

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: , Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Roger Hones (RH) (Minutes), Ashley McCraight (AM), Simon Brown (SB) , Cathey Harrington (CH), Nic Siddle(NS), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH) Dennis Fiddler (DF) (visitor)

Apologies: Stephen Perry (SP), Peter Williams (PW), John Spain (JS), Andy Hamill (AH), John Violet (JV)

Introductions: Dennis Fiddler - business owner of Busters Cycle Hire (aka Chester e-bikes and bike hire) was introduced to those present at the meeting. He explained that he had rented a container at Saltney and was hiring e-bikes and bikes out mostly to visitors on holiday to the area.

1. Minutes of January 2020 meeting

Minutes approved

Action: CS to post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

- *None - all subjects covered in main Agenda.*

3. Air Quality Action Plan response

A degree of success had been achieved in publicising CCC's consultation response via a Press Release and Social Media. AM had spoken to Martin Doyle, Environmental Protection Officer at CWaC, who had told them that the (Environmental) law has no teeth and that the Council is disempowered to act in a substantial way. During the recent Air Quality Action Plan Consultation AM discovered that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had not been automatically consulted. AM had put a number of questions to the CCG on this topic and these may be considered at the CCG's next meeting. CH reported that Christleton PC are currently monitoring Air Quality at the 'Hamburger' roundabout due to concerns. AM will advise CCC/CNC of the CCG's response to the questions and depending on the outcome it may be appropriate for CCC/CNC to discuss the topic of Clean Air Zones for Chester, Ellesmere Port and Frodsham, with respective local MPs

4. Chester University Student research project

A Chester University student, Cherise Ze Tsen, is undertaking research for her dissertation project on Family cycling - "Exploring the impact of cycling in the early years from a family perspective". Her research is about families riding their bikes together, understanding the enjoyment of family biking together and the quality time spend together as a family. CCC has distributed a request from Cherise, in her own words, to all CCC members asking for parents (of children aged 3-8 years) to take part in an informal 20-30 minute interview. We hope that Cherise will provide us with a copy of her completed dissertation for Campaign use.

5. Critical Mass

The Critical Mass bike ride ("spontaneous assembly" of cyclists) was due to take place on Friday March 27th at 5.00pm from Town Hall. The date has now been put back to Friday 24th April meeting at the Town Hall at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start. The ride is up to 8 miles and will finish at 7pm. It was again agreed that CCC would publicise the event and encourage as many as possible to take part.

6. Family Rides

The next Family Ride is planned for Saturday June 13th at 1.30pm. SP will keep us informed.

7. Mapping project

CWaC has supplied us with several copies of maps for each LCWIP area showing the existing cycling infrastructure in place. SP and SLB had agreed with Sean Traynor that, as a collaborative exercise, CCC members would help to audit the accuracy of mapped infrastructure and possibly use the maps as a tool for suggesting new infrastructure improvements in the future. Licensing issues prevent us from being able to upload any additional detail or layers to these maps and this will be discussed further with Transport Strategy to see if more editing rights can be granted for mutual benefit. However we feel that this is unlikely as very few Officers at CWaC have the authority to edit mapping. In the meantime CCC will continue to map cycle routes and various features of them to Google Maps which NS has been successfully doing recently. It was thought that CWaC Officers may be able to download our additions from Google Maps.

It was noted that Cambridge, Sheffield, Edinburgh and Glasgow are good at mapping cycling infrastructure. It was also mentioned that Transport for London's cycle maps can be downloaded to GPS from the TfL website.

Further mapping information concerning the Greenway has been forwarded by EM to Susstrans which has access to funding under 'Paths for All'. Members of the CCC mapping group will be auditing an area of the Chester on Wednesday 18th March starting from the Station at 11:00 and concentrating on the area bounded by the Greenway and Hoole Road.

8. Email- Dodo

CS advised that email sub groups could be set up for those CCC members of the Mapping group and Planning Group. It was agreed to do this.

9. Living Streets Conference

EM had obtained two free tickets (including lunch) to the Living Streets Conference on Friday 6th March in Manchester. SB would accompany her and it was agreed to meet their out of pocket expenses for travelling and parking.

10. Cycling fines

CS reported that several cyclists had been fined recently for cycling across Town Hall Square.

11. Chester Cathedral - Journey to Sustainability 12th - 18th May 2020

CCC has booked a stand space at this week long event. It was decided to agree a rota of coverage at next month's meeting. There is a possibility of cancellation of the event because of Coronavirus.

12. Planning group

TJ posed a number of questions: How far do we extend? Do we include TRO's? How do we influence the Highways Planning Officer? It was agreed that the 4 Planning group members (TJ,MR,NS and RH) would agree who would monitor which areas for planning applications. RH suggested more dialogue with relevant Ward Councillors and Parish Councils where they exist. There were currently Planning Applications for housing on the former BICC site at Helsby and a small re-development of 6 units at Tarvin. Neither made mention of cycling as a mode of transport or in respect of cycle storage. NS had sent in a comment to the Train Application on behalf of CCC. It was suggested that Cycle North Cheshire would respond to the Helsby Application. RH also offered to follow up a conversation which was had with Cllr. Matt Bryan at a Sustainability Forum about CCC being more automatically consulted on Planning Applications given the Climate Emergency.

13. Great Boughton Parish Council

CH had attended a Great Boughton Parish Council meeting by invitation. They are joining forces with 4 other Parish Councils (Christleton, Littleton, Huntingdon and Waverton) to review Cycling, Walking, Junction improvements, Section 106 spend and Air Quality. The PC expressed interest in becoming a Corporate member of CCC. SB proposed setting up a

Corporate membership category and charging £25 p.a. CH suggested that we could approach other Organisations/Companies to become Corporate members.

14. Cycling Matters

CH asked if we should increase the print run of Cycling Matters. After some discussion it was agreed not to for now but to monitor distribution more closely and look to social media to promote the newsletter. RH suggested looking at putting some out at Chester Station near the cycle storage area.

15. Mail Poet

We are currently using two versions of Mail Poet. This is causing problems as each version has lists for newsletters. CS proposed that we de-activate Poet 2 and that we should turn off the option which automatically unsubscribes people from newsletters.

16. Active Travel Forum

SLP said that Cycle North Cheshire intend to raise the issue that 'Live Well' does not mention Cycling. RH said that he had made a suggestion for an Agenda item on e-bikes and that this suggestion had been taken up for the April ATF. Steve Jones from Evans Cycles, Chester would be presenting the topic.

17. LCWIP

SLP reported that Junior Schools in Frodsham had submitted comments to the LCWIP consultation and that it was understood that CWaC had received 600 responses in total during the consultation period.

Meeting closed at 9:45 pm.

Next meeting date to be advised

Post meeting note: Due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of Coronavirus our next meeting will be conducted online. The date will be confirmed on the website and via the CCC Activists email list