

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 23rd May 2016 in the Environment Centre, SA1 1RY

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Phil Brophy (PB), Mike Cherry (MC), Chris Connick (CC), Allyson Evans (AIE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Hamish Osborn (HO), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Chris Walsh (CW), Les Woodward (LW)

Apologies: John Cardy (JC), Alun Evans (AuE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Dale Hall (DH), Richie Saunders (RS), John Sayce (JS).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 22 February meeting.

- (a) Trains. (Item 1a) DN had not had a reply to his 16 Feb. letter to Ian Bullock (ATW's CEO) so concluded that they have rejected our suggestion that they acquire "Scenic Trains". DN had however contacted GWR about our concerns over their new policy of requiring bikes to be pre-booked. He described his email exchanges with GWR's Customer Support and their Managing Director, Mark Hopwood. These indicate there will be some flexibility. DN reports on this in detail in the Summer Newsletter, due out shortly.
- (b) Upper Bank cycle route. (Item 1b) The new cycle path between Morfa and Llansamlet is now complete. KR reported a spat between the Council and NRW as the former, in constructing this route, had failed to protect a very rare plant, which apparently thrives in polluted ground. All however is not lost as it appears that by re-establishing some pollution the plant can be saved! NG added that a link to this route from the White Rock car park to the Liberty Stadium has been upgraded. It now runs between the high-rise flats and the east side of the river, and a new Toucan takes it across Brunel way on the west side. This section will become part of NCR 43.
- (c) Sustrans work camps. (Item 1c) DN has responded; NG not yet. DJ, answering a query from DN about publication, said that he had raised this with John Grimshaw. **[Action: NG]**
- (d) BikeAbility cycle training. (Item 3) MC advised that no one has yet taken this up.
- (e) Swansea Rural Development Group. (Item 6a) HO advised that there was an opportunity for proposals for the spending of the £440k budget for rural cycle routes in Gower. (See 22 Feb. meeting notes.) We discussed routes needed on the Peninsula. Our Routes Group would look into this and report to HO. **[Action: Routes Group]**

2. Bike Week (11-19 June).

NG outlined the programme. These are as described in the notes of the 22 Feb. meeting, ie 43-2-C and Sustrans rides on Sun. 12th, Wheelrights/CTC ride on Wed. 15th and the Swansea Cycling Conference on Thur. 16th. The 43-2-C is now named *Community Fun Bike Ride* and the Sustrans ride *Sea to the Centre*. NG is proposing that the Sustrans ride counts as a *ParkLives* event. See 7(a) below. DN noted that the *Mass Ride* planned for Sat. 18th had been cancelled because he could not get the support necessary to make it a success.

NG noted that RS was reluctant to take his ride to Castle Square thinking it would have to cross the A4067 and that this would be a safety issue. We suggested that either marshals be provided at the planned crossing (Wind Street or Princess Way.) or the ride be taken along the north side of the A4067 (now shared use) so that it would not have to be crossed. Castle Square could then be accessed via either Princess Way or Wind St. DN suggested the police be asked to help. NG to liaise with RS. **[Action: NG]**

The BHF rides, originally scheduled for Sun. 19 June, have been postponed to 17 July.

3. CAP meeting (2 June)

Agenda for this meeting, to be attended by NG, DN and CW, were invited.

AIE raised the problem of sand on the foreshore. KR advised that the work currently in progress is to provide fencing which it is hoped will create sand dunes to trap the blown sand. An associated problem is that of flooding, in particular the large puddle which forms on the path opposite Sketty Park Lane. See also 6(c) below.

4. **Gower Cycle Festival** (13-20 August).

DN advised that registrations were trickling in (28 to date.); again pre-registration is requested. The arrangements for the party on Wed., 17th, were discussed. DJ would organise this. Singing by the Dunvant RFC choir was on offer. NG noted that a Ukulele band performance was another possibility. The former was however preferred. The Ukulele band apparently practice in the nearby Railway Inn, so this may be an option for Ukulele fans. **[Action: DJ]** MC advised that there will be a rugby match on the Friday evening. This should not be a problem. NG has it in mind to organise a pub meal for that evening. **[Action: NG]**

5. **Facebook.**

There is a Wheelrights Facebook page, originally set up by GG, which can be accessed from the Home page of our website. AS noted that it had a significant number of 'friends' and agreed to use it to draw their attention to the GCF and other events. **[Action: AS]**

6. **Strava.** (www.strava.com)

PB used the projector to illustrate how this 'tracking app' works. It has an extensive database which can be accessed to view routes taken by cyclists and runners together with statistics such as times and distances. It shows both on-road and cycle path routes. It is free (at least for most uses).

7. **AOB.**

(a) ParkLives. This is a National initiative, sponsored by CocaCola, to encourage physical activity. It covers a wide range of activities which take place in 'parks'. A 'park' however covers almost any outdoor public place and includes cycle paths. NG & DN had been approached by Gareth Govier (CCS Sports section) with the request that a number of our rides count as ParkLives events. Having ascertained that this involves no more than the ride leader wearing a high viz vest which displays the PL logo and that the drink would not feature, we, after checking with the organisers involved, agreed to certain rides being thus designated, The rides involved are the Capuccino rides and 8 of the GCF rides (6 easier ones and the two evening rides.) We have also established that we will be reimbursed loss of income (up to £200) for GCF participants who only join the PL rides for which the £5 registration fee is waived. (A condition of the PL events is that they are free.)

There was an exchange of views on this. We were unanimous in that none of us wanted Wheelrights to be seen as supporting CocaCola, but we were not all happy for our rides to be designated ParkLive events. Most felt that the advantages – publicity and support from the Council – outweighed the possibility of a tainted image. DJ and KR however disagreed and felt that we should not be involved. DN noted that we are committed for this year; the approval of the ride organisers having been obtained (as noted above) we confirmed our agreement with Gareth G. This could be reviewed next year.

(b) Capuccino rides. AIE reported that 4 attended the first ride and 2 the second. Normally these start from the Coast café but the next, on 6 June, will be from Blackpill. This is to suit the two expected participants who live near there.

(c) Dogs on Foreshore path. DJ was concerned that dog walkers were using the path between Blackpill and West Cross when they could be using the beach. They didn't know this because it was not clearly signed when dogs were allowed on this part of the beach and when they were not. He asked that this be raised at the CAP.

7. **Next meeting.**

To be decided but probably at 7.00pm in the Environment Centre in September for a talk by Sustrans' Lindsey Brown focussing on the Integrated Network Map. NG will invite her. **[Action: NG]**

Notes prepared by
David Naylor (*Wheelrights* secretary)