crescent.

A key reason for the southerly route is that it would link with the proposed new University Campus south of Fabian Way. An article in the Evening Post of the same day (ie 15 March) describing the University's plans was circulated. Three 'drop-in' sessions are planned by the University in the next 10 days. Also a 21 day consultation period will follow registration of the plans with NPT Council. We clearly need to get involved. (Post meeting note: The 'drop-in' times and venues are now known and at least one of us are planning to attend.)

European Boulevard

RW advised that there was insufficient width in the proposed boulevard (along Oystermouth Road) for a cycling corridor. He was looking into an alternative parallel route to the south which would go along Victoria Quay. (NB: the cobbles would need to be replaced by a smooth surface for cyclists.)

Llandore development

We discussed the implications of the proposed new road linking Morfa road via the old copper works to near the Liberty Stadium. This is a desire line for cyclists. It appears that a satisfactory outcome would be a cycle route on the west side of the Tawe which should be part of planned development in this area. RW to keep us informed. [**Action: RW**]

4. AOB

Cycling to work tax relief

RC reported that she had got nowhere with the University in her attempts to get this scheme implemented for University employees. Too much admin was the excuse. RW, noting that the Council provide this facility for its employees, assured her the admin was light. She was encouraged to persist, and to assist her RW offered to send her information about the Council's scheme. [**Action: RW**]

Swansea Cycle map

This is now freely available but needs a WAG sticker applied. RW and DN have a stock of maps with stickers

Wheelrights Youth

DJ (apparently ignoring those present who are in the prime of life) felt that we were a bunch of oldies and that we needed a 'youth arm'. Nobody came up with suggestions as to how this might be achieved.

5. Next meeting

7.00pm on Monday, 10th May in Environment Centre. (Note change of date from 17th.)

Notes prepared by David Naylor
(*Wheelrights*' Secretary)