

Notes from Wheelrights Routes Group Meeting

held Wednesday 14th January 2015 at Pumphouse

Present:- Chris Walsh (CW), David Naylor (DN), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), Chris Connick

Apologies:- John Sayce (JS), Lyndsey Curtis (Sustrans)

Meeting chaired by CW.

1. Cycling Action Plan (CAP) meeting 20-Jan-2015 - Items to be raised

1. Kingsway - Ideas include no through routes (possibly using Walters Road for East to West Traffic), mixed use space designed for Pedestrians, Cyclists and Public Transport.
2. Formation of Technical Sub-Group to progress solutions to Existing Infrastructure Issues (as Itemised in Appendix 1)
3. Active Travel Wales Act 2013 - How CCS intend to implement and the role Wheelrights may have
 1. Post Meeting Update - DN has kindly provided Notes from CAP meeting which are included in Appendix 2

2. Priority Routes -

The three routes are split amongst the with a view to identify and progress issues to assist with their successful implementation. While accepting the value of subdividing DN noted that our various specialist skills (e.g infrastructure detail and campaigning tactics), should be shared across the board.

1. **Uplands- City Centre - Liberty Stadium (Morfa Dist'r Rd works) <DN/CW>**
2. **Bonymaen - Liberty Stadium <ML/JS>**
3. **Gowerton - Pontarddulais <NG>**

Next Routes Group ride (open to all Wheelrights members) will explore some options for the section Grovesend to Pontardullais. Meeting Urban Cyclery, Kingsbridge 11am on Sat 7th February.

NG proposed that Wheelrights invest £100 to help initiate a Participation Study. This would be raised at subsequent Wheelrights meeting

3. Infrastructure Improvements (Refer Appendix 1)

1. Invitation to members to start identifying the issues for inclusion in Appendix 1, subsequent prioritising. This will become our working document for review and discussion with CCS.

4. New Cycling Routes (To Form Basis for an Appendix)

1. Agreed that population analysis study would be shelved at least for now. Data proving very difficult to obtain information and its usefulness probably limited having identified route priorities.
2. Time limitations prevented further discussion on agenda items shown below
 1. Draft Routes Proposal Summary (NG)
 2. Involvement of Wheelrights group in current CCS Plans

5. Next Meeting 5:45pm, Wed 25th Feb at the Pumphouse (same evening but before next Wheelrights meeting).

Appendix 1 - Existing Route Infrastructure Issues

1. NCN 4 DN noted that at the last CAP he had raised an earlier request from Wheelrights for minor infrastructure changes on NCR 4 between Gowerton and Loughor Bridge. These comprise:-

1.1 a dropped kerb to access the Sterry Road toucan

1.2 rerouting for safety reasons at the east approach to Loughor Bridge.

Details are on the infrastructure page of Wheelrights website.-**Action DN**

Appendix 2: Key points from CAP meeting on 20 January.

The meeting was chaired by cllr Nick Davies (as usual) and attended by Cabinet members cllrs Mark Thomas and Mark Childs, also Ben George (CCS), Lesley Curtis (Sustrans), Mike Cherry (BikeAbility), Nick Guy and David Naylor. The essence of the meeting was as follows.

Urban cycle renewal.

Work should start on Princess Way next week to provide a cycle route from Oystermouth Rd to the Boulevard opp. the Dragon. Ben G. explained that this would be 'soft' infrastructure; while providing a marked lane for cyclists the demarcation between cyclists and walkers would be blurred.

A set back on the Pleasant St., Kings St. cycle route means that that this will not be finished this year, but hopefully will next.

Nick D. raised the need for funding (not currently available) to implement David N.s proposals to improve the westerly cycle approach to the Railway Station. Ben G. advised that this had been designed.

Kingsway.

Lyndsey C. gave a presentation making the case for a Kingsway free of through traffic with provision for cyclists and pedestrians to go along and across it. It needed to be a place for people. She showed pictures of precedents, incl. Princess St, Edinburgh, and Poynton (in Cheshire). She envisaged the south side for pedestrians and cyclists with cars and buses on the north. The Kingsway would be a 'shared space'. Amongst other things this means no traffic lights.

This presentation went down well and was supported by both Cabinet members. Mark T., responding to a concern about 'business zones', assured us that this was consistent with mixed development, ie shops, residential, as well as businesses in close proximity. The term 'zones' apparently helps attract EU money.

Mark T. expressed his dislike of the bendy buses. There was talk of their bus route being moved south of the Kingsway. What emerged was that nothing has yet been decided, and that they intend to take as long as is needed to get it right. It was however also noted that there was urgency regarding the Kingsway.

Gowerton-Pontarddulais.

Ben G. reported that the land registry issue should soon reach what he called a 'neutral point'. He will talk with colleagues in Estates to progress things. This will include reaching agreement with the Stafford Commoners. He noted that landowners were supportive. Nick G. noted that the Gower Way should also cross the Common.

Pontarddulais Town Council were seeking funds for a cycle link. Nick D. said that cllr Jane Harris was supportive. We noted that Jason Hier was a key local. Ben G. thought Edwina Hart might be supportive (!)

Fabian Way.

Work on upgrading NCR 4 to provide a cycle link to the Bay Campus going under Baldwin's Bridge should start in June, finishing in September (when the Campus will open).

AOB.

David N. proposed Technical sub-group meetings between the CAPs. This was after the Chair and the other cllrs had left. Ben G. noted this request but could not give an assurance.