

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 4 April 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Peter Williams (PW), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Stephen Perry (SP) Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Spain (JS), Cathey Harrington (CH) Monica Robinson (MR)(minutes), Carol Convey (CC) Sue Steeland (SS)

Apologies: Simon Brown (SB), Helen Pulford (HP)

Steve Pemberton from Cycle North Cheshire (Weaver and Sandstone Cycle Forum) attended as an observer. All present introduced themselves to Steve and he in turn told us about his group based in the Frodsham and Helsby area. He hoped to learn what CCC is currently doing and take away any ideas or projects that would be mutually beneficial. Steve confirmed that our two areas are quite different but he feels there could be opportunities to make things happen by working together in the future.

1. **Minutes of March 2018 meeting:** – agreed as a correct record.

Action: minutes to be posted on website (CS)

2. **Matters Arising:**

Actions for SB re Cycle Parking Chester Station, Rail and Ride Leaflets, and Email Distribution List to be deferred to a future meeting when SB is available.

Letter of the Month: March letter was written by SP & published in the Standard but not, so far, in the Chronicle. **Action:** JS will do April.

Upper Northgate St Road Layout: MR spoke to Andy Coward (Highways) in January. (post meeting information - he confirmed a full audit has been undertaken of the Bus Station development and issues about road layout and safety for cyclists and pedestrians had been noted. He explained that it could take some time for action to be taken as Mott McDonald/the contractor would have to rectify any problems. No news to date.)

Cycling Matters! Printing: CH distributed the Spring edition and all agreed to do their rounds. She also invited comments on the quality of the new format, in particular the matt finish on the recycled paper and the sharpness of the photographs. It was agreed by all that they were satisfactory and thanked CH for her effort in producing this latest edition. Thanks to CS for liaising with our new sponsors.

Canal Closure: It was confirmed that the rock face concerned is owned by C&RT. CWaC will not fund the repairs. **Action:** CH agreed to chase up the wording of the diversion signs to include a cycling route.

Wrexham Road: TJ confirmed that CWaC officers suggested the proposal to invite Mike Axon to address council members should be put to one side at present as there could be a conflict of interests while the planning application process continues.

3. **Crane Bank Development: Update– closing the missing link in the Riverside Path** – CS, SP met with Bob Rudd and Sue Begley (Senior Highways officer) on site. It was a very positive meeting with Sue Begley keen to look for solutions including getting in contact with Watkin Jones before they leave the site. Bob Rudd indicated there was some Section

106 money attached to their planning approval and he might also be willing to consider using some of his councillor's allowance. CWaC officers will follow this up and we await their response.

- 4. Meeting with CWAC Director of Places Strategy:** TJ reported back from his meeting with Richard Beacham, Lisa Harris (Director of Places) Paul Parry and Kristy Littler (Highways managers) and Colin Watson. It was confirmed there is no specific pot of money in the budget devoted to cycling. Recently the Authority has not been successful in bidding for external funding. PP reiterated his view that Developers have the upper hand when it comes to planning conditions etc and there is little opportunity raise infrastructure levies. CW mentioned his support for the Connect 2 bridge and indicated that there might be money around. Nick Brelsford from Sustrans has also said there may be ways of raising funds.

Lisa Harris has only recently taken up her post at CWaC and suggested another meeting should be convened in about 6 month's time. She will consider the idea of appointing a Cycling Officer and suggested CCC might help with the task of 'refreshing' the Cycling Strategy. As she is responsible for all the whole of CWaC she is also keen to get all cycling groups working together.

- 5. Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF):** SS reported back from the last CSF cycling sub-group meeting. Those in attendance included Chester Road Club, Watsons Wanderers, Catherine Green, Ian Heffer, Jo Evans, Nick Brelsford and Colin Watson (Chair). SS confirmed that this group do not wish to join CCC and will continue as a separate organisation. It appears that the forum wants to focus on Chester only and the cycling sub group are keen to work towards a new bridge over the Dee as well as an orbital route around the city for leisure rides, similar to the one in York. They are currently trying to find out what are the main barriers stopping people from cycling in the city and they will consider ideas at their next meeting. Campaign members present suggested they press for CWaC to appoint a Cycling Officer. We were asked to feed back to SS with any other ideas before their next meeting.

After some discussion it was agreed that CCC should concentrate on the proposed **Active Travel Forum** which is now due to hold its first meeting sometime in May. PW has already been in contact with the officer concerned (via Louise Gittins) and has sent her a copy of Wirral's terms of reference which they have agreed to consider. Due to time constraints it was agreed that we would look in more detail at this at the May meeting.

- 6. Spring Clean on Greenway:** SP asked for volunteers to assist with litter picking etc on Greenway on 19th April 9 – 12pm. Meet at Blacon Station.
- 7. Family Rides update:** CC has been liaising with Jayne Rodgers who has drawn up a leaflet detailing a number of family friendly rides of differing distances etc. For a group of 20 cyclists 3 trained leaders are required and CC asked for trained leaders to assist or others to attend training days - the first being Saturday 28 April – details to follow. Participants would have to book (free of charge) on the 'Eventbrite' website to assist with monitoring numbers etc. CC will keep everyone posted on further plans and hopefully the first ride will take place in May.

8. **Funding Submission for improving the Greenway:** Jayne Rodgers has asked CCC for support with an application for funding improvements to the Greenway such as tree planting and other environmental work. Any grant money would need to go into our bank account. TJ agreed this would probably be feasible if cash was not required. All agreed TJ would contact JR to offer assistance as long as the process is audited and JR runs the wording past TJ for approval.
9. **Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) Safety Review:** CH advised us that the Department for Transport has started a cycling and walking safety review and it wants cyclists and cycling organisations to have their say. She encouraged us all to read the documents and respond individually on their website <http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis-safety-review> CS confirmed that Roy Spilsbury has already submitted a response and agreed to forward a copy to members to help with ideas etc. Agreed we would prepare a group response at our next meeting.
10. **GDP Regulations:** New data protection regulations will very shortly become law and CS has identified the main requirements for non profit making organisations such as CCC. Essentially we need to add an unsubscribe link to our Bulletins and continue to ensure all members have confirmed their agreement to CCC holding their details on our electronic database for campaign purposes only. **Action:** SB to add unsubscribe button to Email Bulletins.
11. JH confirmed there will be an event at the Limewood Fields area in Hoole for anyone with a visual impairment to enjoy a cycle ride. All agreed this is an excellent idea.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed just after 9.30pm.