

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Simon Brown (SB) (Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), John Holiday (JH), Peter Williams (PW), Roger Hones (RH), John Spain (JS), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Uwe Embshoff (UE), Cathey Harrington (CH) (Minutes).

Apologies: Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS), Sue Steeland (SS), Helen Pulford (HP), Catherine Green (CG), Ashley McCraight (AM), Stephen Perry (SP), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Jules Crane(JC), Nora Braak (NB).

In attendance: Andrew Clague.

1. Minutes of June 2019 meeting

SP was Chair. With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Action: SB to amend, CS to post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

Greenway Cycle Festival – 12th May

SP wrote a news release about the event & sent it out.

Sustainable Chester Fair (Grosvenor Park) – 15th June

SB ran a stall combining CCC with Transition Chester. It was worthwhile. ½ box of Spring issue Cycling Matters! newsletters were given away.

For future events, Simon's wife has a market stall which can be hired for £40. It is walk-in, has tables on 3 sides, racks for leaflets and has a roof. Ideal for wet weather. Is large & heavy so requires a vehicle to move.

Picnic in the Park – Countess of Chester Country Park – 3rd August

SB will attend for Transition Chester & can take CCC materials. SB will bring a table.

Advanced Stop Line at Hinderton Rd/A540 junction.

PW firstly reported the missing ASL to Andy Raynor local highway engineer (& copied to Louise Gittins) on 1st April and got no reply. Note that a Keep Clear sign painted on the road to give access to a private house was repainted, unlike the ASL. Another concern is that this Keep Clear box seems larger than the original, leaving space for only one car behind the ASL.

PW then reported it online on 23rd April to CWaC's Report a Problem and received a reply from Sean Hickton, Principal Engineer, on 10th May, saying "the advanced stop line and cycle reservoir have indeed been erroneously omitted. I will arrange for them to be reinstated the next time that we have the lining gang in the area".

Since then, 2 separate road resurfacing jobs including line repainting, have been done. But the ASL at Hinderton Rd/A540 junction has still not been re-instated.

Peter will email Sean Hickson again expressing disappointment.

It would help if other CCC members could report lack of ASL online, to increase the number of reports.

Action: PW to email CWAC Climate Champion Councillor Matt Bryan. (*post-meeting note: done on 4th July*)

ALL to report lack of ASL at Hinderton Rd/A540 junction on CWAC's website, if possible.

Structure Chart – who's who in CWaC

CS has posted on website.

Cycling Matters! Spring Issue reprinted in error & therefore free.

We have 1½ boxes left.

Action: SB to drop them in to Bren Bikes.

3. Uwe's last meeting.

Uwe is returning to Germany after almost a year in Chester. SB thanked him for his enthusiasm, support and contribution to the Campaign. Members enjoyed a spectacular and delicious "erdbeeruchen" (German strawberry cake) which Uwe had baked, complete with the CCC logo and the names of current issues we are working on, written out in whipped cream on the top! A photo may be put on the website, if possible.

Action: CS.

Uwe reflected that:

- unlike in Germany, cycling infrastructure in the UK was not built during the 1960s & 70s & that cycling in the UK declined to an all-time low in 1974.
- cycle routes in Chester are poor and disjointed.
- few teenagers cycle because it is perceived (by teenagers & their parents) to be unsafe. This is despite more cyclists in Germany, pro rata, being killed than in the UK.

4. Family Cycle Rides

No participants turned up for the ride on 15th June. SB wondered if the requirement to book online was putting people off. It was decided that CCC would continue to honour the planned rides, now that Jayne Rodgers can no longer help run them (she has had to step down from her Chester Sustrans group coordinator role, due to other commitments). MR is happy to turn up for the rest of the planned rides but cannot make 20th July. SB and JS volunteered to do 20th July. It was agreed that pre-booking was not necessary, but that the booking system would still be kept.

Action: CS to add to the website page that booking is not necessary.

5. Cycling Matters! Summer issue

Has now arrived from the printers.

Action: CH to distribute to members.

6. Active Travel Forum. Minutes of the June meeting have been published. SP attended a meeting of the Active Travel Transformation Project (with Ali Dore from Sustrans) & offered to help put Ali in contact with schools SP knows well in Blacon. Since then SP joined her in a visit to The Arches School last Monday and the Head there has now signed up to support the project.

7. Blacon Bikes, Bren Bikes.

Blacon Bikes will close on 31st July (Chester Used Furniture Enterprise is closing).

Bren Bikes' June turnover was their most successful month ever (over £2000) and they have sold about 400 bikes and serviced about 400 bikes from January to June this year.

8. Highway changes near the new Aldi on Parkgate Road.

SB reported that a good pedestrian & cycle crossing had been put in to cross Parkgate Road. However, another pedestrian-only crossing has been put in, to cross Countess Way near the Little Owl pub. SB noted that this was a lost opportunity to install a cycle crossing which would have linked to the shared cycle/pedestrian path at the entrance to the Countess Country Park. PW pointed out that Wirral Borough Council invite cyclists' comments on proposed highway schemes, but CWAC do not. All agreed that this was another example of lack of awareness by CWAC of travel by bike

Action: SB to draft a news release, put photos on Facebook & Twitter & email CWAC Climate Champion Councillor Matt Bryan.

All those who use Twitter or Facebook to re-Tweet & share please.

9. Cycle To The Cinema

CS has volunteered to lead on this. Concerns were raised about the viability of the proposal, recouping costs, selection of a venue which could accommodate quite a lot of secure bike parking, type of film to be shown, attracting people to cycle into Chester on a wet winters evening.

Action: CS to clarify details and costings.

10. Overgrown Hedgerows on the Greenway between Northgate Ponds & Kingsway.

Action: JS to contact JH, who may be able to advise who to contact.

11. A51 road scheme between Vicar's Cross & Tarvin.

RH reported plans for a £5 million scheme of highways work which aims to reduce bottlenecks, keep traffic moving and thereby reduce pollution. RH would like to learn what provision for cycling infrastructure is in the plans.

Action: RH to forward a Tarvin councillor's email to SP, with a view to develop a formal request to CWAC about what provision is to be made for cycling. TJ to contact Kristy Littler, CWAC's Head of Strategic Transport, to try to obtain further information.

12. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The first meeting of the LCWIP Working Group was held on 6th June. Terms & conditions were covered. Next stage is for a consultant to be appointed from a shortlist of 4, whereupon the next meeting will be convened. If neither SP nor SLP could make that meeting, PW could represent CCC. If PW is unavailable, CH will attend if available.

13. Greenway Extension Concept.

Cycle North Cheshire are looking for the Campaign to support them in pushing for an extension to the Greenway to Barrow. It would benefit Chester riders/walkers too. A bulletin is being developed, which SLP will circulate. It was agreed that the Campaign would support the extension.

Action: SLP to circulate bulletin.

14. Any Other Business

- a. SB noted recently that the Bike Factory had run out of Family Cycle Rides leaflets.

Action: SB will take some more in.

- b. CH recently queried with Christleton Parish Hall why they do not have any bike stands, despite providing car parking. The response was cost.

Action: CH to email Peter Bulmer about how Christleton Parish Hall might obtain some stands from CWAC. Installation would be at the Hall's cost.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Date of next Meeting Wednesday 7th August 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.