

Wheelrights Meeting

Notes of meeting on 18th May 2021

by Zoom.

Present: Phil Brophy (PB), Allyson Evans (AE), Andrew Green (JG), Tim John (TJ), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), David Thomas (DT), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Nick Guy (NG).

JS chaired the meeting.

1. Tim John's presentation:

JS welcomed Tim John (Sustrans Cwmru Development Manager). Tim then spoke, first giving an overview of a scheme to introduce e-bikes and e-cargo-bikes. He then explained in some detail the planning procedures in setting up ATNMs (Active Travel Network Maps).

E-bikes.

Sustrans have obtained funding from the Welsh Gov. for a pilot scheme for a year from March 2022 to provide e-bikes and cargo e-bikes to a number of Welsh LAs. These bikes, which will comprise a variety of makes, will be loaned free of charge (to suitable people decided by the local community) for the purpose of assessing both their role and the make. Swansea is to have 20 e-bikes and 8 cargo e-bikes.

Tim then invited questions. In the exchange which followed the need for training for the riders of these bikes came up. CW noted that BikeAbility provide cycle training to Level 3. JS asked if there is a facility for people to purchase an e-bike; not yet it appears. Tim suggested that this scheme indicates that the Welsh Gov. is taking climate change seriously.

ATNM.

Tim explained that the ATNM incorporates both the ERM (Existing Route Map) and a map showing proposed routes, previously the INM (Integrated Network Map). The ATNM therefore combines the ERM and INM. Each LA is required to produce an ATNM, updated every three years. The first has to be submitted to the Welsh Gov. by the end of this year. Before that there is a period of statutory consultation. He then gave an overview of the planning procedures involved in selecting the routes to go on an ATNM.

He started by downloading a map of Flintshire on to which various overlays could be added. These show such things as existing routes, the traffic on them, population densities, school locations, train stations, (also bus stops, but not to identify bus routes as cycle routes, rather to get information about demand) and more. This identifies desire lines and enables the suitability of proposed routes to be assessed. Sustrans had put a lot of effort into this (which Tim admitted had over-stretched them) including taking note of the thousands of comments provided on the Commonplace maps. Finally he showed a map of Bridgend which illustrated the effectiveness of the procedures and revealed NPT as exhibiting good practice. He also mentioned the CPT (Cycle Propensity Tool – www.pct.bike.) which provides demographic information about individual counties (Population, car and bike usage, etc.) based on the 2011 census.

Following some further discussion JS and DR thanked Tim for his informative presentation. Tim then left the meeting.

2. Feedback from CAP meeting.

DN, DR and JS had attended the Teams CAP meeting that morning. JS in summarising what took place (Minutes of it will be added to the Newsletters and Notes page of Wheelrights website when received.) expressed his pleasure that the Council are now taking on board feedback from Wheelrights. DN noted that he was particularly pleased that the Tirpenry route (aka South Morriston) is now scheduled for construction as it had been on our wish list for some years. A report on it, prepared by him in November 2018, is on the Infrastructure page.

3. Website.

CW advised that Dave Berry had not been able to attend the meeting he, AE, DN and DR had last Friday (14 May). As we now know that the necessary expertise in the form of Bill Gannon is available in house and DB not yet having come up with the sample website he has promised it is not clear whether or not his services are required. We are however not sure if BG would be happy to be involved. CW would contact DB with a view to finding a way forward, probably by arranging another meeting. **[Action: CW]**

4. Routes Group.

DN advised that the Group had been busy assessing the data on the Commonplace map with a view to coming up with the routes Wheelrights would like to see on the ATNM. He suggested that the four maps on the Infrastructure page be used to identify them. The maps currently show existing routes, those under construction and proposed routes. He envisages that over the summer he can update the maps with feedback from the Group. In order to meet the deadline for the statutory consultation it appears that we need to provide the Council with our recommendations by the beginning of August. **[Action: Routes Group]**

5. Name change.

DR reported that he had received just four replies to his email to the membership; of these three would retain the name "Wheelrights". We considered this response inadequate. We agreed that further consultation with the membership is needed, preferably in the form of a face to face meeting, eg in the Environment Centre. JS suggested we get in touch with the Cardiff cycling campaign group as they have recently changed their name.

6. Other business.

(a) Foreshore.

AE noted that there was a problem of flooding on the foreshore path by the car park opposite Sketty Lane. Also that lighting would be appropriate, particularly where the path is overshadowed between there and Blackpill. The lighting recently provided south of Blackpill has set a precedent which we have welcomed. It was agreed that a small group comprising PB, AE and NG would be set up to progress this. PB offered to contact the Uni to see what help they could offer. **[Action: PB, AE, NG]**

(b) Mount Pleasant e-bikes.

JS noted that we need to get together with Leonie Rambondt to see about a cycle route to Mt Pleasant. A formal opening of their e-bike facilities should take place soon. (See her note in the Spring Newsletter.) We should be invited. **[Action: JS]**

(c) Promotion.

JS noted the need to work with and learn from other groups, eg the Ramblers. Their vice-chair, Bob Denley, has been invited to the next Routes Group meeting.

6. Future meetings.

The next Wheelrights meeting has yet to be decided. **[Action: Officers]**. The next Routes Group meeting is scheduled for 10.00am on Saturday, 12 June, in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor