

Chester Cycling Campaign

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

Present: Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Sue Steeland (SS), Simon Brown (SB), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Spain (JS), John Holiday (JH), Monica Robinson (MR) (part minutes), Stephen Perry (part minutes), Peter Williams (PW) and Colin Trigg

Apologies: Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Ken Thomas (KT), Cathey Harrington(CH), Helen Pulford (HP) Carol Convey (CC) Ashley McCraight (AM), Jayne Rodgers (JR)

Colin Trigg was welcomed to the meeting and Colin and those members present introduced themselves.

- 1. Minutes of June 2018 meeting:** agreed as a correct record.

Action: minutes to be posted on website (CS)

- 2. Matters Arising:**

First Aid Training - CC, MR and SP attended training run by Sustrans on 13 June.

Family Cycle Rides – first ride took place on Saturday 23rd June .

Rail Rides in Mid Cheshire – new leaflets distributed via SB.

Hedge in need of cutting – near the Spital Walk lock when travelling from Hoole. Hedge has been cut back but height still needs to be lowered, **Action** – MR to make further contact with Cllr Martyn Delaney.

Monthly letter to the editor – according to the agreed allocation, letters for July and August are as follows

- July – **Mark Bayliss (and/or John Holiday?)**
- August – **Richard Barrett**

- 3. Missing Link – Deeside path by Crane Bank**

After much chasing SP had a follow-up meeting on site on Tuesday 3rd July with Cllr Bob Rudd and Sue Begley from CW&C (Sue is Karl Farrow's boss). Very little progress has been made since meeting with the same in early April. Sue had hoped to get funding support from a recently successful LSTF bid but this was not a possibility. Otherwise no real actions have been undertaken and no real progress has been achieved. Watkin Jones have now left their new building site and in the opinion of Bob and Sue they will make no special contribution to any extra work on the Deeside path (e.g. to help fill in the missing link) in return for their use of part of the Cop Park during their construction work, and despite a verbal commitment given to Cllr Bib Rudd before the project started. SP expressed surprise and disappointment that WJ are being let off the hook, but in response Bob and Sue proposed that we try to engage their support with the attraction of positive publicity once we have a firm proposal to take forward. SP expressed his frustration with the slow progress of the CCC proposal and asked Sue/Bob if they can check out the availability of Section 106 funding for this project (they were not optimistic), meet with C&RT to establish some agreement and guidelines to take our proposal forward and discuss options for a bridge with the relevant person in CW&C. One positive proposal from Cllr Bob Rudd is that residual funding from house building in the Garden Quarter may be available to finance the preparation of a more detailed project proposal.

PW suggested that Sustrans may have an interest in supporting our proposals. Sustrans have been sent a copy of our outline proposal and SP has discussed the details of our proposal with Paul Bruffell whilst recently in the Sustrans Manchester office.

Action: SP agreed to follow-up the discussion at the meeting with an email to Sue and Bob (done)

4. **CW&C Active Travel Forum**

The inaugural meeting in June was attended by SP, JH and PW. No official minutes from the meeting have yet been prepared by CW&C, but PW and SP had prepared their own notes and these had been circulated to the CCC activist group before the meeting. PW and SP added some further detail and answered questions, but in summary the meeting was seen as an important first step but not that inspirational. The most stimulating presentation came from Colin Watson on behalf of the Chester Sustainability Cycling sub-group. Despite a last minute request CCC were given not any opportunity to present at this first meeting, although they were able to comment from the floor. SP proposed and it was agreed that we should formally ask for a short slot at the next meeting in September.

Action: SP to email Louise Gittens to ask for a slot at the next ATF meeting (done)

5. **Sustainability Forum Cycling Subgroup**

Following Colin Watson's presentation to the ATF meeting in June, SS and SP have been in liaison with Colin and have agreed that he will meet with some of the CCC activists in September to '*go through (the subgroup's) thoughts and ask for (our) feedback and buy in*' before presenting the next stage of their proposed Chester Cycling Strategy to the next ATF meeting. Since the last ATF meeting TJ has shared details of the Connect2 Dee Bridge proposals with Colin. Colin has taken into account the CCC list of improvement proposals and SS has asked the CCC activist group to help update and extend this list. Colin had indicated that CW&C has access to Section 106 money to support a new bridge development but it has since been confirmed that this is unlikely to be available. SS also asked CCC members to support the survey that will soon be available for completion via 'survey monkey' to get individual input into the Chester Cycling Strategy. It was also proposed that we add a link to this survey on the CCC website. The meeting agreed that we should actively help Colin in support of his sub group's efforts, but should also make sure that as we progress we are able to focus on practical actions and changes set against measured targets. The meeting thanked Sue for her efforts in support of these initiatives.

Actions:

- give feedback and additions on CCC improvement list (to be reissued by SS) – **SS and All**
- CCC activist group (and more) to support Survey details to be circulated by SS and respond by end of July – **SS and All**
- confirm September meeting arrangements with Colin Watson – **SS**
- add link to survey monkey on CCC website - **CS**

6. **Workers Cooperative Cycle Shop in Chester**

Colin Trigg introduced himself and his experience of setting up a cycle business in Liverpool 9 years ago, which he had originally intended to be a workers' cooperative,

but which had evolved into a family business because of lack of support from his employees for the cooperative concept. As a retired Chester bank manager and resident of the Wirral, Colin was interested in the CCC's view on the feasibility of setting up a new bike shop in Chester as a workers' cooperative. The meeting expressed support for Colin and his admirable intentions but felt that the recent demise of so many bike businesses in Chester and the belief that those remaining are struggling to keep business, would suggest that now is not the time for a new cycle shop venture. Colin thanked the meeting for welcoming him and giving him an understanding of some of the issues relating to cycle campaigning in Chester.

7. Family Cycle Rides

It was agreed that more publicity was needed for the future rides and hopefully over time word would spread to increase the take up. (Post meeting note: JR has sent out the timetable for all remaining rides plus a document which can be printed and used as a flyer. Details are now on the website and all activists copied in.)

8. Sponsorship of Cycling Matters

TJ had asked that consideration be given to the future funding of the newsletter. Although not immediately required, resources will be needed to pay for future issues after the end of this current year. All ideas will be welcome.

9. Rail Ride leaflets

SB has the ride leaflets available for distribution. Most will be distributed via the Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership along the route. SB also confirmed that he has supplies of Family Cycle Ride leaflets which are available for anyone who can help distribute them. **Action:** MR to take some to Evans Cycles.

10. Start Time for future meetings

Following a request that we consider bringing the start time of meetings forward it was agreed that it would be sensible to ask members for their preferences. **Action:** SB offered to do a Doodle Poll with the following options: 6, 6.30, 7 or 7.30 pm start for the 2 hour meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st August 2018 at 7.30pm.