

# CYCLING ACTION PROGRESS GROUP

Meeting Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Present:**

Councillor Nick Davies ( <b>Chair</b> )	(Cllr. ND)	Swansea Council
Ben George	(BG)	Swansea Council
Chloe Lewis	(CL)	Swansea Council
Elena Bianchi	(EB)	Sustrans
David Naylor	(DN)	Cycling UK
Nick Guy	(NG)	Wheelrights
John Sayce	(JS)	Wheelrights
Chris Walsh	(CW)	

**Apologies:**

Councillor Mark Thomas	(Cllr. MT)	Swansea Council
Ryland Jones	(RJ)	Sustrans
Mike Cherry	(MC)	Bikeability

- **Matters Arising**

- EB commented that the further bid for funding for Pontarddulais Link in point 1.5 of the previous meeting notes was not successful. EB advised that Sustrans will continue to monitor other possible funding streams that may become available for bid submissions.
- DN raised point 1.4 from the previous meeting, to look at the possibility of making improvements to the crossing at the Mond in Clydach. BG advised that the Road Safety Team have submitted a bid to the Road Safety Fund to address this; BG will clarify the details and send an update to all in the group.
- Cllr. ND reflected on point 3.1 of the previous minutes regarding the opening of new routes and commented that the Council's Communication Team need to get behind the new routes and promote the benefits.

- **Active Travel Fund 2018/19 Projects**

- BG advised that the schemes are largely complete and that all routes will have signage following in the coming weeks.
- Llansamlet Link is almost complete with some works remaining on the east end of the route. This route links with Neath Port Talbot's Cycle

Infrastructure.

- Trallwn Link will include a toucan crossing to make the connection to Upper Bank across the A4217.
- Ynystawe Link is still in the process of being completed with work ongoing. The Council has been able to deliver additional length than originally anticipated and has resulted in a route running adjacent to the A4067.
- The route at Birchgrove has also benefitted from extra length through the residential area. Work is still ongoing through the Enterprise Park.
- NG wished to congratulate the Council on the quality of Trallwn Link and the Vale Link. BG will pass on to engineering.
- The remaining routes that were successfully funded for 2018/19 are still to be completed but will be as soon as possible.
- Cllr. ND discussed the Pluck Lake underpass. BG advised that the adjacent development is still under construction but once complete the route will be extended.
- NG suggested a possible route from Cwm Level to Morryston Hospital.
- DN suggested a parallel crossing be installed on Nantong Way.
- BG advised that Bascule Bridge is being removed to be refurbished in May, and once re-installed will be for shared use.
- **Active Travel Fund 2019/20 Projects**
- BG advised that there has been no funding announcement to date and no indications as to what will be funded.
- BG advised that he attended an event held with Lee Waters AM recently who advised that propensity to attract new trips will be important in attracting funding. Feedback at the event on some of Cardiff's schemes were not seen as ambitious enough and therefore routes were unlikely to be funded.
- **Kingsbridge Link**
- BG advised that the deal has been completed for the land required and the agreement with Welsh Water in progress. Feedback had been received from the Planning Inspectorate requesting further information and a

request to visit the site in the coming weeks.

- It is anticipated that the route could be built in the next year.
- The change to the commons permissions were advertised on site recently with no objections registered. NG's letter of praise was received and added to the folder of correspondence.
- NG suggested a further route over the bridge on the common towards Waunarlywdd.
- BG advised that routes are included in the LDP.
- **Pontarddlais Link**
- EB advised the group that Sustrans had not been successful in receiving the funding but were hopeful of LTF and ATF funding.
- EB advised that Sustrans will keep looking into emerging funding sources as they become available.
- EB suggested that the community in Pontarddlais is supportive of the scheme and that the Town Council is also interested and may have community funding available.
- BG advised that conversations are ongoing with Network Rail regarding the land and crossing. Feasibility of replacing the bridge and replacing with a wider deck to allow for a Shared Use Path or whether a separate structure is required to be looked at.
- BG advised that this is still developing and that Network Rail will be in touch with the Council's engineers to move this along shortly.
- The funding bid for in 2019/20 for this route is for development only.
- EB advised that the community would prefer a route through the Showground and park but would also like to see improvements to the cycling infrastructure in the town centre.
- BG advised that the Welsh Government plans to top slice £5 million of this year's Active Travel Fund for route development and possibly minor works. It is anticipated that Swansea Council will receive £350k for this.
- **Walter Road**

- BG to be invited to a Cabinet Meeting to discuss the proposals for Walter Road.
- The consultation with the local community was largely positive.
- Officers met with Councillors to set out the surveys that had been carried out and the consolation with local residents.
- BG will speak with Cabinet Members regarding Walter Road and how to take this forward but also to bring Active Travel scheme development to the forefront and the broader issue this will bring with future development of schemes for all ward councillors.
- BG awaiting invitation to Cabinet Meeting.
- JS suggested Wheelrights could assist with preparatory work and consultation.
- BG advised that timescales and year to year funding remain an issue.
- **Signage**
- NG advised that Tim John (Sustrans) is undertaking a signage audit in the Valleys and suggested that this could be expanded under the City Deal for the region to standardise infrastructure and information provision.
- Cllr. ND queried the use of timing on signage.
- NG suggested that depending on the ability of each cyclist the timing can be subjective and vary considerably.
- DN advised that there is a sign missing in Blackpill to indicate NCN Route 4 from where the route on the foreshore forks. Sustrans to be advised.
- BG advised that the Active Travel Fund design money may be used for minor works. Signage deficiencies to be identified and worked through.
- BG suggested that indicative times on cycle signage can be beneficial in challenging people's perception of distance and travel time and that 6 minutes per mile is usually used, which can be conservative. The whole network would then need to be standardised; consistency of standards are being discussed across the region currently.
- DN suggested that adding times to signage should be a low priority and that the first should be direction and destination.

- **Any Other Business**
- JS queried the progress on Swansea Central.
- BG advised that the work will commence shortly for the arena and car park. The principle of cycling over the new bridge has been agreed and is currently going through planning.
- The widening of Wellington Street was discussed and the possibility of including a Shared Use Path through the street.
- DN emphasised the need for high quality cycle routes and referred to the book 'Designing for Cycle Traffic' by John Parkin, published by the Institute of Civil Engineers. DN advised that the book is comprehensive and brings together examples from around the work and compliments the Active Travel Guide.
- EB advised that a review of the Active Travel Design Guidance is underway.
- Cllr. ND suggested that a meeting be arranged for the group to meet shortly after the Active Travel Fund funding is announced.
- **Date of Next Meeting**
- To be arranged.