

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 5th December 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), John Holiday (JH), Monica Robinson (MR), Stephen Perry (SP) (Minutes), Peter Williams (PW), John Violet (JV), Uwe Embshoff (UE), Simon Brown (SB), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Ashley McCraight (AM),

Apologies: Cathey Harrington (CH), Dave Parry (DP), Helen Pulford (HP), Ken Thomas (KT), Sue Steeland (SS), Arnold Wilkes (AW),

1 Minutes of November 2018 meeting:

Agreed as a correct record.

Action: CS to post minutes on the website.

2 Matters Arising:

- **Blacon Bikes in the Old Bacon Library:** SP confirmed that he has been in communication with Cllr Carol Gahan who has shared her perspective on the need to vacate and redevelop the Blacon Old Library site. SP expressed a view that if no location can be found in the retail areas of Blacon, the Blacon Adventure Playground would be the best option to relocate Blacon Bikes
- **Riverside Board Walk:** CS explained that as a result of recent email liaison with Cllr Bob Rudd it has been confirmed that the boardwalk will be repaired where structural problems exist and resurfaced to remove the current slipping hazard
- **Review of Doctors Surgeries cycling facilities:** SP has had no reply from Handbridge Medical Centre reference their review of patient travel to their surgery but will try again to get a reply through his own doctor and will then (in January) contact all other practice managers as proposed . Action SP
- **Ellesmere Port Town Centre:** PW has attended recent consultation meetings and raised the point that the current proposals include no reference to Active Travel requirements. We now need to wait and see how CW&C respond.

3 Active Travel Forum - SP pre-meeting with Lisa Harris

SP reported on his meeting with Lisa Harris (LH)(Director of Places) held on 19th November, also attended by Kristy Littler (KL)(Head of Strategic Transport), Jamie Matthews (JM)(Transport Strategy Planner), Cllr Richard Beacham (RB), Colin Watson (CW)(Chester Sustainability Forum) and Cllr Louise Gittins (LG) by phone link.

It was expected that the CW&C representatives would provide clear feedback on the Chester Cycling Strategy presented on 27th September. This did not happen. JM had not read the presentation. LH stated that in general the CW&C representatives were happy with the recommendations made. To move things forward to present at the next ATF CW agreed to annotate his recommendations to indicate those that could be actioned relatively easily, those which are supported but will require significant funding and those which should be noted but are more complex and contentious.

JM confirmed his proposal to initiate a LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) across the CW&C borough that would be outlined in a presentation to the December ATF. It was also understood that presentations would

be made at the ATF to highlight where Highways can support Active Travel opportunities and another to identify what Section 106 may be available.

4. **Active Travel Forum - 3rd December 2018**

SLP and PW, with further input from SP, summarised the key points from the ATF meeting as follows.

Presentations were given:

- Chester Cycling Strategy recommendations by Colin Watson. CW was thanked for his hard work and it is assumed that his recommendations will be taken into the LCWIP but no more specific response was given to his proposals
- LCWIP proposal by Jamie Matthews. This presentation highlighted Cycling related projects that have been undertaken by CW&C in the last 10-12 years and led on to a recommendations to initiate a LCWIP across the borough as soon as possible. It was agreed that some form of Active Travel committee within CW&C will meet next week and agree how to move forward
- Highways Presentation by Kieran Collins - a well presented sales pitch by KC but with very little insight into what his team can do to promote Active Travel
- Sustrans Presentation by Paul Brufell, explaining their current review of all NCN routes in terms of:
 - Safety and levels of traffic
 - Access
 - Signage
 - Surface condition

Attendance at the ATF meeting was disappointing compared to the previous meetings.

CW&C confirmed that they would use external support to help create the LCWIP, which would take about 6 months to complete, and under questioning Ian Ashworth stated that they will involve partner organisations and interest groups in the preparation but how this will happen was not fully clarified.

It was also commented that the ATF needs more input from active travel groups in other geographical areas and from walking groups in Chester.

There was no input at the ATF to highlight where Highways can support Active Travel opportunities and no report back on Section 106 that may be available.

Consequent discussions at the CCC meeting agreed the following:

- That we should take the initiative to get involved and not wait to be invited
- That we should make contact with other local interest groups and try to get them involved alongside the CCC, including:
 - Vision Support – JV to contact
 - Dial House – SP – via Helen Pulford
 - Living Streets – TJ
- That SP and SLP should write a joint letter to Ian Ashworth (CW&C Director leading the ATF) with our proposals to be involved, once we have received feedback from the above

Action: SP and SLP

See extra notes on Living Streets submitted by TJ, in the appendix.

5 Radio Interview

This was completed on the canal side site by CS, and it was agreed that once the recording had been on the BBC Merseyside site for 28 days it could be downloaded onto the CCC website for as long as required. However despite attempts via email CS has heard nothing more from the interviewer.

Action: CS to progress

6 Bikes on trains

JH reported that a recent European Parliament dictate has stated that in future all new rail rolling stock must have the provision for 8 bikes per train.

7 Upton Parish Council

The parish council has contacted the CCC to see if we can put forward ideas on how to spend some available money to improve Cycling Facilities in the Upton parish. Various ideas were discussed at the meeting and CS is trying arrange a suitable date for TJ and SB to meet the council representatives.

Action: CS

8 Northgate Development Consultation Meeting

MR attended one presentation and SP and TJ attended another. The Phase 1 proposals (Storyhouse was phase 0) have been modified as they no longer expect to attract a major departmental store nor move the Moat House hotel. Current Phase 1 plans include the conversion of the old library into a walk through arcade leading to the market square, in front of a new building housing the new market on the ground floor, a cinema above and a 7 floor multi-storey car park to the rear overlooking St Martin's Way. Detailed cycling facilities were not discussed at this stage.

9 Letter of the month

Letters have recently been submitted and published by PW and SB. It was agreed that UE would write a letter in January expressing his views on cycling in Chester as a newcomer to the City in comparison with his home town in Germany.

Action: UE

10 Gorse Stacks and Crane Bank

After the last meeting SP decided to write an email to Andy Coward (AC) in CW&C Highways stating that CCC were planning some form of demonstration at Gorse Stacks to highlight the risk to cyclists with the current highways arrangements. In response a meeting on site was organised with AC, MR, SP, and the CW&C project manager for the Gorse Stack bus station. The latter was completely unaware of the problem, but was very supportive when he observed traffic moving into the lane assigned to cyclists when leaving the shared path.

Consequently AC agreed to add an advisory cycle lane from the end of the shared path to a point halfway along the motor parking bays opposite the bus stands. This will also include one or two cycle images painted onto the highway and hopefully one additional arrow to emphasise the two way section. This work will be completed as soon as the weather will allow.

AC also confirmed that the designation of the new shared path along the pavement by the new Crane Street development is in progress with a hope to have this complete in January 2019.

11 Meeting Planning

CS raised the question of the date for the January meeting and it was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 9th, instead of Wednesday 2nd.

CS also reminded the meeting that we have the AGM in February which will require all officers to prepare reports to this meeting. It was agreed that we should try to encourage members to take over from those that have held their officer roles for several years and it was agreed that we would address this issue in a newsletter.

Action: SB

Finally it was agreed that we should contact the Old Customs House staff to confirm the meeting dates for 2019 and the requirement for food at the AGM.

Action: MR and TJ

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30pm at Custom House Pub meeting room.

Appendix – Living Streets Information from TJ

Living Streets summary:

- A UK Charity for everyday walking;
- It has been around since 1929;
- Takes in vulnerable users and cycling;
- Inspire people to walk more;
- A better walking environment;
- Walking to school a major ambition.

Key issues

- 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);
- Walking and Cycling – they want to see more cycling;
- Walking to school – one of their big ambitions, more children, particularly primary, walking to school to try to reverse the current decline;
- Safer crossings – more crossings and an adjustment of crossing times to suit the over sixty fives and young children.

It appears to be the larger cities, London, Manchester, Bristol etc who 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.