

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 18th January 2010 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Colin Birch (CB), Martin Brain (MB), John Cardy (JC), Claudine Conway (CC), Paul Elliott (PE), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), John Roach (JR), Alice Saville (AS), Lynda Shuker (LS), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).

Apologies: Mike Cherry (of Bikeability), Eifion Francis (EF), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ), David Whitehead (DW)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Gower Cycling Festival (18-25 September 2010).

Much of the meeting was spent 'brain-storming' this event, the objective being to highlight issues to be considered by a *Working Group*. (Set up at the meeting – see 1(i) below.)

(a) Aims.

We addressed the questions: should we target experienced, commuter, occasional or lapsed cyclists; from where should they come; and should the Festival have a defined aim? We agreed that its purpose would be to provide a range of rides for a range of abilities. The rides would explore the Gower (both the peninsula and the area to the north and east), highlight its attractions and be fun.

(b) Rides programme.

DN tabled a draft programme (previously circulated by e-mail) as a starting point for discussion. It assumed two rides on most of the eight days. The suitability of this number of rides was debated. The case against was that we could not support so many rides and that we should provide one on most days doubling up on one or two. The case for was that with less than two a day we could not offer a reasonable choice of rides in the three levels of difficulty proposed and that people would not be attracted to the Festival with so few rides on offer. JR wondered if we could solve this problem by holding the Festival over a shorter period. This however was not an option as the dates were now 'cast in stone'. The good turn out to this meeting and our knowledge of others who could lead/support the rides indicates that we could indeed support two a day.

NG has been in touch with *Bikeability* and the *Swansea Outdoor Group* and it is expected that a ride involving *Bikeability* and one led by the Outdoor Group will be included.

NG and DN had ideas about a Festival Party on the lines of Sustrans highly successful party in July 2007 in Dunvant RFC. It comprised a buffet followed by a lovely performance from members of the Dunvant male voice choir. DJ's help in arranging it would be sought.

DN would continue contacting potential ride leaders (some of whom were identified at the meeting) to develop the programme further for consideration by the Working Group.

(c) Map showing routes.

DN had prepared a map showing the ride routes as coloured lines (the colours distinguishing the three levels of difficulty). He explained that he had gone for this in preference to just showing starting points as has been done for walking festivals because he felt it more appropriate for a cycling event: the routes can be seen at a glance and the limited words available for the ride descriptions can be used more effectively to highlight attractions and key features. Subject to the Working Group's approval this map would be incorporated in a Festival flyer.

He had prepared two alternative maps: one which showed the ride routes on a 1:100,000 Sustrans Discover series map background and one which put them on a plain background. The former was more informative in that it showed roads and other features but there was a potential copyright issue. The latter is (arguably) prettier. A decision is needed on which (if either) is preferred.

(d) Flyer.

NG proposed that he and CC see to the preparation of a flyer to promote the Festival.

DN had prepared preliminary designs for alternative A4 and A3 flyers, copies of which he circulated. The purpose of these was to check the feasibility of using one or other of the two flyer sizes to convey the necessary information.

He judged that an A4 flyer could contain sufficient information to allow a recipient to decide whether or not the Festival was of interest but that details of the programme would have to be provided separately (on our website and elsewhere). An A3 flyer could contain all the information.

He advised that 2000 copies of an A4 flyer – produced by preparing a camera-ready original as had been done in 2008 for the *Wheelrights* flyer – would cost an estimated £150 (based on the £102 paid for 1000 copies of the *Wheelrights* flyer) whereas the quote NG has had from *Design Print* for A3 flyers is £620 for 2000 or £683 for 3000. The disproportionately higher cost of A3 is because *Design Print* would assist with the design in addition to printing the flyer.

(e) Promotion (General).

In addition to the distribution of flyers by Mumbles TIC and other outlets it was suggested that we advertise the Festival in local camp and caravan sites.

(f) Charges.

The Gower Walking Festival charge £3/walk. It had been proposed that we do likewise, with possibly a lower charge of £2/ride. A suggestion from MB that the rides be free had support. NG noted however that a fee may be necessary to reimburse the Mumbles TIC – a non-profit independent organisation. JC suggested that if we must charge this be collected as a lump sum. This matter was to be resolved by the Working Group.

(g) Rides approval.

NG raised the issue of police approval, insurance, etc.. RW advised that if this were a Council run event (which it won't be) a number of hurdles would have to be cleared: risk assessments, indemnity forms, etc.. With the numbers expected on our rides it appears that police restrictions are unlikely. MB noted that if the rider leaders are CTC accredited, they would be covered by CTC insurance. *Wheelrights*, being affiliated to the CTC, should in any case be covered. Participants would however need to sign a (booking) form indemnifying the Group.

(h) Launch.

Martin Caton, Jane Davidson, 'Plastic Sam' and Nicole Cooke were put forward as candidates to open the Festival. The possibility of Martin C. not being in power following the forthcoming General election (in May?) needs to be considered before we decide whom to approach.

(i) Festival Working Group.

The following indicated their willingness to serve on this group:

JC, CC, CF, EF*, NG, DN, PJ*, RW, GW, VW.

* Absent from the meeting but had previously indicated their willingness.

(j) Actions for the working Group.

The first meeting of the Group is scheduled for 5.30pm on Monday 15 February in the Railway Inn. The following are potential agenda items:

- Firm up the programme (rides and other activities – esp. the party.) [(b) above]
- Decide how to categorise the rides: 'short'/medium/'long', 'gentle'/'mod...', etc. [(c)]
- Flyer: decide if A3 or A4, how many, and how produce and distribute. [(c),(d),(e)]
- Charges [(f)]
- Police and insurance issues [(g)]
- Who to launch [(h)]

2. Wheelrights Rides and Adult Beginners Classes

DN proposed that, based on the feedback from our questionnaires last year, we provide rides mostly on the third Saturday of each month from March to November. These would be easy rides starting at 10.00 and finishing with lunch in a pub or café. An incomplete programme giving dates and suggested areas for these rides is attached as the Appendix. Those prepared to lead one (or more) should contact DN to indicate which ride they are interested in and where it might go. He will then complete the programme and put it on the website.

Adult Beginners Classes are proposed for Saturdays 10 April, 12 June (in Bike Week), 24 July and 18th or 25th September as part of Cycling Festival. (Need to review this last as it may not be practical to run a class during the Festival.)

3. AOB

(a) CTC's agm. CC advised that the CTC would be voting at their agm in May for them to be reconstituted as a single charitable organisation rather than its existing form as a members club with a charitable arm. She was concerned that this vote would be carried and wondered if *Wheelrights* had a position on this. She noted there was a strong case for a 'No' vote and planned to attend the CTC *Cymru* agm on 20 February in Llandrindod where she hoped to press for a No vote and if we felt the same could represent *Wheelrights*. In discussion it transpired we needed to be better informed about the implications. The link <http://www.savethectc.blogspot.com/> sent to us previously by Claudine should assist us form a position. (This could be raised at the 15th Feb. meeting.)

(b) Wheelrights sub.s. GW sought payment of our sub.s for 2010 and received several.

4. Forthcoming meeting

Gower Cycling Festival Working Group meeting at 5.30pm on Monday, 15th February in the Railway Inn.

Notes prepared by David Naylor
(*Wheelrights*' Secretary)

APPENDIX

Wheelrights rides in 2010

The **green** entries in the table are only suggestions to try and ensure a reasonable spread of rides. They will be replaced when a leader is found and the route decided. If you are interested in leading one please let me know which and provide me with the route details.

I have limited the number of start/finish points (to mainly the Railway Inn and Sail Bridge) to keep things simple but these can be changed if there is a good reason to.

Note that we are targeting inexperienced or lapsed cyclists if not complete beginners so the rides should be at an easy pace and generally in the 10-20 mile bracket. They should finish at lunch time so that participants can then either go their own way or lunch together in a convenient pub or café. This implies finding one near the start/finish point, which should perhaps be named in the ride description. (Hopefully the Railway Inn will be serving lunches again, as it is understood they plan to do.)

[] = initials of ride leader.

David N.

Date	Start	Time	Description
Sat. 20 March	Rly Inn	10.00	A North Gower ride. The classic circuit? [?]
Sat. 17 April	Rly Inn	10.00	A South/mid Gower ride. Mumbles – Three Cliffs - Green Cwm? [?]
Sat. 15 May	Sail Br	10.00	NCN 43 – Swansea Valley [?]
Sat. 5 June	Blackpill	10.00	A ride to coincide with formal opening of Gower Walking Festival, eg Mumbles, West Cross, Clyne Valley circuit. Note: shorter than others as will start when 10.00 opening complete. [?]
Mon. 14 June	Dunvant car park	18.30	North Gower (Wheelrights mid-summer ride) *. Along coast to. N. Gower Hotel, Llanrhidian. Back over Welsh Moor. (15m) [DJ/VW/GW?]
Sat 19 June	Commercial car P	10.00	Cycle ride to Blackhills Wild Flower Centre via N. Gower, followed by 3 mile (optional) walk. A Gower Walking Festival event [DN]
Sat. 17 July	Sail Br.	10.00	A ride to the E. (round Kilvey Hill?) [?]
Sat 14 Aug	Rly Inn	10.00	To the N.: Pontardulais – return W. of Loughor Estuary? [?]
Sat. 18 Sep.	Blackpill	10.00	Same as Gower Cycling Festival: choice of a short or longer ride following formal opening. [NG/DN]
Sat. 25 Sep.	Rly Inn?	10.00	Same as Gower Cycling Festival.
Sat. 16 Oct.	Sail Br	10.00	To the E.; Llamsamlet/Gnoll Park? [?]
Sat. 20 Nov.	Rly Inn	10.00	A Gower ride. [?]