

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2019 at the Old Custom House Pub

Present: Ken Thomas (KT), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Monica Robinson (MR) (Notes), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Cathey Harrington (CH) Eileen Morgan (EM), Trevor Jenkins (TJ), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Roger Hones (RH), Helen Pulford (HP) Simon Brown (SB) John Holiday (JH), Peter Williams (PW)

Apologies: John Spain (JS), Sue Steeland (SS), Stephen Perry (SP), John Violet (JV)

1. Minutes of August 2019 meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Action: CS to post minutes on website.

2. Matters Arising

A Family Cycle Rides

No one turned up to the August ride. It was suggested that members might like to join the 21st Sept ride (along Greenway to Net's cafe and back) as a social occasion – meet at 1pm on Greenway by the entrance to Northgate ponds.

Action: CS to email JS and thank him for offering to attend/lead the ride on **21 Sept.**

B Highway changes near the new Aldi on Parkgate Road

SB confirmed he will prepare a press release and advise activists of a suggested time and date for a photo opportunity.

D Cycle to the Cinema

CS confirmed that we should not pursue this idea at present.

E A51 Road Scheme between Tarvin and Vicars Cross

Several members had attended the consultation events and highlighted the considerable doubts about any proposed improvements for cyclists along the planned route. A major concern is the roundabout over the A55 which may be improved by Highways England to cope with the extra volumes of traffic, but that will not start until at least a year after completion of the A51 works.

RH confirmed that many groups including CCC and Littleton Parish Council have not been consulted. He has spoken to David Saville (CWaC) who said he would meet with CCC but it must be before 13 Sept (end of consultation period). RH also agreed to prepare a list of key issues to discuss, which would be circulated to activists for input, and he would try and secure a date for the meeting.

EM advised that provision should always take account of the needs of anyone with disabilities. Concern was raised about the junctions at Hare Lane, Wicker Lane and Stamford Lane. CH suggested we ask Cycling UK for a view. SB concluded the discussion with the suggestion that we prepare a statement of general principles e.g. strategic decisions such as automatic separation of lanes (e.g. as in Netherlands) should be applied in every road scheme.

F Kingsway Summer Festival & Skate Park Opening

EM reported back to say that it was a well attended event and comments about the Greenway are to be kept by Sustrans for future reference. Families prefer to go at their own speed on bike rides maybe explaining why organised rides are not now so popular?

Action: CS agreed to put together about 10 family destinations with description of facilities (cafe etc) and hopefully avoiding major hazards.

G Chester Racecourse Bike Stands.

There has been no response for Andrew Morris and agreed CS would leave a bit longer to chase.

H Westminster Bridge Traffic Light Control

TJ has added to Infrastructure Improvement spread sheet. All invited to check the spreadsheet for any other changes/updates etc.

I Tow Path Diversion

All signs have now been removed following report by CH.

J Tour of Britain

SP has contacted papers to suggest a joint story with CCC. No reply received. CH confirmed she would attend the event with copies of Cycling Matters to hand out.

3. Letter to the Editor

2 letters printed last month. TJ agreed he would write Sept letter.

4. Chester Cathedral Climate Change Exhibition and Conference 11 – 18 May 2020

CH has been asked if CCC would get involved in this proposed event next year.

Action: Agreed all would put the date in their diaries to discuss later on when more details become available.

5. Cycling and Society Symposium

CH and EM attended this event at the University last week. The key person driving the conference was Professor Peter Cox. Graham Weaver from Bren Bikes gave an excellent talk on the charity. Other contributors were a transport planner from Hampshire council and Dublin cycling campaign. A colleague of Peter Cox suggested turning Hoole Road Bridge into one way – a proposal already identified by Campaign members. Chris White (a former member of the Campaign when a student) agreed to email his PhD thesis to CH for our information. A landscape architect, David McKenna who designed the layout of Frodsham St also offered to help CCC if required.

EM talked about 'ebikes and elitism' which needs to be contradicted. In many cases an ebike is better than a wheelchair – both more comfortable and also more flexible. She was able to raise awareness of the benefits of cycling for disabled people and it was well received. She mentioned that there are good examples of best practice around the country and named the Wheels for Wellness initiative. EM was positive about good collaboration in the future.

6. LCWIP

SLP highlighted that horizons on cycle journeys will be different in future including 'ecyclists', children etc. CCC need to bear this in mind.

TJ felt that there was not much enthusiasm for the LCWIP and that WSP (consultants) would effectively prepare a tick box exercise, following to the letter the Technical Guidance document issued by Dept of Transport. They will be concentrating on short journeys (e.g. 10km for cyclists and 2 km for walkers). SLP felt that we should be considering the future. List our preferred key routes and undertake route audits as well. He had indicated that CCC will assist WSP with their report but they need to request it.

7. Cycle Demonstration Town Logo

SB has suggested we ask the council if CCC can have the use of their Roman Helmet logo which is apparently a very powerful image. He has approached local councillor to see if she can help. Ultimately it might be possible to purchase the domain from the council.

Action: SB to follow up.

As the meeting had already run over it there was no time to review the objectives for the current year. Note to consider at October meeting.

Date of next Meeting Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Custom House Pub meeting room.