

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Stephen Perry (SP), Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Peter Williams (PW), Roger Hones (RH), Ashley McCraight (AM), Simon Brown (SB) (Minutes) , Cathey Harrington (CH), Nic Siddle(NS), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), John Spain (JS), Ken Thomas (KT).

Apologies: Helen Pulford (HP), Sue Steeland (SS), Helen Pulford (HP), John Holiday (JH), Andy Hamill (AH), John Violet (JV)

Introductions: Nic Siddle, a new attender to campaign meetings was introduced to those present at the meeting

1. Minutes of December 2019 meeting

JH was present at December Meeting and should be included as attendee. The meeting minutes were accepted with JH being added as present.

Action: CS to post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

- *Transport for Wales (TFW) communication regarding difficulties experienced in using bike racks at stations-* EM reported she had written to TFW but had no response to date. SB suggested writing to relevant Welsh Government Assembly Members since the Government was responsible for letting the Welsh Railways Contract.

Action: SB to inform EM of Welsh Transport Minister contact details & EM to follow up

- *LCWIP response* – SLP reported that Cycle North Cheshire (CNC) had been extremely proactive about publicising the LCWIP consultation and translating the official consultation information suitable for a lay audience. This had been via specially produced leaflets, posters and on social media. There had been plenty of positive responses and engagement on social media, especially the ‘generalist’ local pages for their area. It was agreed that Chester Cycle Campaign (CCC) would develop an official response, and also ‘endorse’ the response from CNC once it was submitted.. It was also agreed that CCC would publicise the consultation, especially to the general public, rather than exclusively cycling related channels.

Action: SB to include the consultation on to the CCC Members’ bulletin and produce a simple summary document to present the key issues to the layperson. SB to publicise on CCC Twitter channel & CCC FB Page and all members to publicise via their personal social media accounts to relevant area-based Fora and pages.

- *Sn 106 money* – SP had arranged a meeting including SLP & RH with Sean Traynor (CWaC Strategic Transport Director) for Friday 10th Jan to discuss use of planning gain moneys.

Action: SP, SLP & RH to attend meeting and report back

3. Air Quality Action Plan response

AM had developed a response to the Air Quality Action Plan Consultation on behalf of CNC (previously circulated) which had been further amended in the light of some feedback from CCC members. CNC would be submitting the response before the deadline. After discussion it was agreed that CCC would submit a separate but slightly different response, whilst endorsing the CNC submission. John Violet had already confirmed he would be happy to endorse the document on behalf of Cycling UK. SB was concerned that peak time air quality figures were taken into account within the strategy, particularly since this was the time when children would be in close proximity to traffic flows (walking or cycling), or travelling in cars (where interior pollutant levels tended to be worse) when pollutant levels were at their most damaging to children. It was agreed that CCC would encourage as many responses as possible from the public on the understanding that numbers of responses are taken into account when evaluating consultation responses.

Action: KH and others from CCC to revise AM’s proposed submission, including a challenge to the statement that a modal change cycling was not considered not likely to contribute to

improvements in air quality. SB to share details of the Air Quality consultation on Social Media, especially in local Fora and local 'pages' which would reach those not necessarily involved in cycling. SB to include item in forthcoming CCC Bulletin.

4. Critical Mass

CS had liaised with Chester Extinction Rebellion (Chester XR) who were keen to initiate an ongoing series of Critical Mass cycle rides in Chester. The Campaign agreed to support the action which was due to begin on Friday March 27th at 5.00pm from Town Hall. The action would be a "spontaneous assembly" of cyclists. It was agreed CCC would publicise the event and encourage as many as possible to take part.

Action: SB to include item in forthcoming CCC Bulletin.

5. Mollington Golf Course

SP reported his discussions with developers (Howarth Ltd) who had recently purchased the disused Mollington Golf Course. This had effectively become an extension to the Countess of Chester Country Park. The developers were interested to develop planting schemes alongside the construction of a network of footpaths and cycleways on the land. This is at an early stage, but SP would give updates as relevant.

6. Family Rides

SP reported back from the Active Travel cycling sub group which was also attended by EM. Ali Dore, (Sustrans Active Travel Project Worker) was currently working with The Arches School (Blacon) and Newton Primary School to encourage greater use of the Greenway by children and parents. Ali was keen to develop 4 Family Rides over the Summer and was looking to CCC to organise and promote them. SP also reported that Ali was also planning a series of survey and information events to take place on the Greenway to encourage different classes of users to use the path with more consideration. These would be taking place actually on the Greenway and Ali was looking for assistance from CCC to do this. It was agreed that the Campaign would support this and when appropriate to encourage and invite members to play an active part in the initiative.

7. A540

Following the observation by NS of apparent improvement activity taking place on the footway along the A540 near the Eureka Cafe, PW gave some background information. Apparently the work is a scraping of earth and debris that had accumulated onto the footway over a number of years, together with a cutback on encroaching hedge vegetation in an attempt to make the footway unfit for purpose. The work was prompted following a police patrol stopping an elderly wheelchair user and his wife from using the roadway to reach the Eureka Cafe ... a report to the CWaC website regarding the obstructed footway by the Cafe owner prompted the clearance operation. The meeting noted this might be a way to facilitate maintenance of other footways that could be used by cycles.

8. Infrastructure Improvement List

The updating and evaluation of the existing list was carried out by TJ and SP including a number of new suggestions from CCC members. The intention was that this list would form the basis of a series of "off the shelf schemes" that could be progressed quickly if there was funding becoming available at short notice that could be spent on a suitable viable project. SP is due to meet with Shaun Traynor (CWA Senior Strategic Transport Officer) shortly and would discuss the revised list.

Action: SP to further revise the "work in progress" document for discussion with Shaun with a view to gaining commitment from CWaC to make use of list when practicable. SB to include item in CCC Bulletin highlighting the fact of a number of schemes having been completed from the original list.

9. AGM arrangements

After discussion it was established that key positions in the campaign would be 'covered' for the coming year, although any new involvements would be encouraged. TJ confirmed he had ordered food for the meeting (to take place on Wed 5th February). Following a

suggestion by EM It was agreed that a role of “Inclusive Cycling Officer” for the Campaign be established.]

Action: SB to revise the AGM agenda and publicise the AGM through the forthcoming bulletin including an AGM agenda in order to give the required notice to members.

10. AOB

MR reported that she had booked the meeting dates for 2020 with the Custom House, but highlighted that in May and alternative venue would be required, due to the meeting date falling on a Race Day.

Meeting closed just before 10pm.

Please Note: Date of next Meeting is Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room. This would be the AGM of the Campaign