

# **Wheelrights Officer`s Meeting**

## **Notes of meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Online by zoom.

Present: Phil Brophy (PB), Allyson Evans (AE), Nick Guy (GG), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Chris Walsh (CW).

JS chaired the meeting.

### **1. Website & Facebook**

CW described the two existing WR Facebook pages, one a forum and one a group, but both could have wider readership. Could they be promoted more? NG added that new platforms incl. the Mayals Rd WhatsApp group, Drop box, and a suggestion from Chris Connick for a forum on WR's website.

- (a) PB explained the differences between these options and that Facebook now has an older demographic. Gordon posts interesting articles about worldwide bike design.
- (b) NG linked the Facebook issue to the delayed discussion about a possible new name and website for WR. He suggested two platforms: one for the public and one for members.
- (c) CW thought Facebook was limited, and wondered about a forum on our website.
- (d) JS questioned if we have the resources to manage/administer a forum.
- (e) CW thought it's got potential; eg for discussions such as galvanised by Mayals Rd.
- (f) DR said he was behind the curve and didn't do Facebook. He felt our website could benefit from a facelift with more photos and buttons, but who could do this? [Post meeting: DN advises that there are well over 100 photos on the website, a dozen on the home page and the rest mainly on links from the other pages. Also there are buttons to link pages. He would however be pleased to receive and respond to suggestions.]
- (g) DN noted that adding a forum to the existing website would be a major task (eg, setting up passwords and cookies) and would require an administrator. He felt it was not for him to take this on, even if he could, but was open to a new, forum specific, website. The current site would continue as an archive and information source.
- (h) JS asked if we are suggesting a Members forum on our website as well as a public page on Facebook?
- (i) CW said the Facebook page could be public with events, news, meetings etc.
- (j) NG felt the resources issue was chicken and egg. eg if we had a new name and website this could attract more/younger members with, hopefully, someone interested in managing it. He suggested a future WR meeting to discuss possibility of a new name and new more attractive and public facing website.
- (k) AE confirmed the pre pandemic discussions about renaming Wheelrights with a new website, while keeping the existing Wheelrights website as an archive. She asked: do we need two Facebook pages?
- (l) JS said he agreed with Chris and Phil, and thought we could spend WR money on a professional upgrade of our website.
- (m) DR suggested we use the 10 Feb WR meeting to consider a new name and new website.
- (n) DN supported DR and NG's proposal for a new members forum website, rather than incorporating it in the existing website. He questioned the need for a new name.

JS agreed to explore costings for a professional website design. He will ask SCVS for advice, and suggested raising the issue after the talk at the 10 Feb. meeting. **[Action: JS]**

### **2. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb Public Meeting:**

Tim John (Sustrans) will speaking about the new INM process. JS will make time in the business section to discuss the forum and website ideas, give updates on CAP and the new Transport Strategy doc. **[Action: JS]**

### 3. Clean Air White Paper

The issues raised include a possible road charging scheme. JS will co-ordinate a WR consultation on it. **[Action: JS]**

### 4. CAP Postponed: 2020/2021 routes.

JS advised that Chloe has stepped into Ben George's shoes, but is not currently responding to emails. She has admitted that although CCS has received the money 400m of the Cross Valley SUP has not been built. JS wondered how it has been spent and did the Welsh Gov. know. He asked: what should WR do?

CW said we need a balanced approach in pressing this issue, taking care not to jeopardise our good relationships with CCS. JS said the Campaign group had discussed the issues of lack of auditing of the use of Welsh Gov. funds and the quality of new routes. eg: that Gors Ave. was substandard. CW Noted that CCS are accountable for design standards.

JS to contact Gwenda Owen to discuss, and report back. **[Action: JS]**

### 5. Mayals Road

NG described some positives (CCS giving priority to cycle routes over minor junctions, providing space for cycling, two new community engagement groups and highlighting the lack of consultation.) The Residents were continuing to campaign against the hybrid plans.

He said that, although Council design engineers are technical experts, Wheelrights have more knowledge and experience of cyclists behaviour, which is important to feed into new designs.

He asked: would it be OK to give more publicity to WR's position (against hybrid plans)?

DR said the diggers are there, and CCS seems determined to proceed. Many people are concerned about the potential dangers of the hybrid tracks, and that they are untested. An ITV programme said that local cycling organisations had been contacted and received the response that members had a difference of views.

DN added that CUK had a simple solution: to do away with the downhill hybrid and provide an uphill facility comprising either a SUP or a hybrid track of adequate width. But this lacked WR support.

JS replied that CCS had ended discussion, and that their plan was going to be implemented. He felt the only alternative was a route through Clyne Gardens. He also felt it was good that some good had come out of this, and that it was always good to have different views.

### 6. AOB

JS concluded that it had been a very worthwhile meeting. He suggested we have future "committee" meetings in between WR members meetings. **[Action: JS]**

Notes prepared by  
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