

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 13th Aug 2022

in Ripples Cafe, Foreshore West Cross.

Present: John Britton (JB), Allyson Evans (AE), David Judd (DJ), Nick Guy (NG),
David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS), Patrick Tribe (PT).

Apologies: Phil Brophy (PB), Bill Gannon (BG), Mike Lewis (ML), Chris Walsh (CW),
David Wood (DW).

DN chaired the meeting.

1. **Matters arising** from 9 July meeting.

Wheelrights meeting (Item 1b). DJ has been in touch with John Grimshaw (Wheelrights Patron and founder of Sustrans) who has agreed to give a talk on Wednesday, 12 October (7.00pm in Environment Centre). Title to be decided by the end of this month. **[Action DJ]**

2. **Gorseinon Road.**

It having been decided at the last meeting that Wheelrights would not try and get the Council's plan to locate the SUP on the south side of the road up the hill from Lidl's changed (Item 4, notes of 22 January meeting.) DN had followed this up on behalf of Cycling UK.

He met (via Teams) with Alex Robb, the project team leader, on 21 July. Alex explained why it had been decided to move the path to the south side near Lidl's: engineering issues relating to the right filter lane onto Phoenix Way, and a problem relating to access to the Post Office on the north side by the Wellyn Road junction. He listened carefully to the case DN made for keeping the path on the north side, namely: 1) use of it by uphill cyclists would prevent tailbacks; 2) the hazard of speeding cyclists using a south side SUP would be avoided (A limited number of downhill cyclists on a north side SUP should be acceptable.) and; 3) convenience for residents on the north side who would have ready access to the SUP. Alex would consider this. However DN has heard nothing since.

DN, anticipating future problems with the present plan (another Mayals?), wondered if Wheelrights would reconsider their decision not to press for a change. AE, DJ and NG felt that we should not take further action; JB and PT did not express a view on this. (DR and JS had not yet joined the meeting.) So the decision not to take further action remains.

3. **City centre.**

(a) Copr Bridge. That this bridge provides a useful link from the south side of Oystermouth Road to the St David's area was noted. Signing however is needed to show that cyclists are allowed to use it and to indicate access to it from, eg, Princess Way.

(b) Parc Tawe. A new route and signing is needed in the car park to guide cyclists through it.

(c) Foreshore safety. The street furniture, mainly east of the Secret Café, is not as visible as it should be, particularly at night.

4. **Pontarddulais.**

An SUP on the west side of the B4296 has now been constructed between Pentre Bridge and the A48 (traffic lights) junction. There is no indication that a link from it to Tescoes via Coedbach Park will be provided. NG thought that residents were evenly divided on this. He will continue to keep an eye on this. **[Action NG]**

NG noted that because the parapets alongside the SUP across the M4 bridge are below the regulation height the Council for legal reasons propose to erect "Cyclists dismount" signs. We decided not to respond.

Work on the link between Pentre Bridge and the north end of the Lliw Valley path on Station Road is well advanced.

5. **Gower Routes.**

(a) Gower Access Path. PT advised that work on it is scheduled to start on 3 October. There was an issue at some junctions where priority for path users (in accordance with the new Highway Code) is not made clear. This also applies to the recently constructed Mayals Road SUP where it crosses Fairwood Road. PT is liaising with Neil Holland to get these issues addressed. **[Action PT]**

- (b) Pennard. DN noted that he had on 28 July met with Phil Brophy and cllr Cari Jones to consider cycle provision west from the GAP. They decide that a Pennard Active Travel (PAT) group should be set up to promote this.
- (c) Gower Cycle Network (GCN). DR, NG and DR had on 11 August met with Chris Lindley to consider the Council's GCN project. We tabled the Council's leaflet (thus titled) which identified a number of bridleways near the west end of the Peninsula which were intended for use by ordinary cyclists, ie not just by mountain bikers. The intention was that 200(!) should ride them by the end of this month. We agreed to try and get at least some of them inspected. AE noted the need for the routes to be graded as they are for mountain bikers. It was noted that when checking the routes we should do this. DR would email Wheelrights members to ask for volunteers. **[Action DR]**

6. AOB.

Craig Cefn Park (Clydach). JS has been pursuing – so far without success – the issue of barrier removal. He has countered the argument that they are needed to prevent the access of scrambler bikers by noting that because the surface is now tarmaced the bikers would not be interested. He will keep trying! **[Action JS]**

7. Next meeting.

10.00am on Saturday 10 September in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor