

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on 6th March 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Uwe Embshoff (UE), Simon Brown (SB) (Chair), Peter Williams (PW), John Spain (JS), Cathey Harrington (CH), Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS), Sue Steeland (SS), Helen Pulford (HP), Ken Thomas (KT), Monica Robinson (MR), Trevor Jenkins (TJ) (Minutes),

Apologies: Stephen Perry (SP), John Holiday (JH), Ashley McCraight (AM), John Violet (JV), Steve Pemberton (SLP).

Eileen Morgan (EM) was welcomed to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.

1. Minutes of January 2019 meeting:

Agreed as a correct record.

Action: CS to post minutes on website (CS)

2. Matters Arising:

- **Upton Parish Council** – TJ had contacted Jean Evans of Upton Parish Council to request they forward the results of their survey, as part of the 'Neighbourhood Plan' to Ian Ashworth of the Active Travel Forum. The survey had found that children and young people in Upton wanted improvements for walking and cycling. She had agreed to do this.
- **Letter of the Month** – SLP had written the February letter of the month, but to date this had not been published, possibly pushed out by a letter by SB. Agreed that often the papers hold back letters and then publish at a later date.

3. ATF

PW expressed frustration at the response by Ian Ashworth to his letter regarding his desire for improvement for cyclists on the A540; it did not move things forward. Ian Ashworth offered to undertake a survey, to evaluate the number of users of the off-road shared facility at Highway England's Two Mills junction improvement, and possibly intimating there was insufficient usage. PW to provide a power point presentation of the issues at the next ATF meeting, to be held on 18th March at 2:00pm at Nicholas House. It was agreed that as many members as possible should attend the meeting to lobby on this issue.

Action: All

4. Fire Service Presentation

KT suggested repeating the successful safety course, 'Pedal Smart', run by the Fire Service, in Lymm, in May last year, at a local venue, this being Hoole Tennis Club. An alternative suggestion was to hold it at the new Powey Lane fire station, Ellesmere Port, but it was concluded that this location was more difficult to reach, particularly for those less experienced cyclists wishing to use their bike. All agreed that it should go ahead at a date to be determined. The fire Service would provide the information for CS to put on the CCC web site.

Action: KT to finalise the date and provide the advertising.

5. Internal PR

Following on from the raising of the membership subscription, agreed at the AGM last month, CH reiterated the need to justify this (£5 to £10) to members – in the form of benefits and information.

- CS felt that in the past an attractive benefit for members was the discount offered at the local bike shops, but with a number of closures this was not now the case. HP wondered if other related shops, such as Cotswold, could be considered, but MR thought this was not possible because these were national stores and they would not offer local discounts;
- Membership of CCC attracted a reduced cost to joining Cycling UK;
- Increase the newsletter frequency to bi-monthly and adding that Cycling Matters was available on the web site, in addition to the various outlets;
- Publicise the success of infrastructure improvements;
- Press releases.

Agreed the emphasis to be greater at membership renewal times.

The discussion then moved on to how to make it easier to provide the information. CS explained the benefits of the plug in 'MailPoet'. MailPoet enables users to easily create newsletters, automated emails and post notifications.

Note: plug in - a software component that adds a specific feature to an existing computer program.

Action: CS to trial the use of MailPoet.

6. T-Shirt and Tabard Asset

TJ raised the issue of the existing stock of 'T-Shirts and Tabards' for sale, currently held by SB, but no sales having taken place for a number of years. SB explained that the intention was to sell these at cycle or cycle related events where CCC had a stall, but there had not been any opportunities over these years. It was agreed to leave things as they were until an opportunity arose to try to sell them.

CH mentioned a forthcoming event in Mickle Trafford - a family cycle ride on Sunday 31st March, to raise money for 'Children Today'. It was felt, however, the event, although good to support, was not suitable for selling T-Shirts.

7. Living Streets

TJ had agreed to contact 'Living Streets' (LS), to be followed by, hopefully, a meeting with Kristy Littler of CWaC (the latter still to be arranged). With the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) now forming an essential requirement for local authorities being successful in bidding for funding from central government, it was felt that CCC should look into the walking side of the LCWIP.

After a protracted period TJ eventually made contact through a combination of email and telephone conversation – summarised as follows:

- A long-standing UK charity (around since 1929), with the majority of funding from the Department for Transport and a lesser extent Local Authorities;
- Their main activity is currently in the major cities, Manchester being the closest, but there are rural groups - Norfolk being one example;
- Takes in vulnerable users and cycling;

- Inspire people to walk more;
- Provide a better walking environment;
- Walking to school a major ambition, particularly primary school children. Setting up zones within which children are encouraged to walk. Outside the zone parents delivering children to school drop them off at the edge of the zone , they then walk the remaining distance to school;

Key issues of which a number overlap with CCC's campaigns

- Pavement parking – a particular issue for disabled users and people with prams;
- Air pollution – the same concerns and issues as the cycling community;
- 20mph - (they don't appear to use the words 20's Plenty);
- Shared spaces - walkers, cyclists and vehicles (Frodsham St is Chester's example of this);
- Would like to see more cycling;
- Safer crossings – more crossings and an adjustment of crossing times to suit the over sixty fives and young children.
- Infrastructure Improvements – dropped kerbs a simple example;

The larger cities, London, Manchester, Bristol etc are particularly ahead of the game and appointing LC&W Commissioners or Champions, Chris Boardman being Manchester's Walking and Cycling Commissioner – combining the two modes.

- Their involvement is usually initiated by a local group lobbying the local authority, but then bringing in LS to assist;
- Some of the larger cities have LS staff seconded to the local authority;
- LS have staff who undertake street surveys;
- They are conversant with the LCWIP and have a specific person who has the expertise in this document.
- They offered to assist in setting up a local group.

The question for CCC is how involved we become with the walking side of the LCWIP. There must be a greater effectiveness when combined.

Action: All to consider the above question and SB to enquire with his environment contacts as to whether they would be interested. TJ to contact Kristy Littler once again.

8. Password Protected Area for Contacts

CH suggested the building up of a directory of key contacts, within the council, together with how they fit in to CWaC's staff structure, basically an organisational chart. MR questioned whether this was a good idea, since she felt officers would accept being contacted by one person from CCC but not several. No conclusion was reached.

9. Any Other Business

CS had attended the revised Northgate Development exhibition, held in the Forum precinct, and had been informed that CCC would be invited to a consultation meeting regarding the development. TJ noted that this had also been case when the original plans for the development were published 2 years ago.

Date of next Meeting Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.