

## Chester Cycling Campaign

### Minutes of Meeting Held on 3 January 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

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

**Apologies:** Sue Steeland (SS), Helen Southall (HS),

**1 Minutes of December 2017 meeting:** – agreed as a correct record, with one minor amendment under paragraph 3, that CS has not yet given his presentation to the CSF. This will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Action:** minutes to be amended and posted on website (CS)

**2 Matters Arising:** from **November meeting - outstanding or no update available**

- **Cycle Parking Chester Station:** Placing leaflets on cars parked in the 2 car parks nearest the station - still outstanding. **Action:** SB.
- **Rail & Ride Leaflets:** All 3 rides have been reviewed, but SB still to confirm costs of re-prints with Sutton Silver before approaching Sally Buttifant for funding. **Action:** SB
- **Letter of the Month:** KT's November letter to be written for December. **Action:** KT. January letter to be written by CH: **Action:** CH
- **Upper Northgate St Road Layout:** There was a limited response from members to the new layout, but the ones received were positive. **Action:** MR to contact Andrew Coward at CWaC Highways with the comments.

From **December meeting:**

- **Sponsorship of Cycling Matters;** this has still not been resolved. After much discussion it was agreed that CS should contact Trevor Morris, a personal injury Solicitor, to ask whether he would be willing to act as sponsor for this year. **Action:** CS
- **Email Distribution List:** SB has agreed to establish a group of participants who are happy to be included on a set distribution list; **Action:** SB

**3 Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF):**

CS will be attending a full Forum meeting next week (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January) to give a presentation on the development of Cycling in the city and our needs and aspirations for the future. Concern was expressed at the meeting that the Cycling Subgroup has been formed without the depth and breadth of our CCC experience. Therefore it was agreed that CS would propose to Cllr Richard Beecham that we should try to coordinate our knowledge and activities. **Action:** CS to speak to Cllr Beecham

#### **4 Crane Bank Development: Update**

- TJ hoping to meet C&RT (Mark Durham) on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, time to be agreed. TJ feels that C&RT (Julie Sharman) are more willing to consider our proposals.
- KT to meet with Dawn Beech from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Watkin Jones on site on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, hopefully with TJ and SP as well.
- It was agreed that we should try to get funding support from WREN (Waste Recycling Environment), whose next application deadline is in March, but it was also agreed that progress would depend on the future support of all parties and this may make the March deadline hard to achieve
- KT reported on a conversation with Julie Sharman (senior Canal and Rivers Trust director) establishing that C&RT would be interested in discussing the options.
- TJ once again emphasised that the proposal will have to demonstrate that any improvement will benefit the community and help increase usage. It was proposed that we should contact Dial House and others if we manage to get support from the key stakeholders.

#### **5 A540:**

PW reported that there will be a photo opportunity at the Eureka Cafe to support the Highways England draft press release on 19<sup>th</sup> January between 09.30 and 10.00. CCC members were encouraged to come along and support this event.

#### **6 Canal Closure:**

CCC members were once again encouraged to report their frustration at this closure on the CWaC pot hole reporting web site. In addition it was agreed that the best route to avoid this closed path is to travel along Gorse Stacks and George Street. However as there has been no improvement to the inadequate signage around the new bus station, this runs the serious risk of cyclists being confronted by approaching drivers on the wrong side of the road as they follow the sign to 'rejoin the carriageway' when heading along Gorse Stacks towards George Street.

**Action:** MR to discuss the latter with Cllr Sam Dixon. TJ to check status on additional signage with Andrew Coward

#### **7 Family Cycle Rides**

There was further discussion and support for the proposed Family Rides. CC had not received a very useful reply from Cycling UK reference insurance, so it was proposed that she could contact Jayne Rogers, not only in the context of her local Sustrans role but also to tap into her wider experience. It was also commented that:

- Sustrans and Cycling UK (used to) offer short but helpful cycle ride leader courses (PW)
- Maybe it would be worth asking whether St Werburgh's primary school is interested in helping to promote and maybe even organise family rides (SP)

- Maybe CC should contact Chris Alston, Cycling Development Officer for Liverpool City Region. Email: Chris.Alston@cyclingsUK.org Tel: 07467336843  
**Action:** CC

## 8 Wrexham Road

TJ reported that (contrary to his previous assumptions) there is an existing CW&C Transport Strategy, but this needs to be updated. He also reported that he had the meeting with Cllr Richard Beecham and Cllr Karen Shore reference the 'Connect 2' bridge that had been proposed across the River Dee as part of the original Cycle Demonstration Town discussions. Both of these councillors had expressed a strong commitment in support of cycling, but TJ felt that the Connect 2 Bridge route is not a viable option.

Subsequently TJ and PW also met with Mike Axon (Vectos) and Steve Williams (Taylor Wimpey) who expressed their disappointment at CCC's objection to their proposed plans for the Wrexham Rd development, and hoped that during the meeting they could satisfy our concerns to encourage us to withdraw the objection. The sticking point from CCC's point of view is not the Wrexham Development itself, but the lack of integration of this development into improved cycling access to Chester City centre via the Handbridge/Grosvenor bridges. During the discussion it became clear that Mike Axon has very positive and radical views on what needs to be done to give cycling the required space in an urban environment, but that the resistance to change is coming from the limited commitment and thus the restrictions in the terms of reference being provided by CW&C.

It was proposed that we should try to get Mike Axon to address the Chester Sustainability Forum or at least the cycling sub group. **Action:** TJ/CS

- 9 **Low Emission Strategy Consultation:** Cathey reminded everyone to make sure they give a response to this consultation on the CW&C website which ends on 12<sup>th</sup> January, and also proposed to resend to all present the draft submission, so that we can comment on the feedback that she will make to the on behalf of the CCC

**Action:** All to respond to CH and CH to finalise the CCC submission

## 10 AGM – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

- All officers present agreed that they would be willing to continue their current roles, if no other candidates would like to offer their services
- We need to confirm the AGM catering details and the dates of all future meetings for the year with the Old Custom House. **Action:** TJ
- SB needs to be asked to send out the required AGM notice to all CCC members : **Action:** MR
- All officer reports should be brought to AGM in hard copy and an electronic copy made available to CS for the website; **Action:** All officers

**Date of next meeting – our AGM:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub on Watergate Street.