

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN MEETING - Custom House Pub - 3rd March 2010

Present:

Anne Peek
Tom Walker
Craig Steeland

Malcolm Russell
Mike Cross
Simon Brown

Apologies

David Robinson
Peter Williams

1. Chair

It was agreed that Craig would chair the meeting . Simon agreed to take the minutes .

2. Agenda setting

The following items were suggested as Agenda Items for the meeting:

1. A540
2. Website update
3. CDT Meeting
4. Zoo Meeting
5. Vote Bike Manifesto
6. Bike Week

3. Minutes of Meeting 2nd December 2009

The minutes were agreed as a true record

4. Matters arising from the minutes

1) CTC Affiliation – SB reported that the group was now affiliated with the CTC and as a result could offer members of the Campaign discounted affiliated membership of the CTC . SB to formulate message to members inviting interest

ACTION: SB to e-mail Campaign members regarding opportunity of discounted CTC membership and 3rd party insurance cover.

2) Contact with Cllr. Gill Houlbrook - SB reported he had not yet made contact with the councillor regarding a presentation to the Regulatory Services Board of CWAC.

ACTION: SB to contact Gill Houlbrook asking for opportunity to present to Regulatory Services Board.

5. A540

MR reported that a meeting has been arranged with Richard Nickson (Head of Road Safety) , Anna Geroni and possibly Cllr. Neil Ritchie at Eureka Café on 17/3/10 at 9.45 am. To identify the issues regarding safety for cyclists on the Ledsham stretch of the A540. MR asked for guidance regarding the Campaign line related to this issue.

Following some discussion it was decided that the forthcoming meeting with CWAC should reinforce the message regarding the very real dangers presented to the considerable numbers of cyclists who use the stretch of road; the Campaign should seek some action from CWAC regarding an improvement of conditions for cyclists and that MR would formulate more detailed proposals for discussion at the meeting. It was suggested that the CWAC representatives should be encouraged if at all possible to cycle a short circuit in the vicinity of the Eureka Café to fully appreciate the points being made. MR and Peter Williams will continue to work together to coordinate action on the issue.

ACTION: MR to attend meeting with CWAC representatives along with Peter Williams, having devised a set of proposals for the area.

6. Website Update

CS reported that the “join online” facility had been activated and that it already had recruited one life membership The facility uses a special PayPal account which when sufficient funds have been generated can have money transferred to Campaign Bank account without charge.

SB queried whether it was possible to include an online facility for purchase of T-Shirts and Tabards on the

website. CS reported that due to difficulties of creating a PayPal trading account rather than a PayPal charity account it would prove difficult. It was agreed the best option would be to generate a couple of good quality pictures of a t-shirt and tabard being worn on Chester's Streets and to post these on the website announcing availability when the next batch of T shirts were ready and there was a reasonable stock

5 CDT Meeting

MR reported that he and Alex Ford attended the Chester Visitor Centre where the meeting was previously advertised to take place. It transpired that the meeting had been moved at short notice to Backford Hall. Since Alex and MR were not on the meeting circulation list they did not receive the message issued the day previously by Bethan the Project coordinator that the meeting had been relocated.

MR suggested that this gave a poor impression of Campaign organisation and was a suitable reason to have a person within the campaign to be nominated and take on the role for being the general point of contact and circulating messages to relevant members of the campaign. This to be discussed in more detail at a future meeting that was better attended. In the meantime it was agreed that Alex and MR would be included in the CDT steering group circulation list. Due to the meeting change there was nothing to report.

ACTION: SB to inform Bethan of MR and Alex Ford's E-mail addresses so that they are included in future messages from CDT.

6. Meeting at Chester Zoo (regarding Zoo Travel Plan)

CS and SB attended a meeting with the Director of Development and to discuss the Zoo's Travel Plan submitted as part of their planning application for the Zoo expansion plans. CS reported that many of the points put forward by the Campaign were taken on board and there were many positive features of the travel plan including:

- Provision of significant numbers of cycle parking facilities for staff
- New cycle parking for visitors located close to Zoo Entrance
- Salary sacrifice Cycle purchase scheme for staff
- Consideration of re-opening the current staff entrance on Caughall road for cyclist visitors
- Creating a short link from NCR5 to the zoo entrance to improve cycle access
- Utilisation on Zoo website of web based software developed by Cambridge Cycling Campaign to illustrate cycle routes to the zoo from various locations within Chester.

7. Vote Bike Manifesto

CS suggested that the Campaign utilises the Bike Manifesto produced by CTC as a campaigning tool in relation to the forthcoming election campaign. It was suggested that the Campaign publicises an approach to prospective candidates asking for their support for the manifesto. This was agreed.

ACTION: SB to generate News Release and circulate to local press. SB to identify names and contact details of all prospective MP candidates of all parties for Chester so that they can be sent the cycle manifesto.

8. Bike Week

SB raised the question of Campaign activity during Bike Week 2010 (19th – 27th June) <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/index.php> . In the past short 5 mile taster rides, commuter challenges and Dr Bike sessions have featured. Whatever happens is determined by the capacity to organise and stage events. MC mentioned that the Bob Cliff memorial ride would be organised on Sunday 13th June.

Discussion ensued that questioned the value of short tasters as a way of achieving campaign objectives and what capacity was available to organise anything during Bike Week. Due to low numbers at the meeting it was decided to raise the issue again at the next meeting following circulation of the minutes and an invitation for active campaign members to come forward with their potential commitment .

ACTION: SB to circulate minutes with an invitation to ask for commitments and ideas from active members

9. AOB

MR mentioned the consultations being staged by Groundwork in connection with CDT aimed at Nervous and non cyclists, that were due to begin shortly.

SB suggested the Campaign website could highlight a range of local cycle friendly destinations (cafes, pubs, places of interest) as bike ride suggestions, rather than highlight specific routes. A number of suggestions were made at the meeting as potential places to mentioned as well as the suggestion that the local CTC website had further details of places of interest. CS suggested a discussion thread on the site may serve the purpose and that anyone could post details, including photos if desired

Next Meeting

7th April 2010 - 7.30pm - Custom House Pub, Watergate Street.