

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 1st December 2011 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Mike Cherry (MC), Stephanie Cuff (SC), Allyson Evans (AE), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), Derek James (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), Paul Meara (PM), David Naylor (DN), John Roach (JR), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), John Sayce (JS)

Apologies: Judith Cole (JC), Claudine Conway (CC), David Judd (DJ), Paul Elliott (PE), Phil Jones (PJ), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Vee Wood (VW).

The meeting was chaired by NG

1. Matters arising (from 7 September 2011 meeting and not on agenda).

None.

2. Wheelrights 2012 Programme

(a) Rides. NG proposed a revival of monthly evening rides. He suggested the first Thursday of the month from April to October. We noted that the similar Explorer Rides in 2008 and 2009 had failed to attract participants. It was agreed that we should go ahead, but with more effective publicity.

All the rides would start at 17.45 from a suitable café. NG suggested the Café Americana, east side of the J Sheds, SE of the Sail Bridge. (To be confirmed.)

It was agreed that routes would not be predetermined but decided on the day to suit the participants. What level of cyclist should be targeted? DN suggested that they should be for all on the understanding that experienced cyclists would hold back as necessary and act as mentors to the less experienced **[Action NG, DN]**

(b) Adult Beginners Classes. After some discussion it was agreed that these would be held monthly from April to September as previously. The need for two levels of tuition was identified and it was agreed that rather than hold the different levels on separate occasions we would divide the class. We had sufficient instructors to do this. Those who could ride would be separated from the complete beginners at or near the start of the class and be taken for a short ride along the foreshore. DN had tried doing this in 2010 but his initiative was not then supported. This would prepare people for the evening rides.

To publicise these classes CF recommended that in addition to the Evening Post we should get them in "What's On". There being a lead time of two or three months this means fixing dates well in advance. DN would draw up a timetable. **[Action DN]**

(c) Gower Cycling Festival (15-22 Sept.) CF outlined the plans for the 2012 Festival and how it would be promoted. Advice was offered on how to make effective use of Facebook. RP recommended we get an entry on the Environment Wales website and GG suggested we get a Community Page set up on Facebook with a link to our site (www.gowercyclingfestival.org).

3. Cycling Action Progress (CAP) meetings

DN noted that these meetings with Chris Vinestock, Head of Transportation (attended by himself and NG and CCS rep.s), which had been annual are now held quarterly. The last was on 30 Sept. with the next scheduled for 15 Dec. DN highlighted some key issues.

Gowerton – Kingsbridge link. Progress is being made to get land ownership sorted for this proposed link. DN had written on behalf of WR to Knight Frank, agents for the Somerset Trust, and had received a reply offering a site visit. This will be on the agenda for the 15 Dec. CAP meeting.

Tawe Bridges. While the consultation period on cycle provision is now over DN advised that a link from NCR 43 on the east side of the Tawe to the west side via the North Bridge north footway can be considered. This because it would not affect road traffic. It should be on the agenda for the 15 Dec. meeting.

Boulevard E. of Wind St. DN noted that WR are pushing for a wide shared use path on the north side of Quay Parade to link the new Boulevard crossing at Wind St. to the Tawe Bridges and that this is being considered by the CCS design team. The route is not obstructed by buildings. Again this should be considered on 15 Dec.

Boulevard W. of Wind St. DN advised that Wheelrights comments on CCS's plans for a shared use path west from the LC to the foreshore west of the Civic Centre were invited. A drawing showing this was tabled. (Included as the Appendix) DN proposed expressing our approval in general of the measures, in particular of the 3m wide path west from Dunvant Place to the foreshore for which we have been campaigning for years.

He would draw attention to the need for measures to make the three road crossings safe for cyclists and also recommend that alternatives to the tarmac planned to surround the trees on the 5m wide section be considered. In particular there could be a green strip, possibly of varying width, between the road and the path to steer cyclists round the trees.

In the ensuing discussion concern was raised that the drawing did not provide information about links across Oystermouth Road nor to various places in the City Centre. DJa advised that it was incumbent on the Council to cater for cyclists. DN would cover this links issue in his reply. He concluded he had the mandate sought. (Post meeting Note: He emailed Ben George on 2 Dec. – available from DN on request.)

GG expressed concern that the Boulevard and the associated Tawe Bridges development completely fail to provide what is needed, namely to put pedestrians and cyclist first and reduce both the speed and quantity of motorised traffic. While accepting the desirability of this a number present noted that we had to focus on the achievable and that it was important that we press home the measures now in the pipeline.

4. 1 in 10 Campaign

1:10 launch. NG introduced RP who described the WG funded **Pathfinder** project which advises and assists environmental campaigns across Wales. NG reported on a SNITI Meeting in Swansea at which he and CF made a presentation to interested businesses in the Enterprise Zone. This led to a proposal for a public launch of the 1:10 Campaign during Bike week 2012. It would take place in the Liberty Stadium. The plan is to encourage one or two businesses to sign up to a pilot 1:10 campaign (eg HSBC's call centre).

Cycle Challenge. RP had put NG in contact with the organisers of the Sept. 2011 **Cardiff Cycle Challenge**. This was a competition between organisations to see which had the most employees cycling to work. 62 organisations were involved, with 1,400 people logging bike journeys averaging 7 miles (227 hadn't cycled during the previous year.) The Cycle Challenge organisers (www.cardiffcyclechallenge.org.uk/home) are interested in organising a **Swansea Cycle Challenge** in 2012 possibly starting in Bike Week (in June) and linked to the 1:10 launch. It would be led by Wheelrights but also involve the CTC, CCS and local businesses. The next step would be a stakeholders meeting in Swansea (NG/RP to organise). www.challengeforchange.com/home is the relevant website. This initiative was strongly supported. **[Action NG]**

5. Manifesto

JS explained that this was a document which would be sent to candidates for the Council elections next spring. It contained four objectives which the candidates would be asked to sign up to if elected. A draft of the document is contained in Wheelrights Winter Newsletter (just issued). In response to a query from DN as to how best could these be distributed PM kindly offered to send them to existing Councillors.

6. Sustrans signing proposal

DN advised that Sustrans were considering changing distances to times on local NCN signs. The reason given is that they have evidence that this can encourage people to get on bikes. He suggested that it would be useful to have a Wheelrights position on it. We accepted that signing times rather than distances may encourage some people to take up cycling but felt that any such signing should complement rather than replace distance signs.

7. AOB

- (a) Park and Ride. PM advised that this service can now be used by cyclists.
- (b) Cycle Exhibition. DJa suggested WR get in touch with the Llandrindod Wells Cycle Museum and borrow bikes for an exhibition in the Waterfront Museum. Such an exhibition had been held in Swansea's Museum in 2007. DN had helped David Judd organise it.
- (c) Sail Bridge Barrier. (See the Winter Newsletter for the story.) DN had written to Reena Owen on behalf of Wheelrights requesting that the barrier be removed. He had received a reply accepting that the barrier was inappropriate (It had not been approved by Swansea Council) and that a solution was being sought.
- (d) Bike storage in flats. DN had at the recent Green Fayre been alerted to a problem in some high rise apartments in Swansea whose occupants could not use a bike because there was nowhere to store it, nor was it allowed in the flat. He suggested that we should campaign for the provision of cycle storage to be a planning requirement for such buildings. He was advised that solutions can sometimes be found, there being a nearby example of a secure cycle storage area for local residents.

8. Future meetings

These have yet to be arranged. DN noted that to get a chosen date in the Environment Centre we need to book well in advance. It was agreed that we should book ahead for the whole year. However, much as we wish to support the Environment Centre, we may not be able to afford to have all our meetings here CF, NG and DN need to look into this. **[Action CF, NG, DN]**

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

APPENDIX



Legend

- 3m shared use
- 5m shared use
- X Road crossing

CCS Drawing No. R397_P_GA_01
 November 2011
 Waterfront connections
 (Proposed shared use paths highlighted)