

## CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

### Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

**Present:** Stephen Perry (SP) (Minutes), Eileen Morgan (EM), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Holiday (JH), Peter Williams (PW), Roger Hones (RH), Geoff Owens (GE)

**Apologies:** John Spain (JS), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Helen Pulford (HP) Ken Thomas (KT), John Violet (JV), Ashley McCraight (AM), Simon Brown (SB), Cathey Harrington (CH). Sue Steeland (SS).

Geoff Owens was welcomed to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.

#### 1. Minutes of October 2019 meeting

The meeting minutes were accepted with one minor amendment, Sustrans Route 71 is a regional not a national route.

**Action:** CS to amend and post minutes on website.

#### 2. Matters Arising

- **Highway changes near the new Aldi on Parkgate Road**  
Photo and PR article have been done, Awaiting publication in press.
- **Cycle Demonstration Town Logo**  
CW&C not yet able to release this logo.
- **Membership Renewals**  
Agreed new rates have been implemented and new membership benefits publicised. No interest expressed to date. No adverse reaction to new membership rates.
- **Climate Emergency**  
Input has been included by SB in the latest CCC Bulletin
- **Regional Cycle Route 71**  
RH has met with Tarvin Civic Trust and Tarvin Parish Council in support of an application to (re)establish the necessary Right of Way from Platts Lane to the Roman Bridges. The application has been supported with many documents that show it as a established cycling and walking route.

#### 3. Active Travel Forum & Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

The LCWIP project continues, with audits completed in October of the routes selected for each of the 5 areas under consideration. In Chester the routes from the Lache and Wrexham Road into the Railway Station were audited. These audits were supported by several CCC members in Chester and elsewhere.

Concerns were expressed by those involved in the audits that it was not clear whether the chosen routes were going to be based on radical changes with no financial constraint or only on what can easily be done in the short term with limited resources. It is expected that a draft report will be available for review in the near future and then for more detailed discussion at the final (draft) LCWIP meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The draft LCWIP will then be put out for public consultation.

It was noted that this process may be delayed with the constraints imposed by purdah in the light of the upcoming general election.

SP is still hoping to arrange a meeting with Sean Traynor, Senior Manager, Transport & Infrastructure, CWAC, who has indicated that he would be willing to circulate plans of proposed road developments to CCC for comment. Also that he would be willing to help with "quick fix", low cost projects.

**Action:** SP to meet with Sean Traynor

#### 4. **Active Travel Working Group Project**

This initiative has been set up as a small project within the context of the Active Travel Forum to focus on enhancing the use of the Chester Greenway and another cycle route in Winsford. It is sponsored/funded by Sustrans and CW&C, and is led by Ali Dore of Sustrans, who is spending 3 days a week on the project split equally between Chester and Winsford. SP and EM are actively involved with this project. Engagement with the community to get feedback on ways to improve the Greenway has so far been focused on various community events during the summer and more recently working with year 5 pupils at The Arches School in Blacon and Newton Primary School. The scope of potential enhancement includes better signage, more artwork and information boards, more/better access points, improved access for mobility cycles, initiatives to reduce speeding cyclists and increasing awareness of the Greenway as a local facility for cycling and walking.

CCC will be asked in the new year if they will be willing to support family rides again, but this time focused on specific schools. They will also be asked to support user audits/surveys to help address inconsiderate behaviour..

#### 5. **Website**

CH has provided extensive details as input to the Climate Change debate and CS has added these to the CCC website.

CS has also added to the website the 'Wheels for All' content provided by EM

CS also intends to add to the website details of the Top 10 Cycle and Picnic' rides for families.

#### 6. **Chester Railway station experience**

EM explained her experience of visiting the Chester station with CH, In summary it was impossible for her and CH to use the elevated bike racks at they were too challenging to lift. The bike racks behind Costa were not accessible due to building work. There was no safe and secure place to leave an electric bike and it was made quite clear that ANY cycling on the station precinct was not allowed. This experience contrasted very poorly with her recent experience in Barcelona.

**Action:** EM to write and send her feedback to Transport for Wales.

#### 7. **Emission Strategy Consultation**

RH asked everyone to respond as individuals to the request for feedback by CW&C, as recently circulated by him. It was noted that there was almost no reference in the Emission Strategy Document to Active Travel as a means to improve Air Quality!.

The closing Date for feedback is January/February next year,

**Action:** CH and RH agreed to collate feedback and send a summary feedback on behalf of the CCC

#### 8. **AOB**

- MR reported that the Canal and River Trust are repairing the canal towpath near Waitrose

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Date of next Meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.**