

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 7th July 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Ken Thomas (KT), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Spain (JS), Monica Robinson (MR), Stephen Perry (SP), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Cathey Harrington (CH) Eileen Morgan (EM), John Violet (JV), Ashley McCraight (AM), Trevor Jenkins (TJ) (Minutes).

Apologies: Peter Williams (PW), John Holiday (JH), Sue Steeland (SS), Simon Brown (SB) Ali Dore (AD).

1. Minutes of July 2019 meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Action: CS to post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

A Family Cycle Rides

It was reported that JS had arrived to assist with the last published ride, but there were no participants and no other guide attended. It was agreed that this was unfortunate and due to a lack of communication. Apologies were made to JS, but it was agreed that CCC were committed to carry on, with MR expressing her willingness to continue.

B Cycling Matters Summer Issue

These have now been distributed.

C Highway changes near the new Aldi on Parkgate Road

SB was to draft a news release, put photos on Facebook & Twitter & email CWaC climate champion Councillor Matt Bryan. It was thought this had not been done, but could not be confirmed due to SB's absence.

D Cycle To The Cinema

TJ reiterated his concerns about the viability of the proposal, but generally the idea was supported by attendees. CS clarified some details, confirming that it would only be one film selected from the three trailers in CS's initial email.

Action: CS to clarify further details and costings based on a ticket prices of £7 or £8.

Post Meeting Note: CS has now circulated further details to all activists.

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

The action of JS to contacting JH, who may be able to advise who to contact was not done, but MR noted that Sustrans were responsible and (CS) suggested contacting mary.seaton@sustrans.org.uk

F A51 Road Scheme between Tarvin and Vicars Cross

Roger Hones had presented a paper at a council meeting on the project and TJ had circulated notes from his conversation with Kristy Littler, CWaC's head of transport strategy.

G Greenway Extension Concept.

Steve Pemberton circulated a bulletin pushing for an extension from the end of the existing Greenway to Barrow.

H Family Cycle Ride Leaflets

SB had supplied the Bike Factory with further copies.

I Cycle Stands for Christleton Parish Hall

It was agreed to offer the ones located at Blacon. MR had contacted Andrew Coward (CWaC highways) who explained that some old but rusty ones were available for free, other galvanised ones would have to be paid for.

3. LCWIP

SP lead a wide-ranging discussion on CWaC's development of their LCWIP. He had circulated notes from the Inception Meeting held on 22nd July. Consultants WSP have been appointed by CWaC to undertake delivery of the LCWIP.

The LCWIP is to be Borough wide but essentially focussed on the urban areas of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Winsford and Northwich, with a second tier of Neston and Helsby/Frodsham. Additional focus to be placed on access to education, employment, hospitals, tourism and transport links.

WSP Project Manager for the work is Lucy Low (LL). SP has arranged a meeting with LL on Monday 19th August at the council offices in Ellesmere Port, the objective being to ensure Lucy is fully informed about the work CCC undertakes in the Chester area and also to make her aware of the specific documents available on the CCC website.

The proposed list of attendees to be limited to 6 maximum, suggested names – SP, CS, PW, CH, JV, TJ.

One of the items discussed was the CCC Cycle Infrastructure Improvement spread sheet. EM made the point that although the suggested improvements may be a benefit for most cyclists, for disabled users this may not be the case. It was agreed that EM should visit the locations but accompanied by a member of CCC who was familiar with the Chester road layout.

SP to circulate a proforma (aimed at stakeholders) with the responses providing feedback for WSP.

CH noted that we should mention 'road space allocation' and also ask for examples of LCWIPs already produced. JV mentioned that Warrington had some good examples improvements.

4. Picnic in the Park

CH reported on the 'Picnic in the Park', which took place at the Countess of Chester Country Park on 3rd August. A lovely day, SB having set up a publicity stand and together with CH a few contacts were made, including Will Parson, CWaC officer leading on the climate emergency. This was a useful contact since, to date, the only known person dealing with this issue was Councillor Matt Bryan. Other useful contacts were Mike and Nicola Perrins, graphics specialists, who could prove useful to CCC.

5. Kingsway Summer Festival & Skate Park Opening

This event is to take place on 25th August, with a view to promoting community engagement and officially open the recently completed skate park. It is being organised by Ali Dore of Sustrans (and a member of CCC). Ali would like any assistance available, particularly in setting up the gazebo. CCC to take along information to promote the campaign.

Action: all if available.

6. Chester Racecourse Bike Stands.

CS has received a positive response to his communication, regarding the lack of cycle stands at the Racecourse. This has resulted in a (to be arranged) meeting with the Racecourse General Manager, Andrew Morris.

MR noted that the recent outline planning application for a significant development at the racecourse the 'Travel Plan', laid out comprehensive details of cycle parking provision.

Action: CS to arrange meeting with Andrew Morris.

7. Westminster Bridge

CH raised an issue with the traffic lights on the canal side of the bridge. Currently, if a cyclist is crossing from the Hoole side, (cars not permitted) the traffic lights on the canal side show red for both motorist and cyclist, whereas cyclists travelling from the canal side could have a permanent green light, since there is sufficient width of road for two-way cycling.

MR pointed out that in past discussions with CWaC Highways they had noted that any work on traffic lights/communications was expensive. JV suggested that a fixed green light with a cycle sign would be sufficient and probable less costly. It was generally agreed to pursue the issue.

Action: TJ to add to Infrastructure Improvement spread sheet.

8. Tow Path Diversion

CH had earlier circulated photographs of canal tow path diversion signs, which were probably placed when the tow path was closed for repair work, but are now obsolete.

Action: Report this to CWaC

9. Active Travel Forum

- Colin Watson is working with the council looking at possible quick fixes to cycling issues.
- There is to be a presentation on Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) at the next AFT meeting on 17th September, given by a CWaC officer. Comments were made in the meeting that it was never clear when a developer made a 'contribution', where this money was allocated.

10. Any Other Business

- 1 AM noted that one of the stages of this years 'Tour of Britain' cycle race had a stage taking in the Wirral and Chester (11th September), and he would like to promote an awareness of the race for residents in the area. It was thought it could also be an opportunity to also promote CCC, particularly if CCC had a notable presence.

Post Meeting Note: CS has put a 'Tour of Britain' page on the CCC website.

- 2 A presentation is to be made by CWaC's Health and Well Being Place at the Innovation Centre (adjacent to the old County Hall) on Wednesday, August 14th, between 10:00 am and 11:30am.

Date of next Meeting Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.