

Notes of Wheelrights Committee Meeting

15 January 2024

Present: Allyson Evans (AE), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), John Sayce (JS),
Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: John Britton (JB), Caroline Carter (CC), Nick Guy (NG), Dareyoush Rassi (DR).

1. Matters Arising from 9 October 2023 Committee meeting and not on agenda. (Notes on <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/wr23oct09nm.pdf>)

Penllergaer. JS reported that there did not appear to be agreement yet between the trustees and the Council over the route to be taken.

Barriers. CCS are still promising to get the barriers removed as Contractors have now been appointed.

Planning JS & CC had had a useful meeting with planning about our input into the next LDP

2. Meeting with Council Officers (29 Nov. 2023)

We had called this meeting. It was chaired by Ioan Brannigan (IB) and held via Teams. At it IB had spelt out the core allocation projects for the coming year. He also commented on the Council's response to the GAP planning refusal. (They were considering a modified design or a High Court appeal.) He confirmed that the Council would involve Wheelrights in consultations and noted that further consultation was planned for Blackpill.

JS had responded to IB's points by email. (See the Appendix.) He summarised them at our meeting. In particular he approved the plans for an SUP between Morfa Road and the Tawe, ie on the west side of the river. He also noted that improvements were needed near the Mecca Bingo on the Tirpenry route (TI on our NE Swansea map.) DN noted that a key issue was the need to take it through the existing underpass under the A48. This involves removing the fill north of the underpass which blocks the original railway line. This should now have priority as the SUP has been upgraded to an acceptable standard on either side.

JS commented on the plans for Eaton Road (Route CE on SE Swansea map.) and will ask IB for an update on them. **[Action: JS]**

A workshop on a "Northern City Sustainable Transport Corridor", a key part of which is Carmarthen Road, is planned for between 22 January and 1 February. (Time and date to be fixed.) It is being convened by Arcadis. JS and CW indicated they hoped to attend as did DN (representing CUK).

3. GAP.

DJ advised that a revised plan which involved moving the path to the other, ie south, side of the fence would apparently be acceptable to the Commoners. He reiterated our concerns about this which he had raised at the 8 January Routes Group meeting. (Item 2 of Notes:

<https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/RG24jan08nm.pdf>.) (Post meeting: DJ has spoken to Patrick Tribe about arranging a meeting to try and get this issue resolved.)

4. Consultations.

(a) Morrison Hospital to DVLA. JS noted that there was an access problem. Path users travelling NE from Llangyfelach would have to cross the busy Pant Lasau Road to get on to the new SUP. (JS had raised this at the 8 Jan. Routes Group meeting: Item 5 of the Notes.) A solution would be to provide a link on the SE side of this road. JS had (on 8 Jan.) emailed IB suggesting this

(b) Walter Road. JS thought that the Council's plans are good, principally the provision of a 3m wide two-way cycle track on the south side. One concern however is the lack of a buffer to safeguard cyclists from 'dooring'. This is on the north (carriageway) side of the cycle track alongside of which parking is planned. We are encouraged to attend 'drop-in' sessions on 17 Jan. (Post-meeting: attended by JS.) and 30 Jan. (13.00 to 17.45 in St Paul's Parish Centre Hall, De La Beche Road.)

5. Next public meeting.

We agreed with JS's suggestion that we have a speaker. He suggested Christina Bostock, CEO of Sustrans Cymrae, whom he will contact. We agreed to invite walking groups to the meeting.

[Action: JS]

6. Meeting with Jane Richards. (Swansea's Climate Change strategic manager.)

JS plans to meet her. Amongst issues to be considered is the need to replace bus regulation by franchising so that they can be more tightly controlled. DN had had a letter published in the 8 Jan. Evening Post in support of this. He subsequently emailed it to JS.

7. Website.

DN advised that he is looking into the feasibility of providing an interactive Members page on our website and was looking for views about this. This, the proposed the new website and other issues would be deferred to our next meeting. (Tentatively in March.)

Notes prepared by David Naylor.

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APPENDIX

John Sayce's 4 December 2023 email to Ioan Bannigan, Matthew Bower & Katie.Watkins.

Meeting on 29 November

Dear Ioan, Matthew and Katie,

Many thanks for the opportunity to discuss the progress that the Council is currently making as well as answering the queries that we raised. Here are my notes of that meeting. Please feel free to change, add or amend these notes.

1. Barriers – Contracts are about to go out to contractors for this work.
2. Penllergaer to Cadle Mill – Work has been completed on the Cadle Mill end to the Estate entrance. Agreement has just been reached with the Trustees to use the upper carriageway. Also a controlled crossing is to be installed in the new year on the A483 to join the existing SUPs on both sides of the main road. EXCELLENT news!
3. Core Allocation 2022-23.
4. Walter Rd. – A further round of public consultations to take place in January 2024
5. DVLA to Morriston Hospital – First section from the Western edge of Maes-y-Gwernen Rd to the M4 bridge over Pantlasau Rd. to be built shortly. The 2nd section from the bridge to the DVLA is still in the negotiation stage with the housing developer.
6. Pont-y-Cob Rd. is still in the design and development stage. No indication of when a bid for finance would be made.
7. Pontarddulais Links – first stage through the park has been approved. The second stage up to the primary School is still subject to consultation.
8. Penllergaer to Tircoed – The plan is to use the culvert under the M4 and onwards to the lower footpath through the Estate.
9. South side of Fabian way to the University Campus – This is linked with a number of developments and so may not be finalised in the near future.
10. Tawe Riverside (West). The outstanding issue of land ownership has been overcome by planning a path around the land in question, with monies from a S106 agreement that the Council hopes to make with a developer.
11. Morriston to Llansamlet – WR raised the issue of the incomplete Tirpenry route which crosses this route by the Castle Bingo car park. ACTION C&C Swansea to investigate whether this can be incorporated into the proposed scheme.
12. Missing Links.

13. Gower College to Singleton Park – There was no progress to report as this route is subject to the prioritisation process for the ATN maps. ACTION C&C Swansea to send WR their prioritisation matrix.
14. Carmarthen Rd/Gors Ave. to Cwm Rd, following Ysguborfach St. Some discussion about possibilities. ACTION C&C Swansea to consider possible routes to avoid the hilly and very busy Ysguborfach St.
15. Townhill routes generally – WR stated that there is no route down to the city for 'wheeled' Active travellers between Townhill Rd and the road between Creidiol Rd and North Hill Rd. ACTION WR to send a proposal for a zig zag route next to the hundred steps. DONE! See attached. C&C Swansea to see if Pobl's s106 contribution from the old Townhill campus could be used in this locality.
16. GAP rejection. CCS are considering whether to appeal the Inspector's decision (apparently only possible via the High Court.) or redesign the SUP. DR noted that the Inspector did not take into account the disbenefit of **not** constructing the path
17. North Gower missing link. Responding to DR's query as to why this has been delayed IB explained why and noted that progress is now being made.

It would be good to review these issues again in say 3 or 4 months time, when all the lights will be twinkling along the foreshore and the barriers have finally moved into history!

In the meantime may I wish you all a happy Christmas from all the cyclists of Wheelrights!

John Sayce
Chair Wheelrights