

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 07 March 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Peter Williams (PW), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Stephen Perry (SP) Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Spain (JS), Cathey Harrington (CH) (minutes), Richard Barrett (RB), Tim Wakeling (TW)

Apologies: Simon Brown (SB), Monica Robinson (MR), Carol Convey (CC)

1. Minutes of January 2018 meeting: – agreed as a correct record.

Action: minutes to be posted on website (CS)

2. Matters Arising:

Cycle Parking Chester Station - Placing leaflets on cars parked in the 2 car parks nearest the station.

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 - January's letter was written by CH & published in the Chronicle but not in the Standard.

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.

Sponsorship of Cycling Matters! - Craig has arranged with long-standing Cycling Campaign member Trevor Morris, who is a personal injury solicitor, that Trevor's company, Bartletts Solicitors, will sponsor Cycling Matters! this year. Bartletts will pay for the whole cost of printing, conditional on the printing being done by their printer. Bartletts will have an A5 advertisement. The Cycling Campaign is grateful for Bartletts' input, as they also sponsored the development of the website.

Email Distribution List: - SB has agreed to establish a group of participants who are happy to be included on a set distribution list.

Action: Those who have not yet replied to SB's email of 08 Dec 2017 do so, please.

Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF): see agenda item below.

Canal Closure: see agenda item below.

Family Cycle Rides: as January minutes.

Action: CC as January minutes.

Wrexham Road: **Wrexham Road:** It was proposed that we should try to get Mike Axon to address the Chester Sustainability Forum.

Action: TJ/CS

CWAC Low Emission Strategy Consultation: CH submitted CCC's response.

- 3. Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF):** CS attended a full Forum meeting on Thursday 11th January to give a presentation on the development of cycling in the city and needs and aspirations for the future. About 30 people attended, including Chris Matheson MP and several Councillors, including Councillor Karen Shore, the Cabinet Member for the Environment. The presentation was one of 3 that evening on very different issues, leaving little time for questions and further discussion. CS' presentation was very well received, with lots of vocal support for cycling. Following the meeting, CS was asked to present to 2 Parish Councils.

It was agreed that CCC would ask the CSF Cycling Subgroup to join CCC, so as to minimise duplication of effort and to maximise effectiveness.

Action: Sue Steeland, CCC's representative on CSF.

- 4. Crane Bank Development: Update– closing the missing link in the Riverside Path**

On 17th February SP, KT and TJ prepared and submitted a draft proposal to the Canal & River Trust (C&RT), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), CWAC and Sustrans, with a personal copy to Cllr Bob Rudd. This proposal outlined with some detail the short and longer-term options to establish a new link in the Riverside path.

On 21st February SP, CS and KT met with Cllr Bob Rudd who was very supportive of our proposals. Cllr Rudd suggested that representatives of the Campaign should attend the Garden Quarter residents meeting on Monday 5th March in order to put forward our proposals for inclusion in the Community Plan and for consideration for potential funding through the available S106 money. Cllr Bob Rudd also confirmed that he had been involved along with the CW&C Head of Planning in the initial discussions with Watkin Jones that had enabled the latter to use one end of the Cop for their site offices and material store.

Feedback on our draft proposal had been received from Dawn Beech of NRW on 20th February, with a request for some minor amendments. The draft proposal was thus amended based on these changes and sent again to Cllr Bob Rudd for his further distribution within CWAC.

Since our meeting with Cllr Bob Rudd he has confirmed by e-mail the recent correspondence that he has had with Paul Friston, Principal Planning Officer, who stated that 'he is looking into it'. He also confirmed that he is awaiting a response from the new Senior Highways manager.

A summary of our proposals was taken to the Garden Quarter meeting on Monday 5th March and considered in a workshop-style meeting alongside other proposal for improvement in the Garden Quarter area. We understand that these discussions will be progressed at further Garden Quarter meetings.

As a follow up to a discussion at the 5th March meeting, it was agreed that CS would contact Cllr Bob Rudd to ask for feedback on progress.

Action: CS

- 5. Canal Towpath Closure between Northgate Locks & Cow Lane Bridge:** Notices posted on each end of the closure indicate a diversion which seems only suitable for pedestrians as it uses the City Walls. CH asked the Canal & River Trust for information about the diversion – no reply as yet. Signage along Gorse Stacks and George Street is still inadequate. It directs cyclists to 'rejoin the carriageway', incurring the serious risk of cyclists being confronted by approaching drivers on the wrong side of the road.

Action: MR to discuss the inadequate signage with Cllr Sam Dixon. TJ to check status on additional signage with Andrew Coward. CH to circulate any reply from C&RT. All to report on the CWAC highways fault reporting web site.

6. **Meeting with CWAC Director of Places Strategy.** TJ has been invited to meet with Lisa Harris, recently appointed CWAC Director of Places Strategy, Councillor Richard Beacham & Colin Watson, who is a member of the CSF Cycling Subgroup, tomorrow (08th March). Agenda not set. Suggestions were put forward for discussion.
7. **Meeting with CWAC Director of Public Health.** CH & Wyn Holroyd met with Ian Ashworth, Director of Public Health for CWAC, and Councillor Richard on 27th February. A report of the meeting was circulated by CH on 02 March. CWAC will assess the current 20mph limits when they have been running for 1 year – a report will be produced & put before the Places Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on Tues 19th June. CH & Wyn will speak.
8. **Cycling Matters! Printing.** The Spring 2018 issue is being printed by Bartletts' printer. CH will organise distribution. CH spoke to James Marston, our previous printer, thanked him for his good work and help and said that we would be happy to use his business again in the future.

Action: CH

9. **Active Travel Forum.** Ian Ashworth, Director of Public Health for CWAC, confirmed that The Active Travel Forum is planned. First meeting is likely to be in April, about 6pm, date to be decided. All interested parties welcome.
10. **Boardwalk Danger.** The boardwalk at Crane Bank Wharf has become slippery with algae and we are aware of at least 2 cyclists being injured. It was agreed that we would not issue a press release. We will monitor the situation. Members may wish to report on the CWAC highways fault reporting web site.
11. **Approach from Bike Chester.** Bike Chester, a sportive-type one-day cycling event, will take place on Sunday 10th June 2018. Bike Chester have requested an advertisement on the CCC website. It was decided that we would accept an advert and, as the organiser of Bike Chester is a commercial company, CS would ask them to pay a fee.

Action: CS.

12. **Letter of the Month**
Stephen will circulate a proposed rota for letter of the month. *Post-meeting note: done.*

Action: those on list accept/decline to Stephen.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th April 2018 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.