

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 1st November 2017 at the Custom House Pub

Present: Simon Brown (SB), Peter Williams (PW), Cathey Harrington (CH) Chair, Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), John Spain (JS), Sue Steeland (SS), Monica Robinson (MR) Notes

Ian Huffer(IH) attended the meeting as a visitor with particular interest in the possibilities for another crossing (cycle/footbridge) of the River Dee.

Apologies: Stephen Perry (SP), Craig Steeland (CS), Helen Southall (HS), Arnold Wilkes (AW)

1. **Minutes of October 2017 meeting** – agreed as a correct record

Action : to be posted on website (CS)

2. **Matters Arising**

Cycle Parking Chester Station

Action: SB confirmed he is ready to print off leaflets and place on cars parked on the 2 car parks nearest station.

Rail & Ride Leaflets

CS and KT have reviewed 2 of the rides which proved useful following major road development completed in locality. SB confirmed that when all complete he will approach Sally Buttifant for funding and arrange re-prints with Sutton Silver.

Action: MR to review final route and report back.

Letter of the Month - SB confirmed he had written October letter.

Action: KT will do November.

Café.Com in Hoole

Action: SB to create suitable poster and circulate for comments.

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

SS confirmed that CSF is considering various areas of interest, such as air quality, sustainable transport and fracking. A Cycling Subgroup has been established and has a particular interest in the bridge over the River Dee. She explained that CSF is keen to push for the bridge scheme as a keynote project. She also confirmed that the Cycling Group of the CSF will meet on 13 November, and that CS has kindly agreed to do a presentation on behalf of CCC at a meeting due to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 23 November.

TJ reported back from his meeting with Cllr Richard Beacham and Chris Matheson MP which was in large part an introduction to the issue of a third river crossing for Chris Matheson. He questioned whether the previously proposed Connect2 Bridge was in the right location. Campaign members had fed back to TJ prior to the meeting with their ideas on the subject - no one location was felt to be ideal. TJ explained that there would have to be a case for commuter journeys as well as leisure ones and highlighted that a transportation study to identify the need would have to be undertaken. SB observed there appears to be a lack of strategic thinking by the Authority.

IH (Great Boughton Parish Cllr) attended the meeting as an observer. He is a member of the CSF and was interested in learning what CCC views were on the subject. He agreed with SB and felt that visionary thinking would be needed to achieve a scheme of this nature.

CH proposed that we support their enthusiasm.

Action: TJ to write to Cllr Beacham and Chris Matheson encouraging them to press for a transportation feasibility study and confirming CCC will support their efforts in achieving this aim.

4. **Crane Bank Development** – KT had recently visited the site and confirmed that Watkin Jones will be putting a footpath along the river front of the new development from The Cop through to the canal side. There are no plans to upgrade the canal path back up to the road and it was noted that there are steps to negotiate at that point. Dawn Beech from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has confirmed there are no resources available to fund a bridge or any upgrade of this 'missing link'. TJ confirmed he had written again to Karl Farrow to check the plans for the status of this riverside path/access to other side of canal etc and is still awaiting a reply. Members agreed that an application for funding from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) might be a positive way forward.
5. **A540** – PW reported that the Two Mills junction improvements had cost £537,000 for the provision of new shared use footpaths 150 m either side of the cross roads and a crossing to the Eureka cafe on the A540. No funding was available from CWaC to continue upgrading the footway further down the road. PW had tried to get Chris Boardman to help out with this project but so far there has been no progress on that. A general discussion took place about successes in Wirral in achieving funding and highlighted the lack of it in CWaC.
6. **Upper Northgate St road layout** – Members present highlighted both good and poor features of the new road layout (including removal of lights and replacement with Zebra crossings) at the top of George St, Canal Ct and Upper Northgate St.
Action: Members to email comments to MR who would collate them and forward to Andy Coward at Highways.
7. **University Cycle Tube Map** - A draft of the new map was circulated by HS and members were invited to make comments/amendments etc.
Action: MR meeting with HS, Tammy Hunt (University) and the graphic designer on 2 Nov to make amendments. The next draft will be circulated when ready.
8. **Treasurer's Report** - TJ confirmed that the current balance is £907 and with the winter edition of Cycling Matters this reduces to £737 for the end of 2017. Outgoings for 2018 are likely to be £915 taking account of all planned issues of Cycling Matters. He confirmed that sponsorship is vital if we hope to keep up the number of magazines published each year (the cost per issue is £170). IH suggested it might be worth approaching Personal Injury Lawyers.
Action: CH agreed to approach various organisations.
9. **Membership** - MR confirmed that members are still renewing. There was a brief discussion about the level of subs in light of the Treasurer's report but it was agreed to leave any decision until the AGM.
10. **Bikmo demonstration** - CH reported back from the demonstration of Swedish designed airbag cycle helmet currently being marketed in the UK. Bikmo, a local Cycle Insurance Company in Chester run by cycling enthusiasts and offering specialist insurance for people with valuable cycles and cycle equipment, promoted the event. The helmet is largely aimed at the urban commuter, is costly but has a good safety record. CH confirmed she would write an article on the subject for Cycle Matters.

11. **CWaC Low Emission Strategy** - SS confirmed that air quality has been discussed at the CSF and there is now a Low Emissions Strategy on the CWaC website ready for public consultation. The Authority is taking legal advice to enforce proposed actions in the light of seriously polluted hotspots in the Borough. The Boughton gyratory and Chester city centre being among the problem areas. All agreed we should individually read and comment on the Strategy as well as sending a response from CCC as a group. This subject had earlier been highlighted by CH who circulated data from Donald Reade (CWaC consultant in Public Health) with some figures which were very limited and not up to date. CH confirmed she will follow this up and try to get further information.

Action: All to consider commenting on Low Emissions Strategy.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Date of next meeting: 6th December 2017 at the Custom House pub on Watergate Street.