

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of Meeting Held on 5th September 2018 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Craig Steeland (CS), Sue Steeland (SS), Simon Brown (SB), Arnold Wilkes (AW), John Holiday (JH), Monica Robinson (MR) (Minutes), Stephen Perry (SP) (Chair), Peter Williams (PW) Stephen Pemberton (SLP) Cathey Harrington(CH), Carol Convey (CC), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Ken Thomas (KT), Colin Watson (CW), John Spain (JS)

Apologies: Ashley McCraight (AM)

1. Minutes of August 2018 meeting:

Agreed as a correct record.

Action: minutes to be posted on website (CS)

2. Matters Arising:

- **Family Cycle Rides** – August ride took place with one family from Northwich attending. SP plans to do a press release after the Sept ride. **Action** – MR to take photos/get quotes if possible.
- **Monthly letter to the editor** – August letter written by SS and printed in Chester Chronicle. TJ agreed to submit a letter for September.
- **Start Time for future meetings** – SB received 19 replies to the poll of all members and the responses confirmed that the present start time of 7.30 was convenient to the majority. No further action to be taken.
- **All other Actions have been completed.**

3. Website – CS has been urged by our website provider to get improved security protocol for the Campaign website. After a brief discussion all agreed we should proceed at a cost of £30.00 per annum.

4. Presentation by Colin Watson, chair of Chester Sustainability Forum (CSF) – Cycling Sub Group (CSG) and member of CCC

The Chair welcomed Colin and explained that the meeting would concentrate on his Draft Chester Cycle Strategy PowerPoint presentation. CW introduced the slides by saying he felt that the Council is sympathetic to our aims and now is the time to try and get them to commit to significant improvements to the cycle infrastructure in Chester. He noted that last year's bid for major funding was turned down and that there does not seem to be any information about what has been spent in Chester or likely to be spent.

CW outlined in brief the key initiatives/events since 2010 when CWaC became the new unitary Authority, comparison with other cities, Health statistics, the Economy, the Environment, Quality of Life, Safety statistics, a Vision, and Importance of Cycling to Chester. A range of suggestions and ideas for additional useful links and data sources were made by those present. There was some discussion about the likelihood CWaC would look at Chester separately as their officers and members have always said they must consider proposals Borough wide.

A Survey 'Why do you Cycle' had been circulated to cycling groups in the area and the results from this initial target group were outlined. The feeling of the meeting was that less confident cyclists and those who don't feel able to cycle in Chester should be targeted and CW agreed that this would be the next step. All were asked to help

widen the reach of the survey after amendments had been made to the format and content.

The second part of the presentation covered a range of recommendations from Policy to Quick Wins and a spreadsheet with a detailed list of suggested infrastructure improvements (this was not discussed due to time constraints). A full discussion took place and it was agreed that the key to CWaC achieving external funding would be the preparation and publication of a Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. They might also benefit from creating a formal role for an Elected Member to focus the implementation of a new strategy.

CW was congratulated on the work he had put into the document. We agreed to work together with the CSF–CSG in future to ensure that cycling campaigns are seen to speak with one voice.

5. **Active Travel Forum 10th Sept** – SP will present his Position Paper to the Forum highlighting the key work of the CCC, that we will work alongside CSF-CSG, and that in future it will be important to have a more effective relationship with CWaC senior officers. CW will also speak at this meeting representing the CSF.
6. **Greenway Cycle Festival** - It was agreed that CCC would attend the planned Festival to be held at Live New Scene, Hoole on Saturday 13 October.
Action – SB to provide selection of leaflets rides etc for the stall. PW confirmed availability and other members available also encouraged to attend.
7. **Crane Bank** – SP reported back on the current situation. Discussions are still ongoing between CWaC officers and the CRT. However he confirmed that Cllr Bob Rudd has agreed to fund (from his Members' budget) a shared use path (being designed by Andy Crawford, Highways officer) along the pavement linking the path to the rear of the Watkin Jones development to the existing route on the south side of the canal.
8. **Accounts** – TJ confirmed there are sufficient funds in the accounts to fund Cycling Matters next year although a longer term solution will still be required. Agreed that consideration would be given to reducing issues to 3no to save money. There is no sponsorship for next year confirmed.
9. **20mph Review** – CH advised that a study had recently been published on the roll out of 20mph zones in the Borough. This will be considered at the Places Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 Sept. CH and WH will attend and CH will speak at public speaking time.
10. **CNC Campaign** – SLP confirmed that the CNC campaign group are due to meet Lisa Harris (CWA) to discuss their proposal to extend the Greenway towards Helsby/Frodsham.

Meeting finish time: 10 pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd October 2018 at 7.30pm at Custom House Pub meeting room.