

Chester Cycling Campaign Meeting

Custom House Pub – 5th May 2010

Present - Craig Steeland (minutes secretary), Mary Gillie (chair), David Robinson, Tom Walker, Peter Williams, Bernard Fendt

1. **Apologies** - Andrew Burwood, Geoff Brandt

2. **Minutes of Meeting 9th April 2010** - Accepted as a true and correct record. Craig to put on website.

3. **Matters Arising**

- Simon still awaiting invitation to CWAC regulatory services board from Cllr Jill Houlbrook.
- Simon to formulate message to campaign members re discounted CTC membership through our affiliation.
- Ross Adams to provide copy on Bike Club to Craig (for the website) and to Mary (for the Newsletter) . Mary to chase Ross.
- Mary to contact Cycling England (specifically Phillip Darnton – chair) re funding for A540 project and other projects.
- Andrew Burwood to discuss with the company providing printing facilities future support for printing following the end of the present funding and report back.

4. **CDT Steering Group** - David fed back on the meeting that took place on April 20th. A useful photo opportunity took place on the Old Dee Bridge before the meeting, but this has not appeared in print. The Chester Cycle Masterplan, the Steer Gleave Davies report, was presented to the meeting. The report is full of short, medium and long term actions to improve cycling in Chester, and spans a potential implementation period of 5 years. The Deva Link ramp is four weeks behind schedule. Many new bike racks have been installed around Chester. Bike lockers will be available to rent on a quarterly or annual basis. The CDT project is also planning to start a 'Cycling Champion of the Month' initiative to highlight the activities of local cyclists. The lack of communication with the Campaign was discussed with a promise to do better. The Campaign, though, would like to press for a standing item on communication at CDT steering group meetings, a monthly newsletter, published minutes, and regular updates to partner organisations.

Action

- Craig to obtain copy of Chester Cycle Masterplan and upload it to the Campaign website.
- CDT steering group representatives to put our communication related requests on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Campaign to call for inclusion of Cycle Chester Masterplan into the LTP3 when the next round of consultation takes place.
- Craig to put article on our website regarding the availability of the new cycle lockers.

5. **A540** - A subgroup of members has been planning an online A540 survey following the meeting at the Eureka Cafe. The survey is intended to be used by members of all of the local cycling organisations and patrons of the Eureka Cafe. Webmasters of websites belonging to other local cycling organisations have agreed to put a link to the survey onto their websites. The Campaign website will capture survey responses and put them in a database automatically, presenting the results in the form of graphs and percentages. Craig has trialled two types of 'polling' technology on the website and distributed pictures showing the different options. The meeting supported a survey format which would have a single 'submit' button and which would include information about the respondents' cycling organisation affiliations. The meeting felt that the survey as it stands is too long and that many of the questions are too complicated.

Action

- Craig to send an electronic list of questions to Mary for her have an attempt at simplification.
- Peter W to arrange a June meeting (to include the new executive member for the environment, Lynn Riley) to chase progress on A540 matters as a follow-up to the Eureka Cafe meeting.
- The group should negotiate regular progress meetings with CWAC and early contact with the new exec member for the environment. (name to be agreed at annual council 13th May)
- Campaign members to use CWAC fault reporting tool to highlight the overgrown footway to the north side of A540 between Badgers Rake Lane and Two Mills that could be easily turned into a shared cycleway.

6. **Canal Towpath** - The canal towpath continues to deteriorate alarmingly. Mary has been pressing the council for information about the original contract and any maintenance agreements drawn up at the time, but has not received a response.

Action

- Mary to initiate a Freedom of Information request regarding the paving of the canal towpath if she continues to receive no response from the council.

7. **Cycling England** - Peter W has been in touch with Tricia Allen of Cycling England who has stated that they are unable to support or sponsor improvements to the A540. Cycling England is apparently disappointed in Chester's limited progress with its CDT project.

Action

- Mary to invite a representative from Cycling England to a meeting with the Campaign to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the CDT project.

8. **Curzon Park Consultation** - Campaign members who attended the consultation event were very impressed with the consultation. Approximately 250 people in all attended the event. The Campaign meeting noted concerns regarding the slowness of progress with the CDT and Connect2 projects and the risk that funding may run out or be withdrawn, particularly if there is a change of Government.

9. **Bike Week 2010** - The meeting decided that the Campaign would not undertake any specific Bike Week activity this year due to our limited resources and the priority that needs to be given to other Campaign activities.

10. **Bike Club Launch** – About 15 people attended the Bike Club launch last month. Ross Adams is dividing his time between Chester and Southport, and is planning to develop a number of activities targeted at 10 to 20 year olds outside of the school system. The Campaign has agreed to publicise any Bike Club activities through the Campaign website and newsletter, provided that Ross gives us the necessary information.

11. **AOB** - None.

Next Meeting: 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 2nd June 2010 at the Custom House Pub