

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 10th May 2010 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Ruth Callaway (RC), Claudine Conway (CC), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), John Roach (JR), Geoff Wood (GW)

Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), Rob Wachowski (RW)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising (and not on agenda).

Item 4. (Cycling to work tax relief). RC, having got nowhere with the University authorities, sent out a questionnaire within the *School of the Environment and Society* to find out the demand for tax relief on the purchase of bikes for commuting. She received 42 replies requesting this. She will put this to the authorities. We gave her our full support.

2. Gower Cycling Festival (18-25 September)

NG reported progress on the preparations.

- An A3 flyer was under preparation; he circulated a draft. This, inclusive of the printing of 3,000 copies, would cost £650. We had hoped to cover the costs from a *Swansea Bay Tourism marketing* grant but this source of funding disappeared due to the credit crunch. Reena Owen on behalf of CCS has promised £100. Ad.s, sponsors and an estimated £230 from *Wheelrights* would cover the rest. He noted that Richie Saunders of the *Gower Heritage Centre* would distribute copies thereby saving us the £25 a distribution company would charge. NG invited comments on the flyer.
- ML suggested the ride description headings be colour coded to match the green for *gentle*, blue for *moderate* and red for *challenging* used on the map. [**Action CC,NG**]
- DN noted that at a recent Working Group meeting (on 6 May) it was agreed that the map on the flyer should be increased in size (by about 50%) and that "Cycling" on the front panel should be more prominent. It was also requested (at the present meeting) that the Festival dates on the front panel stand out more. [**Action CC,NG**]
- The issue of copyright for the map was discussed. Although it would be hard to prove that this map was based on an OS source (DN had traced the Gower shoreline from a map in a brochure – he could not remember which) it was felt we should cover ourselves. Our understanding is that as this project has the support of CCS we can be covered by their copyright licence. RW has been asked to find out what we need to put on the flyer. The map on CCS's Walking and Cycling booklet has the Licence No. 100023509 (2010). Hopefully he (RW) can confirm or otherwise if this is the number we should use [**Action RW**]
- NG noted that, in addition to Jane Davidson and (possibly) Martin Caton, Reena Owen had asked if she could attend the Festival launch on 18 September. We were happy to have all three. Martin Caton had promised to let DN know whether or not he could attend. DN would contact him if necessary. [**Action DN**]

3. Questionnaire

A questionnaire, drafted by NG, was tabled. It would be handed to passing cyclists, eg on NCN 4, to find out why they cycle, what is needed to improve cycling provision and what deters them. Following an exchange of views it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting

4. Reports

(a) Chris Vinestock 15 April meeting

NG noted that meetings such as this with CV (attended by himself, DN and one or two senior CCS officers) would take place every 6 months. Key points covered at this last meeting were:

- Boulevard. The detailed design would take some time but funding should be available in the meantime to construct a cycle route parallel to and south of Oystermouth Road. NG showed on a plan where this might go. It would start with *Wheelrights* long standing call for a link from the foreshore west of the Civic Centre, past it to the north, go along Victoria

Quay, continuing east from there along Adelaide Street to a Toucan crossing to Wind Street. There would also be a link to the Sail Bridge. While recognising the usefulness of this proposed route GG was concerned that it should not be at the expense of proper provision for walkers and cyclists in the Boulevard itself: it was important that its design should not be left to traffic engineers, but should incorporate the needs of non-motorists as do European boulevards. DN noted that the Overview Board in their "Review of Cycling Strategy" felt that they should be guided by UK good practice as "cultural differences on the continent are too great". We dispute this and need to persuade CCS to look across the Channel for good practice. [**Action NG, DN**]

- Alexandra Road/Kingsway. NG described the issues here: signing (signs pointing in wrong direction), the cycle contraflow on Dynevor Place and the issue of the continuity of the Alexandra Rd cycle lane across Belleview Lane and Pleasant Street. We supported a suggestion from GG that a Toucan crossing be provided across the Kingsway as a continuation of the Dynevor contraflow rather than further east. DN had learnt at the 14 April Cycle Forum that the cycle lane would be made continuous across Belleview because there would not be a traffic back up issue there, but not across Pleasant St (to the east).

(b) Cycle Forum on 14 April

As NG's reports on Chris Vinestock meeting and the Cycling Festival covered much of the Forum agenda DN cut short his report to highlight other issues as follows.

- High Street Station. With improvement work due to start this summer a key concern is that adequate cycle storage be provided both in and outside the station. CCS are having difficulty in getting details of the plans from WAG and DN offered *Wheelrights* help in obtaining this information. [**Action: DN**]
- 20 mph zones. The Overview Board's "Review of Cycling Strategy" failed to mention these. RW has suggested that a commitment to 20 mph zones be included in the Action Plan.
- Swansea Cycle map. A formal launch of this map is planned. It has been freely available (with WAG stickers applied) for some time.
- Connect2 - Clydach. Things are beginning to happen with the construction of a link to the High Street. DN noted how effective Helen Davies has been in handling the bureaucracy.
- North Gower, Gowerton-Gorseinon and Loughor missing links. Action is being taken on all three. David Judd is acting as a design consultant on the first two (where land-ownership issues still require sorting) and the missing 200m stretch on NCN 4 east of Loughor Bridge is expected to be constructed this year.
- Maintenance. With WAG requiring 5% of Highway maintenance to be spent on Cycling and Walking the situation has improved. At the CF RW reported a total of over £k60 for spending this year. (DN was not clear if this was just for maintenance or included some capital expenditure.)

5. Chris Vinestock's talk (on 24 June)

He has asked that we provide him beforehand with questions which he could address during his presentation. All are asked to provide these. Please send to DN. CV has not provided a title for his talk: NG has suggested: "Cycle provision in Swansea – plans and priorities". This would be a public meeting, open to all. [**Action: All**]

6. Adult Beginners Class

The next one is this Thursday 13 May starting at 6.30pm. If you can help please turn up at the Civic Centre East car park – at 6.00pm if possible to help get the bikes ready.

7. Wheelrights rides.

The next one is this Saturday 15 May, leaving the Sail Bridge at 10.00, leader ML. He agreed to attempt to get a notice in the Evening Post. (Suggestions: Phone Kate Clarke, Richard Youle, or the Newsdesk: 01792 514606.) [**Action: ML**]

GG invited us to organise an *Open Houses* ride as we did last year. This being a success we agreed that we should do this. It will be on the weekend 11/12 September. DN will add to the programme (when he knows which day, time, etc.). **[Action: NG, DN]**

8. Newsletter

DN plans to distribute a draft later this month and issue it before he goes on holiday on 4 June. He needs material in the next two weeks. He would welcome correspondence to include in it. **[Action: Contributors, DN]**

9. AOB

(a) In Town Without My Car Day (22 September)

GG asked whether we had plans for this day. It being in the middle of the Cycling Festival we had not. DN noted that we had planned a Commuting Challenge in the past but this had not happened. The Devon trip was scheduled for that day and because of this NG proposed that we do something in 2011. If Severn Link did not get their act together and the Devon trip has to be cancelled DN wondered if we might organise something this year.

(b) Swansea Cycle map.

GG and others noted some errors in the map. This now having been issued these would have to be corrected for the second edition.

(c) Environmental Forum.

GG would be attending a meeting of this Forum the following day (11 May.) and offered to raise some of *Wheelrights* issues. We welcomed this. **[Action: GG]**

(d) Swansea University's Environment Week.

RC wondered if we could hold a beginners' class at the University during this week in March 2011. We supported this. Could she remind us nearer the time? **[Action: RC]**

(e) CTC AGM.

CC reminded CTC members that the AGM was on 15 May and that proxy votes need to be received by the 13th. Whether or not the CTC would be unified into a single charity would be decided at this meeting.

10. Coming meetings

7.00pm on Thursday, 24th June in Environment Centre: a meeting with Chris Vinestock open to the public. (Title to be decided.)

7.00pm on Monday, 12th July in Environment Centre.

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