

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 2nd May 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Peter Williams (PW), Trevor Jenkins (TJ) (minutes), Stephen Perry (SP), Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), Craig Steeland (CS), Helen Pulford (HP), Cathey Harrington (CH)(Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Carol Convey (CC)

Apologies: Simon Brown (SB), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Spain (JS), Sue Steeland (SS), Wyn Holroyd (WH).

- 1. Minutes of April 2018 meeting:** – agreed as a correct record.

Action: minutes to be posted on website (CS)

- 2. Matters Arising:**

Letter of the Month: April's letter was written by JS & published in the Standard.

Action: KT will write the May letter.

Canal Closure: CH has written to CWaC to chase up the wording of the diversion signs to include a cycling route, but to date received no reply.

Funding Submission for Improving the Greenway: JH confirmed that Jayne Rodgers had been successful in obtaining funding so did not require assistance from CCC.

- 3 Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF)**

CS reported back, on behalf of SS, from the last CSF cycling sub-group meeting, which took place on 30th April. The group has conducted a survey amongst cyclists using the online survey tool SurveyMonkey, with a view to collecting data, to input into CWaC's revision of their Cycling Strategy document. The group appears to be concentrating on the larger projects and ignoring the fundamental issues of improving infrastructure, encouraging more people to cycle including the encouragement of school children. SS as a member of CCC will continue to attend CSF meetings and try to maintain a balance promoting utility cycling, but at the same time avoiding a conflict with what CCC is trying to achieve.

- 4 Active Travel Forum**

PW informed the group that he'd received an invitation to attend the, long awaited, inaugural meeting of CWaC's Active Travel Forum, to take place on 4th June at HQ. It was noted that the majority of invitees were officers and councillors, but it was decided that any one could attend. PW is happy to represent CCC but specifically the areas of Neston and Ellesmere Port, with Wyn Holroyd representing 20's Plenty. It was thought a further representative of CCC should attend. CH informed the group of a document she had prepared for the forum, which she would circulate to everyone after the meeting.

Action CH

- 5 Cycle Safety Course.**

Francis Edgerton of Cheshire Fire and Rescue has contacted CCC to announce they are running a safety course, in conjunction with British Cycling, called 'Pedal Smart'.

The course is to be run on 30th May at Lymm, commencing 11:00 am and CCC is invited to attend. HP, CS and JH volunteered.

6 Family Cycle Rides

CC, HP, MR and SP have successfully completed the first part of the requisite training course run by Sustrans. The next stages are the completion of 'bike ability' and a full day of 1st aid training. Depending on the completion of the latter two stages the proposed dates for the family rides are:- 23rd June, 21st July, 18th August and 15th September. The rides cannot take place until the training is complete.

CC suggested printed tee shirts to advertise the rides, but it was generally agreed that, because of a number of existing unsold CCC tee shirts, it would be prudent to restrict the numbers printed to those who wished to purchase them. If this prompted participants on the rides to request a tee shirt then additional numbers could be produced.

7 Bus Station/ Gorse Stacks.

SP described his recent experiences (3 in total) of rejoining Gorse Stacks from the shared footway running alongside, resulting in confrontations with cars travelling in the opposite direction. TJ explained the current inaction by CWaC, as described in an email from Andrew Coward of CWaC highways.

The issue has been identified, as a problem, by CWaC's safety audit team who have recommended a number of solutions. However, implementing a solution is currently prevented due to the on going contractual dispute between the bus station contractor and the Client, CWaC. In addition, once the disagreements are resolved there is a legal process to go through to enable the physical changes to be put in place.

SP still felt that the situation was too dangerous to wait, possibly months, and suggested introducing a number of temporary barriers or cones to shield the cyclist for a short distance, as they rejoined the road. It would highlight the problem to motorists and force them to move over earlier. The situation is exacerbated by the closure of the canal towpath forcing more cyclists to take this parallel route along Gorse Stacks. TJ to write again to Andrew Coward, with this suggestion.

Action TJ

8 Department for Transport Safety Review

CH explained that Cycling Minister Jesse Norman has set out plans to help people to walk and cycle more, as part of a push for the UK to leave cars behind for shorter journeys.

This comes as the Department for Transport publishes a 'call for evidence' on cycling in this country, asking for a range of views and opinions from the public on everything from improved infrastructure to education for all road users.

It was agreed that CCC should provide a response, with SP suggesting that individuals could edit the CCC version and adding their own personal views. CH suggested individuals could use Cycling UK's views, but submitted in their own name, a common practice used by protest or consultation groups. CH has also prepared a paper (to be circulated), which could be used as the basis for CCC's response, together with a letter to Chris Matheson requesting he write to Jesse Norman to recommend a wider review of road traffic offences.

A brief discussion took place on 'presumed liability', used in mainland Europe but not the UK. Basically a car and a cyclist represent unequal risks on the road. In a collision, the cost of repairing damage to the car is negligible compared to the cost of ongoing medical support for a cyclist's serious injuries. Currently, without presumed liability, each party would be responsible for their own costs unless they can prove the other is at fault. For advocates of presumed liability, this situation is unfair, and unhelpful. It was generally agreed that its introduction would benefit cyclists.

Action: CH

All present thanked Cathey for the work in preparing the papers.

9 Aldi and Lidl

Both supermarkets hold special promotions for items such as cycling and ski equipment, but the offers are limited in terms of time and quantity available. SP suggested that if we publicise their cycle equipment sale periods, via our network, they may be willing to help sponsor Cycling Matters, if we wanted them to do so in the future.

10 Group emails.

As discussed at previous meetings there is an inconsistency with each CCC activist having their own email distribution list, which is generally different from other activists' distribution list. The concern of privacy had also been raised with a CCC member not wishing to have their email address on view.

As a result CS suggested a system whereby there will be a fixed group of activists and all email address are hidden. Activists can opt in or out at any time.

Action: CS

11 General Data Protection Regulations:

With the new regulations CCC has to demonstrate that members are happy for CCC to possess a record of their email addresses, home address etc. CS suggested this should not be a problem. SP suggested that for old/ex members we should delete all their data. There is also a problem for members who joined using a paper application, and giving them the opportunity to agree to their data being retained by CCC. Further consideration needs to be given.

12 Canal Towpath

CS informed the group that the canal towpath would remain closed for the foreseeable future, due to the legal wrangle between CWaC and the Canal and River Trust, regarding ownership and responsibility for the current problem.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6th June 2018 at 7.30pm.