

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Stephen Perry (SP) (Chair), Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS), Monica Robinson (MR)(Minutes), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Holiday (JH), Peter Williams (PW), Roger Hones (RH), John Violet (JV), Ashley McCraight (AM), Andy Hamill (AH)

Apologies: John Spain (JS), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Helen Pulford (HP), Simon Brown (SB), Cathey Harrington (CH). Sue Steeland (SS), Helen Pulford (HP), Nic Siddle(NS)

New member Andy Hamill was welcomed to the meeting.

1. Minutes of November 2019 meeting

The meeting minutes were accepted with one minor amendment.

Action: CS to amend and post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

EM to write to Transport for Wales to send her feedback regarding difficulties experienced in using the bike racks and other facilities at the railway station.

3. Report back on various issues

- CH had confirmed that the offer of cycle stands for the Christleton Parish Hall has been referred to the Trustees of the Hall for their consideration.
- The Cyclomania Yahoo eGroup is now defunct. All correspondence referring to the forum needs to be amended.
- Winter copies of Cycling Matters were available and distributed to members present.
- CH confirmed she had attended the last Sustainability Forum meeting. On the agenda were a presentation from Peel Holdings about the Ince marshes, the local Greenpeace group's outreach work on Schools Engagement, and an announcement about Chester Community Energy's current share offer which is going well - all are encouraged to consider supporting this as some of the profits go to fund other community energy schemes. Finally details of a local organisation called Sticky Exhibits (a volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation based in Chester) which specialises in creative resources to engage people with environmental issues are asking for people who use the Co-Op to choose them as their community cause (<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/41151>).

4. Greenway Closure

CS has put details on the website regarding the Sustrans work on the Greenway which requires temporary closure including a better suggestion for the route diversion. In addition the Greenway wildlife plan is available to view on the website and Sustrans (Mary Seaton) would welcome comments from users.

5. Cycling Infrastructure Improvement List

SP reported back on a useful and encouraging meeting with the new Head of Transport Strategy at CWaC – Sean Traynor (ST) – and Jamie Matthews (Officer project managing the LCWIP) ST would be happy to work with CCC on small to medium term improvements and agreed that we need one point of contact at the council. He also agreed that they would have to address areas throughout the Borough and hoped to cover both Maintenance and Capital projects. Another meeting was arranged for 16 January (prior to the next AFT meeting) and SLP agreed to join SP on behalf of the Campaign.

Our existing list of infrastructure improvements needs to be reviewed before then. Anyone able to check the list for accuracy or to add additional projects was asked to feedback to SP in good time before the meeting on 16 Jan. (list is available on the website). JV advised that there is guidance from the DfT on price of works. JV also agreed that at the next AFT meeting he would ask what % of the transport budget will be allocated to Cycling and Walking in 2020/2021.

Action: All to check and send amendments to SP as soon as possible.

6. LCWIP

SLP reported back from the last meeting and confirmed that a draft plan would be coming out after the election. It appears that Chester has a number of smaller projects compared to Frodsham/Helsby corridor which at 10km is the longest stretch. The consultants have gone through a thorough process and have included comments and feedback from both CNC and CCC members involved in the audits. The report is likely to be out for consultation from 16th December for a period of 8 weeks. CNC plan to publicise the process in their area to encourage local residents to engage with the consultation – the external consultants WSP indicated that positive feedback from communities would be helpful. It will be important to get a commitment from CWaC about what they plan to do going forward. All agreed with AM that this is essentially good news.

7. Accessibility to Greenway – Paths for All

EM fed back from her recent meeting with Kearson Wise (Sustrans – Paths for All) SP joined her to show Kearson the difficulties she has experienced in accessing the Greenway from local streets and paths etc including crossing busy roads such as Hoole Road and attempting to pass through badly designed barriers e.g. at ‘The Narrows’ park entrances. EM was asked to write a blog for Paths for All which she has agreed to do. Campaign members who are trained to lead rides and have first aid qualifications were asked to help out with any future rides planned for groups using accessible cycles. EM to advise dates and times in due course.

8. Website

CS confirmed there is now a link on the website to Paths for All.

A new Climate Emergency webpage has been added.

CS has upgraded Word Press to improve the website.

1 request has been received for bike safety checks. However as the person concerned was not a member they have been advised to join first.

CS recently attended an Extinction Rebellion meeting where a proposal to start Critical Mass Rides again in Chester was made. They are keen to establish how much support there might be for this – agreed to discuss at our March meeting. CS agreed to conduct a doodle poll to see what support there is among Campaign activists.

Action: CS to set up doodle poll and all to reply.

9. Section 106 Money

JV advised that the Saughton Camp development provided £4.5million for Active Travel including public transport. So far £1 million has been spent improving the bridge over bypass and creating some cycleways near the development. CWaC say the balance must wait until the outcome of the LCWIP is known. Apparently the affected area is a large wedge covering the east of Chester. JV advised £100,000 of improvements to resurface the canal towpath to Christleton and Waverton was something he planned to discuss with the parish councils.

Action: Agreed that SP should try and arrange a meeting (to include SLP and RH) with Sean Traynor to discuss the issue, after the next ATF meeting.

10. Air Quality Action Plan consultation – Urgent attention

AM provided copies of CNC’s draft response to the CWaC Chester City Air Quality Plan – 2020-2022 for the Campaign to consider supporting. It is a very thorough and well researched document which clearly highlights the important issues around poor air quality in several locations in Chester which are currently above legal limits, as well as other parts of

the Borough. Recognising the start made by the Council to identify the levels of air pollution in the Borough and publishing their Low Emission Strategy 2018-21 it is clear that the Plan of Action to address these issues is not ambitious enough to make any significant difference. The impact on Public Health is shown on the graphs attached to the response.

A group of doctors will be responding to this consultation separately and SLP confirmed that CNC will be encouraging their local community to respond. CCC will consider this matter at the January meeting and firm up any joint response.

Action: All members please read the documents attached to these minutes and report back to AM before Christmas if possible.

Meeting closed just before 10pm.

Please Note: Date of next Meeting is Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.