

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 21st September 2015 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Dawn Aplin (DA), Don Ashman (DA), Martin Brain (MB), Phil Brophy (PB), Mike Cherry (MC), Chris Connick (CC), Allyson Evans (AE), Colin Fielder (CF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Phil Jones (PJ), Dale Hall (DH), Kerry Rogers (KR), John Sayce (JS)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 6 July meeting.

- (a) Active Travel Act (ATA). (Item 2a) Concern was expressed that the City and County of Swansea (CCS) was not complying with the act. Following a proposal from GG it was agreed that we should write to the Welsh Gov. to express our concern. DJ underlined the need for a proper Existing Routes Map. He agreed to draft the letter. NG noted that CCS planned to update the Swansea Bike map. **[Action DJ]**
- (b) Planning applications. (Item 2b) NG had emailed Planning to request that we are informed of relevant applications but had had no reply. He will write again. Sustrans are contacting Planning to try and ensure new developments cater for walkers and cyclists. **[Action NG]**
- (c) Adult Beginners Classes. (Item 3) The last of these having been held on 19 September and *BikeAbility* taking this over it was agreed to give the bikes to them. DN advised that the unusable bikes had with our agreement been disposed of by CCS, leaving just 3 Trek and 2 folding bikes. (Unfortunately one or two usable bikes had gone too.)
- (d) Gower Cycling Festival. (Item 4) DN briefly summarised this year's Festival: a slight increase in numbers; positive feedback about the rides; good use made of the Dunvant RFC camping facility, but that there was a privacy problem with the showers. MC advised of plans that would sort this problem. DN will soon complete a report on the Festival to go on the website (GCF page). CF noted that £100 (the raffle topped up) had been donated to *BikeAbility* and £100 (*Wheelrights* sponsorship of the Paris-Swansea ride.) to the Environment Centre.
- (e) Officers. (Item 6b) NG proposed that we have a deputy Chair and Secretary. DN having stated that he would stand down as Secretary confirmed that he would do so at the AGM but would be prepared to be re-elected if a replacement acceptable to the membership is not forthcoming. Nominations for his post, and also for the Chair and Treasurer (although these two are prepared to continue in their posts), should be sent to our President (DJ).

2. Kingsway.

The issue was CCS's short term plan to provide a one-way E-W cycle lane. This would be on a metro bus lane made redundant by their decision to restrict all traffic to one-way E-W. We agreed to push for the cycle lane to be two-way, together with a zig-zag SW-NE route crossing West Way via Oxford St to the east end of the Kingsway which CCS were proposing for W-E cyclists.

In an exchange of views DJ pointed out that buses would have to cross the path of cyclists at bus stops. This would be a problem irrespective of whether a cycle lane was one- or two-way. DN noted that the routing of cycle lanes past bus stops is covered in the ATA Design Guidance. (See DE 29-31.) He also suggested that a way forward would be not to specify the direction of use but simply to request a lane wide enough for it to be used both ways. (There is plenty of space.)

GG suggested that the whole of the existing (two lane) metro be made available for pedestrians and cyclists for the short term solution. Buses would share the two E-W vehicle lanes on the north side. We liked this but the question was how to get it adopted.

The issue being largely political we are asked to take this up with councillors, in particular with the new Environment Cabinet member David Hopkins. **[Action: All]**

It was decided to hold a mass ride to gain support for two-way cycle provision on Sunday, 1 November. MC, CF, GG, NG, DJ & DN to constitute a working group. **[Action: MC, ..., DN.]**

3. **Cycle carriage on trains**

PB had been in correspondence with a Mark Youngman (First Great Western Development Manager – Wales) about provision for bikes on the new electric (Hitachi) trains to be introduced on the London-Swansea line. It appears that the space to be made available (2 vestibule areas on 5 car trains and 5 on 9 car trains) is shared. We are concerned about the apparent lack of dedicated bike space. Alan Kreppel had, in 2013, lobbied on our behalf for 12 dedicated spaces on the longer trains. He was advised that 8 would be provided on the 9 car and 4 or 5 on the 5 car trains. (See notes of 12 June 2013 WR meeting. It's on the website: 'Newsletter & Notes' page.) DN agreed to write to Mark Youngman to seek assurance that there will be sufficient dedicated storage. **[Action: DN]**

4. **Trails for Wales**

DN had received an email from CTC's Roger Geffen drawing attention to an initiative from the Welsh Gov. which if adopted would give cyclists and walkers access to land currently denied to them. This follows a Scottish precedent. We are invited to respond to a consultation document by 2 October. DJ offered to do this. DN will forward the necessary links to him. (Post meeting: done.) **[Action: DJ]**

5. **Green Fayre**

This will be on 21/22 November. It was agreed that we would share a stall with Sustrans. ML advised that they would reserve one and will liaise with them. **[Action ML]**

6. **AOB**

None.

7. **Next meeting**

AGM: 7.00 pm on 26 October in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor (*Wheelrights* secretary)