

SWANSEA ACTIVE TRAVEL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Meeting Notes 08 March 2023 (14:00-15:30) Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

Chloe Lewis	(CL)	Swansea Council
Jack Palmer	(JP)	Swansea Council
David Hughes	(DH)	Swansea Council
Ioan Brannigan	(IB)	Swansea Council
Jenni Nellist	(JN)	British Horse-riding Society
Neil Williams	(NW)	YourVoiceAdvocacy
Jayne Cornelius	(JC)	Swansea University
Nicola Jones	(NJ)	Swansea Council - Education Directorate
David Naylor	(DN)	Cycling UK / Wheelrights
Cari Jones	(CJ)	Swansea Disability Liaison Group
Claire Fauvel	(CF)	Swansea University Health Board

1. Welcome / Introductions

CL welcomed stakeholders to the meeting and for the sake of new attendees to the meeting, facilitated a round of introductions for names, roles and organisations.

2. Update: ATF bid submission for 2023-2024

JP provided an update on Swansea's ATF bid submission for 2023-2024. He informed the attendees that the submission was made on 01 February 2023 and the Council is now awaiting news on the outcome of their bid. JP stated that they are unable to communicate the details of the schemes that were submitted to Welsh Government as Swansea Council's Cabinet have yet to approve the application. Once Welsh Government notifies Swansea Council of the bid outcome a complete update will be provided.

CJ asked whether the process for applying for funding has finished or if there are still funding streams available to apply for. JP explained that the process of submitting ATF bids to Welsh Government. He explained that sometimes Welsh Government notifies local authorities of additional funding opportunities in-year, although this is not guaranteed..

3. Update: Schemes for delivery in 2022-2023

JP provided an overview of schemes with funding for delivery in 2022/23. This includes schemes in Pontarddulais, Penllergaer, Bishopston, Morriston and Ynysallan. He noted that works have been ongoing for the Penllergaer to Gorseinon, Morriston South and Ynysallan schemes. Efforts are being made to mitigate any disruption caused by construction, and works for the majority of these schemes are due to be completed at the end of the financial year. Construction has begun for the Clyne Common scheme in the Bishopston area but land permission approvals for the Common itself are still being processed. Preliminary works are underway for the Penllergaer to Fforestfach scheme.

JP presented slides with images of the new Penllergaer to Gorseinon and Clyne Common routes that are being constructed in 2022/23.

4. Update: Schemes for development in 2022-2023

JP gave an overview of schemes which were funded for development in 2022/23. There are a range of potential schemes across the Swansea area which feed into, or extend the existing active travel network, and these schemes are at different stages of development. Works include options appraisals, survey work, land acquisition, design development and stakeholder engagement.

DN inquired about the route alignment for the DVLA to Morriston Hospital scheme. Specifically, whether it follows to the south of the M4 motorway and crosses over on the existing bridge. JP confirmed that currently, this is the correct alignment of the scheme. JP explained further that the route utilises a future housing development site, which prevents the route from materialising onto any busy roads. DN agrees that this is the preferred route alignment and highlighted that it will be good to make use of the overgrown footpath that is to become part of the route.

JN suggested that the proposed route between the DVLA and Morriston Hospital may also be used by horse riders and asked whether the British Horse Society can also be included in developing proposals. JP acknowledges that the participation of the British Horse Society in discussions would be helpful and will pass her correspondence on to the scheme lead.

CF asked how active travel routes are prioritised. In response, JP explained that the ATNM, which was subject to two rounds of consultation in 2021, is used as a basis for identifying potential future routes. These routes are then prioritised based on how they serve population centres and provide access to key trip generators, such as schools or places of employment. JP went on to explain that these future routes are currently being prioritised by a private consultancy firm using a data led approach which Council officers are feeding into.

CJ asked if any future routes on the Gower are being prioritised by the Council. JP responded by explaining that routes on the Gower are mostly for recreation and leisure purposes, and it would be challenging to construct a business case for its submission for ATF funding. Routes need to have the greatest possible impact in providing opportunity for

users to commute by walking or cycling, promoting 'modal shift' from private cars to more sustainable forms of transportation. He added that DN and Wheelrights are currently liaising with Swansea Council's Countryside Access team on mountain biking routes in West Gower.

JN suggested that safer connections to bus stops would be welcomed in rural areas where there is limited off-road provision. JP explained that there are road safety teams in the Council who address such concerns and implement measures that enhance pedestrian safety.

CL explained that the Active Travel Act Guidance (ATAG) has strict guidelines for what can be submitted in ATF bids, and this makes it challenging for schemes in Gower to receive funding as they may not meet the ATAG criteria. She clarifies that ATF funding is mostly targeted towards routes in built up areas, which makes it difficult to secure funding for rural areas such as Gower.

JP gave an overview of the public engagement event that is to take place in the week commencing 20th March 2023. A drop in session to be held at the Ostreme Hall in Mumbles on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 which will give members of the public the opportunity to discuss initial proposals on the Newton to Mumbles Link. The scheme was not part of the 2022-23 ATF programme, but an initial options appraisal has been undertaken progressing the scheme forward.

5. Focus On: Community Benefits Programme

JP introduced the community benefits programme which is delivered by contractors from the 'South West Wales Civil Engineering Contractors Framework'. The programme offers free active travel equipment such as bikes, scooters and cycle shelters to schools and communities in close proximity to a route. This is done to promote and encourage the usage of new facilities and to inspire more people to take up walking and cycling.

DH commented on the success of the community benefits programme, particularly in educating children on the benefits of active travel. He mentioned that the programme has successfully shifted perceptions of walking and cycling as a sustainable commuting option for school children.

CF asked how the Council is addressing physical inactivity among certain communities and asked about efforts to reduce transport inequalities by providing greater access to active travel equipment. JP responded by suggesting that it would be helpful to have discussions with the Swansea Health Board to explore possible solutions. He also mentioned that Sustrans has implemented pilot schemes offering free e-bike loans to disadvantaged communities, and that the scheme is being expanded to target signatories of the Healthy Travel Charter.

6. Discussion: Disabled Citizens' Inquiry – February 2023 ([Disabled Citizens' Inquiry - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk))

CJ provided an overview of the Disabled Citizens Inquiry that took place in February 2023. The inquiry was designed to give disabled people a voice in making walking and wheeling more inclusive. The report's solutions were developed by 43 disabled people through

citizens' workshops and then tested through an independent representative survey of 1,183 disabled people across the UK. The stakeholder group was shown a video describing the Disabled Citizens Inquiry, highlighting the significance of addressing the views and concerns of disabled people in the development of projects. JP acknowledged the importance of considering the needs of people with disabilities and appreciated that the stakeholder group provides a platform for people with disabilities to have open discussions with various stakeholders.

JC emphasized the importance of encouraging disabled students at the University to provide feedback on their experience of using public transport and active travel, especially considering the subsequent impacts of the pandemic on individuals sensitivity to their surrounding environment. She highlighted the need for bus operators to be aware of the behaviour traits that people with autism typically exhibit to ensure that they are mindful.

DH acknowledged that it can be difficult to deliver projects that meet the needs of everyone. He emphasised the importance of the stakeholder group in working towards common goals, and that the concerns of one individual or group does not outweigh the needs of others. DH encouraged members of the group to share their feedback on projects, both positive and negative, as this will help to improve the design and delivery of future projects by his team.

NW expressed appreciation for the Council officers' work and noted that the presentation was easily accessible.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

JP asked if any other stakeholders had any questions, updates, news or matters to discuss with other members of the group.

JN updated the group on the ongoing efforts of the British Horse Society to lobby Welsh Government to recognise horse riding as a form of active travel. She then expressed her appreciation for the meeting's agenda of promoting inclusion and enjoyed hearing the perspectives and experiences of the different members present.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 07 June 2023 (09:30 – 11:00)