

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 22nd September 2014 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Dawn Aplin (DA), Allyson Evans (AyE), Alun Evans (AuE), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Alice Saville (AS), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Don Ashman (DoA), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Dale Hall (DH), Phil Jones (PJ), Kerry Rogers (KR), John Sayce (JS).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 11 June meeting.

- (a) CCS Walking and Cycling Officer. (Item 1c) This matter is now resolved. Cath Swaine emailed Mike Hedges AM on 19 June advising that this post is taken over by CCS's Transport Strategy Officer, ie Ben George.
- (b) Adult Beginners Class. (Item 4) CCS's support for this has been obtained. DN had written to Julie James AM on 21 June and had received a reply from CCS's Martin Nicholls on 26 June stating that Wheelrights can continue to run the classes with their insurance covering the activity but that the Council would be responsible for the site and could provide assistance such as First Aid.
- (c) Otesha Project. (Item 7) They had to decline our invitation to the *Festival of the Tides*.

2. Campaigning subgroup

NG mentioned the preliminary meeting of this group on 21 July, notes of which are included on the 'Newsletters and Notes' page of the website. In addition he noted that last September's *Swansea Cycle Challenge* had been a success, that our Manifesto had led to interest from more councillors and that KR had agreed to chair this subgroup.

Referring to the Gowerton-Pontardulais link he noted that AuE is in contact with Jason Hier, a Pontardulais resident who has local influence. See 3. below (last para.) for more on this.

3. Routes subgroup

CW summarised what has been achieved in the three meetings held so far. He stated the group's objectives (Spelt out in the notes of their 15 September meeting.) and explained that the present brief was to advise the Cycle Action Progress (CAP) meeting which routes out of eight on the 'Tube' map should be prioritised. Three had been shortlisted, namely: City Centre – Liberty Stadium, Liberty Stadium – Bonymaen and Gowerton – Pontardulais. He described the criteria used to prioritise the routes. Details of this and some other points he covered are given in the meeting notes, which on CW's request will be included on the 'Newsletters and Notes' page of our website. [Post meeting: They now are.]

CW having made these points various related issues were discussed. NG noted that we should ride these routes to check them out. CW summarised the *Active Travel Act* and DJ, noting that it was important, queried who in CCS would implement it. The subgroup had recommended that CCS form an *Active Travel* group to work alongside the CAP to achieve this. NG or DN would raise this at the forthcoming CAP (on 21 Oct.) **[Action: NG, DN]**

Referring to the Gowerton – Pontardulais link NG had spoken to Jason Hier about funding for a feasibility survey. Jason advised that the Sports Council for Wales would not provide funding but that £5k from the National Lottery was a possibility. DN queried why separate funding was needed for such a survey. Could this not be done by volunteers and Council employees? DJ explained that professionals such as Sustrans need to be employed for this. NG and AuE should continue to pursue this with Jason. **[Action: NG, AuE]**

4. Gower Cycling Festival

DN summarised this year's Festival. While the numbers were down (119 participants) the numbers per ride were much as in the past. This was because, as last year, more took part in more than one ride than in the earlier Festivals. As previously the feedback was good: participants had enjoyed the rides, and praised both the leaders and the organisation. A shortcoming was that there were less children than in the past. One possible reason for the

reduced numbers was that the link www.gowercyclingfestival.org became unavailable in the early summer. Feedback indicates that we should do the following:

- Arrange camping (for camper vans and tents) in the Duvant rfc. This would then become a hub, shifting the centre of activity from the Gower Heritage Centre. DJ supported this and offered to approach the Duvant rfc. **[Action: DJ]**
- Vary the rides programme – probably changing about 25% of the rides – both to attract those who didn't return for lack of new rides and to make it more family friendly.
- Reclassify the rides from **g**, **m** or **c** to a measure of the terrain plus the ride length. A traffic light system such as **f**lat, **m**oderately hilly or **h**illy might be used.
- Name the Start/Finish points on the flyer.

DJ noted a dearth of CCS and Sustrans employees. Another reason for the low numbers?

5. Wheelrights 20th Birthday

The anniversary being in February of next year NG had contacted round the world cyclist Rob Penn, who had had a bespoke bike made up for him and was author of *All about my Bike*. Following discussion it was agreed that it would be good to invite Rob Penn to join a ride and speak at an evening event in next summer's GCF. NG to follow up. **[Action: NG]**

6. Newsletter

DN, noting that we had had a guest editor last year and the year before, invited anyone who would like to do this (for either the forthcoming Winter edition or a later one) to contact him. In any case he is in need of material: articles and/or correspondence.

7. Beginners' ride

AyE advised that she and RE are forming an informal group of beginners who are ready for and interested in going on short rides. The first is scheduled for Saturday, 11 Oct. Initially just the two of them would accompany the beginners. **[Action: AyE, RE]**

8. AOB

- (a) Access Forums. John Cardy (Wheelrights member and Chair of the local CTC Member Group.) has been invited on to the NPT Access Forum. DN has congratulated him and wondered if we should have a representative on the Swansea one. It was agreed that we should. Any volunteers or nominations? [Post meeting: The Swansea Local Access Forum is being reconstituted. Applications to join it are invited by 31 Nov.]
- (b) Swansea Bay Tourism Award. DJ thought that the GCF would be a candidate for an award. He offered to look into this. **[Action: DJ]**
- (c) Wheelrights logo and website. DN expressed concern about an article titled "New direction for cycling group?" which had appeared in that day's *Evening Post*. While the article to its credit reported that Wheelrights were reaching out to occasional cyclists and beginners and that now was the time to engage with younger people, women and new cyclists, his concern was that it indicated we were considering rebranding with a new logo and website. DN said that to his knowledge we were not, nor was there a mandate to do so. We are not changing direction but are making steady progress implementing our original objectives and fulfilling our Manifesto. NG said that he thought the Evening Post had got his (NG's) views from his article in the last WR Newsletter and not over the phone. DN accepted that if someone came up with a new logo we should at least consider it.

10. Date of next meeting

AGM at 7.00pm on Monday, 27 October in the Environment Centre.

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