

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 6 December 2017 at the Custom House Pub

Present: Simon Brown (SB), Peter Williams (PW), Trevor Jenkins (TJ)(minutes), Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), Monica Robinson (MR), Craig Steeland (CS)(Chair), Carol Convey (CC)

Apologies: Sue Steeland (SS), John Spain (JS), Cathey Harrington (CH), Stephen Perry (SP), Helen Southall (HS), Arnold Wilkes (AW)

- 1 Minutes of November 2017 meeting:** – agreed as a correct record
Action: to be posted on website (CS)

CS welcomed Carol to the meeting.

2 Matters Arising:

- **Cycle Parking Chester Station:** Placing leaflets on cars parked in the 2 car parks nearest the station - still outstanding. **Action:** SB.
- **Rail & Ride Leaflets:** All 3 rides have been reviewed, but SB still to confirm costs of re-prints with Sutton Silver before approaching Sally Buttifant for funding. **Action:** SB
- **Letter of the Month:** KT's November letter to be written for December. **Action:** KT
- **Café.com in Hoole:** Poster and receipt of comments complete.
- **Upper Northgate St Road Layout ;** There was a limited response from members to the new layout, but the ones received were positive. **Action:** MR to contact Andrew Coward at CWaC Highways with the comments.
- **University Cycle Tube Map:** MR reported that the Tube map was now published, but with a limited print run, and mainly intended for in-house use. Print runs to be undertaken as and when required. Thoughts were that most students would use their phones to access the digital version. CCC's aim is to put the digital version on the web site. It was noted that errors did exist but would be rectified for the next version.

3 Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF):

CS confirmed that he will be giving a presentation to a meeting of the CSF group in January 2018 on behalf of CCC, and that the Cycling Sub Group are very interested in pushing for cycling infrastructure improvements. He also reported that the Chester Cycle Master Plan, produced by consultants Steer Davies Gleave in 2010, is now circulating amongst the CSF Cycling Subgroup. It was agreed that this was a good in terms of making a greater number of people aware of what was needed in Chester.

4 Crane Bank Development: Update

- KT spoke to WREN (Waste Recycling Environment), receiving a positive response, but the initial advice is a preference for a joint submission with match funding. A need for CWaC to be the partner.
- KT reported on a conversation with Julie Sharman (senior Canal and Rivers Trust director) establishing that C&RT would be interested in discussing the options.
- KT is also trying again to contact Dawn Beech from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to discuss access through their maintenance track, which currently links the highway with the river and presents an obstacle to the proposed cycle path.
- TJ has received an email from CWaC's Karl Farrow, which effectively endorses CCC's aims for establishing a riverside connection. Kieran Collins has also said he would try to assist in obtaining funding for the project, if he could. However, no discussions have taken place with regard to be match funding.
- TJ also reported on information from a friend who had successfully obtained funding from WREN, for refurbishment of a community centre in Bollington. His advice was that the proposal had to demonstrate that the improvement would benefit the community and help increase usage. He felt match funding was essential ,and from the organization who would take ownership.
- TJ agreed, in a telephone conversation with the Canal and Rivers Trust (C&RT), that it would be beneficial to hold a site meeting, this now probably to take place in the New Year.

5 A540:

PW reported that the A540 Two Mills junction improvement was nearly complete, with a publicity day to be held on 10th January by Highways England. He expressed disappointment with CWaC's response to the lack of funding for further improvement to the A540; the current scheme has limited benefit for A540 cyclists. He also mentioned the web site - Crashmap.uk - which shows all recorded accidents at a particular location. Accidents on the A540, including Two Mills Junction, can clearly be seen.

6 Web Site

CS reported that he had completed an update of the CCC web site. The particular 'permalink structure' (web page naming) has been around for a long time, and the update has produced a new format to simplify a search and make the site user-friendlier. This was quite a risky procedure, which could have affected the Google ranking. Thanks went to Craig for his continuing work maintaining the web site to a level comparable with most professional sites.

7 Canal Closure:

A discussion took place regarding the canal towpath closure in the vicinity of the King Charles Tower and the fact that the path was likely to be closed for a long period of time. There appears to be no regard for users by CWaC, with no signs to indicate a diversion, or for how long the path will be closed. It was thought that because of it being in the vicinity of the King Charles Tower, a listed structure likely to involve archaeologists, this could complicate matters. A suggestion was tabled to write a

letter on behalf of CCC to publicise both the closure and the lack of information for users. A further suggestion was to report it on the CWaC pot hole reporting web site.

Action: All to consider reporting it on CWaC's pot hole reporting site.

8 Family Cycle Rides

CC explained that her attendance was to enquire about organizing family cycle rides. Her 9 year old daughter was keen to ride but inexperienced and happier cycling with a group. Suggestions were:-

- through the CCC web site;
 - Sustrans – Jayne Rogers is trying to organize family rides,
 - Cycling UK - Sue Booth
- Agreed that insurance and a risk assessment would be needed and that the necessary forms could be obtained through Cycling UK or Sustrans.
 - JH asked about Bikeability available to at CC's daughters school (St Werburghs, Hoole) but this is for skill development training for pupils around the 10 – 12 years of age.
 - Agreed that rides could initially be restricted to the Greenway - Hoole to Meadow Lea Café return is about 5miles with a round trip to Shotton returning alongside the River Dee is about 15miles.

In summary – research needed, conditions for organized rides - when, where, how long, what age suitable etc, publicity.

9 Email Distribution List

SB has agreed to establish a group of participants who are happy to be included on a set distribution list. This has been prompted by the request from Andrew Burwood to be removed from the CCC distribution list, together with a past request from Andy Scargill not to have his email address on view to all.

Action: SB

10 The New Hoole Coop

The issue of no cycle stands now resolved, with spaces for six cycles provided. SB thought the original problem was due to a change of use application submitted by the original medical centre, not the Coop. The application form did not indicate who would be the new occupant. TJ thought this should not make any difference since the application form and the Transport Statement clearly indicated provision for cycle spaces. However, on looking back at the application, drawings submitted at a later date possibly did not pick up the original requirement for cycle spaces.

11 Wrexham Road

TJ reported that he had received a request for a meeting with Vectos, the developer's transportation consultants, to discuss CCC's objection to the development proposal. This was to be preceded by a meeting with Councillors – Richard Beecham and Karen Shore, (the latter holding the Environment portfolio) to discuss resurrecting the Connect2 Bridge. As previously reported TJ suggested that a Transportation Study was necessary linking the two proposals – and others. This should look at future growth, housing, employment, travel patterns and should also consider current growth in traffic congestion, pollution and health.

Action: TJ, MR, PW to attend the Vectos meeting.

12 Sponsorship

Following last months item, which established that sponsorship is vital to fund Cycling Matters in 2018, a discussion took place regarding sources. TJ reported on a discussion with Nick Moores of 69 Cycles who stated that a lot of cycle shops were closing and both 69 Cycles and The Bike Factory were not having the best of years and he thought that Evans Cycles were having a particularly bad year. It may, therefore, be that if CCC were thinking of going back to Cycle shops for funding, they could have difficulty. SB raised the option of approaching Personal Injury Lawyers, as raised by Ian Huffer at last months meeting, CCC could obtain full sponsorship for the year from just one source, making things much easier. However, it could be felt by certain members that this gave the wrong message. Agreed for all to think about it and discuss at the next meeting.

Action: All

Date of next meeting: 3rd January 2018 at the Custom House pub on Watergate Street.