

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Present (for some or all of the time): Simon Brown (SB), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Caroline Gerrard (CG), John Holiday (JH), Roger Hones (RH), Eileen Morgan (EM), Stephen Perry (SP), Monica Robinson (MR) (Minutes), Nic Siddle (NS), Ian Slater (IS), John Violet (JV), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Peter Williams (PW), Cathey Harrington (CH), Ashley McCraight (AM), Sue Steeland (SS), Ken Thomas (KT), Martin Preston (MP), Andy Evans (AE), Pierre Walthery (PW), Alan Lingard (AL)

Apologies: Trevor Jenkins (TJ), David Morris (DM), Steve Pemberton (SLP) Andrew Hamill (AH)
CS reiterated the suggested Meeting Disciplines which were accepted by all.

- 1. Introductions.** Members attending for the first time MP, AL, PW and AE were welcomed. It was agreed to proceed without individual introductions.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 4th November.** The meeting minutes were approved.
Action: CS to post on website.
- 3. Matters Arising:**

Active Travel Forum update. SP reported that 80% of issues we had requested had been added to the December ATF agenda. In addition, following further communication with Lydia Orford and Sean Traynor(ST) the final 20% would also be included.

Five Parishes report on Active Travel ie Cycling Plan for South East Chester. CG has put the Upton community group in touch with Chester Cycling Campaign over mapping. SP confirmed that ST will cover the issue around developer contributions at the ATF.

Planning application reviews and update. CG confirmed she had forwarded details of a planning details website to NS, who in turn has forwarded Upton applications to CG for their community group. It has been agreed that the cycle stands at the top of Faulkner St can be replaced by Sheffield stands after permission obtained from landowner. PW and NS are due to meet David Saville(Highways) to discuss a possible link footpath from a new housing development to Hooton station. NS forwarded an update report on planning applications for information. CS thanked NS for continued input in this area.

A51 update. RH has continued to keep the group updated on A51 issues. He is still awaiting responses from David Saville about the long delay in cutting back vegetation along the SUPs. SP suggested a phone call to ST might help. (Post meeting update: RH reported that ST confirmed work would commence on 13 Dec between Littleton and Tarvin)

Inclusive Cycling Update. EM had contacted Richard Beacham(RB) about disabled parking in Faulkner St. After liaison with store manager cones have been removed when no delivery occurring. EM is still hoping for a specified Blue Badge space to be created, but pleased with support from RB.

AOB. IS will pursue contacts at the University to see if they might be interested in his Matrix of People's Attitude to Active Travel.

4. Temporary Bus and Cycle Lanes

A wide ranging discussion took place. It was generally agreed that the bus Lanes are not the perfect solution for cyclists but that it is a step forward. We need to encourage people to think what would be a better alternative. Via the Sustainable Transport Task Force (STTF) more information is in the public domain about how the bus lanes are working. SP encouraged all to report back to CWaC on their experiences.

No specific readings from the monitoring of pollution in the Air Quality Management Area(AQMA) are yet available. Monitoring continues and reports of number of cyclists on a Thursday and a Saturday show many more on their bikes on Saturdays. There appears to be no intention to change anything or to stop monitoring.

The Conservative group have come out as a group against and will be arguing the case at Council meeting on Thursday 10 Dec. Karen Shore, Cabinet member for Environment and Transport, indicated that they will await the outcome of the trials before making any final decision. JV confirmed that he put forward arguments in favour in response to local Cllr trying to drum up support for the opposing view.

CH gave an overview of the situation in Boughton. A WhatsApp group in Stocks Lane reflect roughly 50/50 split of opinions. The No to Bus Lanes group on Facebook have gathered a 3,100 named petition to demand cancellation and requesting further discussion about a sustainable future. AE and PW have set up a group in favour with approx 179 supporters – Sustainable Transport Solutions Group which has in turn been drafting a petition which is almost ready to be submitted.

After SP and JV raised with ST a number of problems with the Grosvenor Bridge layout, significant improvements have been implemented. All agreed the cycle lanes over the bridge are now a lot safer – vehicle speed clearly marked as 20mph and cycle lanes are now continuous and a reasonable width. SP observed more cyclists staying on the road rather than using the footway.

Action: All to send supportive comments to the Council whenever possible.

5. Potential CWAC Mini-Holland bid

CH proposed that CWaC should consider submitting a Mini-Holland bid for the Government's initiative "Gear Change A bold vision for cycling and walking" - details can be seen here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england>. As already developed in outer London Boroughs they will choose up to 12 willing non-London local authorities to benefit from intensive investment on the same model. They must be places where cycling is currently low and there is political commitment to dramatic change for everyone who lives and works in the area.

All agreed this would be an excellent initiative for Chester and it might be something that the STTF could pursue. CS suggested we set up a Mini-Holland sub group to put together some actions and prepare a well presented case for the ATF. Maybe suggesting close working with ATF and Officers.

JV said that this would be a major project taking between 1 – 2 years to implement and therefore it is urgent to get things moving now. Apparently a consultant has commented that Chester would be an ideal location as it is not too large and reasonably flat. CG agreed and

hoped that there would be all party support – particularly as it is a Government initiative. SP will take the idea up with Chris Matheson and hopefully community support will come from various areas.

SB felt that we are moving back towards village settlements and better access from places such as Saighton Camp, Tarvin, travel in from Wales etc would be a way to connect to the core of the city. KT queried what scale is envisaged as Hoole might be an ideal small project although generally a city wide option was felt to be appropriate. JH reminded us that the Poynton scheme (albeit small) has been a success.

Action: Working group to be set up at next Campaign meeting. SP/CH agreed to put forward some initial ideas in advance of the January meeting

6. Chester Sustainability Forum representative.

SS wondered whether, as she was not as active as in the past, anyone else would like to take on the role of representing the Campaign on the CSF. IS expressed some interest but suggested decision be left until AGM. In the meantime SS will send IS details for information. CH thanked SS for doing the role so far.

7. Google Street View 360 degree imagery.

CS has been in email correspondence with Jim Gayes (a specialist in 360° Google Street View photography of large outside spaces) and is trying to clarify what he is offering the Campaign. It would not be for free. AE who is familiar with survey mapping tools offered to review and report back. RH felt it might be over complicated for our needs. NS queried whether it might be useful in rural areas for potential routes/pathways.

Action: AE to review and report back.

8. Date of January meeting.

All agreed 6 Jan 2021 on Zoom.

9. 2021 AGM.

Brief discussion was held on how we should plan for future meetings. EM proposed Storyhouse as a venue where we would be able to use a small meeting room which would be totally accessible and therefore inclusive. She offered to look into the possibility on behalf of the Campaign. Storyhouse are keen to support community groups and it is hoped that there might also be provision of audio visual facilities. CH suggested a blend of online and physical meetings might also be worth considering.

All those with defined roles need to think about whether they wish to continue or stand down next year. Each officer should also prepare a report for the AGM meeting on 3rd February.

Action: EM to explore feasibility of holding future meetings at Storyhouse. All to consider if they wish to take on a role in 2021.

10. School Travel Plan.

In view of the time no detailed discussion took place on this subject. IS, who is in contact with schools who have Travel Plans offered to investigate the issue and bring a report to our next meeting.

Action: IS to report back.

11. A.O.B.

RH reminded members there was a last minute chance to comment on the Council's budget proposals. It was also agreed to defer consideration of a Zoom account for the Campaign until the AGM. SB confirmed that Molly is happy for us to continue using hers for now.

Meeting closed at 21:30.

Date of next Meeting is 6th January 2021 via Zoom. Cathey volunteered to chair and Ian to take the minutes.