

## **Chester Cycling Campaign**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub**

**Present:** Craig Steeland (CS), Sue Steeland (SS), Trevor Jenkins (TJ) (Minutes), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Holiday (JH), Monica Robinson (MR), Stephen Perry (SP), Peter Williams (PW) (Chair), Helen Pulford (HP), Ken Thomas (KT), John Violet (JV), Paul Beaudoin (PB), Uwe Embshoff (UE)

**Apologies:** Simon Brown (SB), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Ashley McCraight (AM), Cathy Harrington (CH), Dave Parry (DP)

Uwe Embshoff (UE), John Violet (JV) and Paul Beaudoin (PB) were welcomed to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.

#### **1 Minutes of October 2018 meeting:**

Agreed as a correct record.

**Action:** CS to post minutes on the website.

#### **2 Matters Arising:**

- **Website security:** CS reported that he had implemented security encryption and purchased a certificate for a two-year period.
- **Discounts at Chester cycling shops for CCC members:** CS has updated the list and posted it on the web site.
- **Cycling Matters:** Trevor Morris of Bartlett's solicitors has agreed to a further one-year sponsorship of Cycling Matters printing.
- **Blacon Ladies Rides:** CS has added details to the CCC web site.

#### **3 Active Travel Forum/SP meeting with Lisa Harris**

SP reported on his meeting with Lisa Harris (LH)(Director of Places) held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, also attended by Kristy Littler (KL)(Head of Strategic Transport), Paul Parry (PP)(Principal Development Officer, Highways Development Control) and Colin Watson (CW)(Chester Sustainability Forum).

The meeting lasted 2 hours and 'had a positive feel about it'. CW made a presentation, a cut down version of the one he gave to the August CCC meeting - this was well received.

LH appeared to be optimistic and SP detected, possibly, a positive shift in body language from Paul Parry, who normally in his dealings with the highway side of large planning applications is very much for the motorist.

LH would like to compare Chester Cycling Campaign (CCC) and Chester Sustainability Forum Cycling Sub Group (CSFCSG) proposals with CWaCs current ideas, and present a joint input at the next Active Travel Forum (ATF) meeting. She wishes to use the ATF to make things happen. Keen to work with local groups to supplement CWaC's limited resources.

LH suggested a follow up meeting – now arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> November with the same attendees. Councillor Louise Gittings (cabinet member for Communities and Wellbeing) is hoping to attend. SP will try to push for more engagement with CCC, using the extensive expertise available, and to also set up working groups. Also, to push for CWaC to set up the DfT's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

TJ suggested raising the issue of road space reallocation, not considering specifics but the general principle.

SS mentioned that it was essential not to neglect walkers, but amongst the attendees no one was aware of a group focusing on Chester City. SS suggested the walking charity Living Streets to possibly obtain more information about walking groups.

**Action:** SP to report back at the next CCC meeting

**Post meeting note:** TJ to investigate the Living Streets web site further.

#### **4 The Old Blacon Library**

KT raised the issue of 'Avenue Service', administrators of the building, who propose to hand the lease back to the CWaC, who then wish to sell it. The closure will affect both the Blacon Bike Project and Chester Used Furniture Enterprise. Proceeds from the sale is to be fed back into the community, specifically for the Blacon Adventure Playground. There is local opposition to the sale but consultation is currently ongoing.

It was suggested that members write to the press and local councillor Carol Gahan with their views.

SP felt that if the premises were sold there was a possible solution for the Blacon Bike Project, by housing this in the buildings associated with the playground. The close proximity of the Bike Project may encourage the local youngsters to become involved with cycling.

**Action:** All

#### **5 Letter of the Month**

SB had written a recent letter to the papers, about the dangers of vehicle exhaust pollution on youngsters, but it remained to be seen if this was to be published. PW had circulated his letter for comment, but it was reiterated by attendees that the monthly letters were written as individuals and not on behalf of CCC, and therefore did not really need any comment.

**Action:** PW

In the introductions Uwe (UE) had explained that he and his family were over from Germany and resident in Chester for 12 months. Since they were

enthusiastic cyclists, SP thought that an idea for a press release could be an interview with Uwe, to obtain his views regarding cycling in the UK and particularly Chester, and how it compared to Germany. Uwe to consider this for the next meeting.

**Action:** UE & SP

## **6 Crane Bank**

SP gave the latest update on Crane Bank, a disappointing conclusion after the effort put in by CCC over the last 12 months. A lack of commitment from CWaC and no assistance from Watkin Jones, the developer of the new block of apartments.

SP had met Andrew Coward from CWaC Highways who had looked at the various options described in CCC's report. He had produced a plan which summarized those options, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting by SP. The final solution is to simply legalize shared use of the footpath running from the end of The Cop to the commencement of the board walk alongside the river. The legal change is to be funded by Councillor Bob Rudd and should be complete by the end of the year.

## **7 Board Walk and Gorse Stacks**

CS reported on an accident, once again, on the board walk adjacent to Crane Bank, and the fact that no remedial work has been undertaken after the previous incidents. The only mitigation being a small permanent sign replacing the temporary sign, warning of a slippery surface. It was suggested that CCC write to local councillor Bob Rudd who may be able to put pressure on CWaC Highways to improve the situation.

**Action:** CS to write to Bob Rudd to enquire about timescales for the council to make the surface of the boardwalk section safe.

Similarly, there does not appear to be any measures put in place to improve the danger faced by cyclists leaving the shared use pavement when cycling up Gorse Stacks. Motorists are moving over, too early, from the two-way flow to the one-way system. Currently the dispute between CWaC and the bus station contractor is yet to be resolved, which may explain the delay in arriving at a satisfactory solution. SP suggested arranging a photo shoot to highlight the problem in the press.

**Action:** SP plus volunteers

## **8 Ellesmere Port Town Centre**

PW spoke about the proposed redevelopment of Ellesmere town centre and the local paper inviting the public to a consultation and the completion of a questionnaire. Having looked at the questionnaire he noted that there was no mention of cycling or Active Travel. Contact with Jochen Hollestelle, the Ellesmere Port Town Centre Improvement Manager, has resulted in an offer to meet CCC representative and talk about the proposals.

**Action:** PW to try to arrange

## **9 Survey of Doctors Surgeries**

SP reported on his survey of Doctors Surgeries in and around the city centre, a CCC objective set for this year.

The results for the survey were less conclusive and less significant than hoped for. It was difficult to have a satisfactory conversation with reception staff as they were often very busy. and not necessarily full time on reception.

A summary of the results was: -

### **Cycle parking:**

- With the exception of Saughall Village Surgery every other location provides cycle racks;
- Most cycle parking locations are near the surgery entrance but not undercover;
- None of the locations has any sign to the cycle parking;
- None of the locations has any extra facility for staff cycle parking
- Occupancy of rack spaces surveyed is less than 10%. Only 3 spaces were in use out of 33 racks, excluding those in use at the Fountains Centre which serve a wider community need;
- Staff changing facilities in the Fountains complex and at a Garden Lane, but not confirmed as available at other locations;

### **Car parking:**

- All locations have car parking available;
- Most sites have dedicated disabled parking spaces and the larger ones have allocated staff spaces;

### **Patient Arrival by Cycle, Walking/Bus and Car:**

- No clear indication of the means of transport used by patients;
- Estimated that cyclists were less than 5%, drivers between 25% and 80% and walkers/bus between 15% and 70% depending on location.

It was suggested writing to the practice managers to obtain views on their approach to cycling.

CS thanked SP for taking on this initiative and obtaining results in such a short period of time.

**Action:** SP

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.30pm at Custom House Pub meeting room.**