

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 11th June 2014 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: John Cardy (JC), Chris Connick (ChC), Claudine Conway (CC), Alun Evans (AuE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Rob Wachowski (RW), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Alan Cram (AC), Nick Davies (ND), Allyson Evans (AyE), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Phil Jones (PJ), Hamish Osborne (HO), Alice Saville (AS), John Sayce (JS).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 18 March meeting.

- (a) First Aid Training. (Item 1f) JC advised that CTC's Brian Fox's son was a trained paramedic and could offer first aid training.
- (b) Summer solstice ride. (Item 2) DJ offered to lead this ride, leaving Railway Inn at 6.30pm on Saturday, 21 June.
- (c) CCS Walking and Cycling Officer. (Item 3a) DN had written to Jack Straw on 2 May but had not had a reply. DN would contact Phil Roberts to follow this up and advise that *Wheelrights* intended to write to the press failing assurance of a satisfactory outcome.

2. A promotional ride

NG distributed copies of the "Tube" map produced by CCS and NPT, 20,000 copies of which had been produced. He invited comments. Apart from two who felt the maps to be inappropriate the general feeling was that they served a useful purpose by setting a framework for the development of safe commuter routes. NPT had taken the lead with signing these routes, CCS lagging in this. (Their excuse being that NPT had the necessary funding.)

Following on from the May rides featuring Badger, NG advised that he with others are promoting another Badger ride to publicise the Gowerton – Pontardulais proposed route (The dark grey route on the map.) A £300 cost was involved which Tanya Nash has agreed would be funded by Culture and Tourism. It was agreed that *Wheelrights* would support this ride.

This led to an exchange of views on signing. ML noted the inadequacy of the signing on the new NCR 43 section and offered to spray-paint surface signs. Approval for this would be needed and should perhaps be sought if CCS fail to put up the necessary signs.

NG advised that there were few Swansea maps left and that an updated map was needed. It was suggested that a revision should incorporate the colours used for the commuter routes.

DJ recommended that we write to John Flower (NPT's Director of Environment) to express our thanks, in particular to Geoff Marquis and Laura Pack, for their work on signing commuter routes and producing the associated "tube" map. This was agreed. **[Action: DN]**

3. A Pontardulais campaign group

NG had recently met with AuE and others to form a local group to campaign for a cycle route linking Pontardulais with destinations south of the M4. This is supported by Sustrans, the Bynea cycle club and Urban Cyclery. He sought *Wheelrights* support, including possible financial support. We fully supported this initiative but would not make a financial commitment at this stage. A site visit is planned. NG to let the Routes group know details. **[Action: NG]**

4. Adult Beginners Class

RE had expressed her concern to DN first about this coming Saturday's (14 June) class when some of our usual helpers (incl. AyE, CF & DN) would not be available and also the subsequent classes. We established that sufficient people would be available for this Saturday and that RW would be there to access the bikes. RE recently had 5 on her list. The future of these classes is however in jeopardy. We considered this as follows:

RW said that Cath Swayne had told him that CCS could not continue their support. GG advised that this had to be tackled at the highest level so that clear instructions could be given to officers. Accordingly we decided that DN would write to cllr Nick Davies, Julie James AM and Phil Roberts, and NG to cllr Sybil Crouch and Tanya Nash. **[Action: NG, DN]**

5. Routes Group

CW agreed to chair this group which so far comprised those who had put their names forward during the 18 March meeting, namely: ChC, NG, PJ, ML, DN, RW & CW. It was suggested CW call a meeting fairly soon and decide on an agenda. **[Action: CW]**

6 Gower Cycling Festival

It having been discovered that Forestry require us to have a permit to allow us to take GCF rides through Green Cwm DN had in February made the necessary application. He had recently received a letter from National Resources Wales (NRW) enclosing two copies of a daunting legal document. These require signing and returning to NRW together with a cheque for £60.00. DN wondered whether we should challenge this charge, or go ahead and pay it. KR kindly offered to take this up with an appropriate person in NRW. (The letter was signed by Stephen Wheeler.) Post meeting: DN has emailed KR with the necessary information. He would defer taking action until he had heard from KR. **[Action: KR, DN]**

7. Otesha Project

DN had been approached by a Kate Weiler on behalf of a group of young people who are touring England and Wales on bikes stopping at various venues to give theatrical performances promoting sustainable energy. (www.otesha.org.uk) She asks if *Wheelrights* could help with a proposed visit to Swansea on 12-14 July. DJ suggested that it would be great if they could perform at the *Festival of the Tides* on Saturday, 12 July. We supported this. DJ agreed to make the arrangements with them. Post meeting: DN has emailed Kate Weiler (cc DJ) to convey our invitation. She replied to say that they could not now fit it in.

8. Motor Bikes on NCR 43

AC had emailed DN about this. His concern was not so much about bikes on the path as scramble bikes in a neighbouring area (opposite Riverside caravan park) which was being planted with trees to create a wildlife area. Following discussion the message is that a description of offending bikers should be passed to the police as soon as possible.

9. AOB

- (a) Riderspoke project. (See summary of Lindsey Curtis's presentation in the notes of our 18 March meeting for a brief explanation.) NG said that Sustrans were planning for this project to take place in Swansea around Easter 2015 and sought *Wheelrights* involvement. There was a £5k grant for which *Wheelrights* could apply (but Sustrans couldn't.) While there was support for this KR noted that *Wheelrights* role needs to be defined. He would enquire when the deadline for the grant application is. **[Action: NG, KR]**
- (b) Volcano meeting. A meeting had taken place on 4 June in Volcano's High Street office involving Coastal Housing, CCS and others to consider the development of the High Street. NG and GG spoke about it. Issues ranging from art to infrastructure were discussed, the intention being to find ways of making this area both environmentally and people friendly. *Wheelrights* need to be involved in the resulting developments.
- (c) Boat trip. The boat trip planned for 7 June had had to be postponed. NG advised that it should now take place on 2 August. Now, in addition to it being a celebration of DN's 80th, it would be a farewell for RW in recognition of his major contribution to cycling as CCS's Walking and Cycling Officer.
- (d) Roland Allen. DJ passed on the sad news that Roland had died. He had been ill for some time with a brain tumour. He was the leader of Sustrans small site work force who had worked with DJ on various projects throughout South Wales. Those of us who had helped on Sustrans' work camps had got to know and respect him. DJ undertook to write an obituary for the next *Wheelrights* newsletter. **[Action: DJ]**

10. Date of next meeting

To be decided.

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