

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 6th January 2021

Present (for some or all of the time): Simon Brown (SB), Peter Bulmer (PB), Andy Evans (AE), Caroline Gerrard (CG), Andrew Hamill (AH), Cathey Harrington (CH) (Chair), John Holiday (JH), Roger Hones (RH), Ashley McCraight (AM), Eileen Morgan (EM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Stephen Perry (SP), Monica Robinson (MR), Nic Siddle (NS), Ian Slater (IS) (Minutes), Craig Steeland (CS), Ken Thomas (KT), John Violet (JV), Pierre Walthery (PW), Peter Williams (PW)

Apologies: Arnold Wilkes

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 2nd December.** The meeting minutes were approved.
Action: CS to post on website.

2. Matters Arising:

RH asked about status of the Charterhall Drive path through to the railway station in connection with the planning application. Sean Traynor is talking to the developer about inclusion of the cycle path. SP is hopeful that the path gets incorporated.

SLP intends to pursue via the Active Travel Forum for a process of mapping poor road surfaces. RH requested a better way of reporting cycling issues to CWAC as the existing system (REPORT IT) lacks functionality for identifying problem areas and subsequently tracking progress. AM and SLP advocated a new system with greater openness and interactive features.. Pursue via the ATF.
ACTION: Members to funnel ideas via SLP.

3. STTF update.

SP reported back that at the 2nd meeting three working sub-groups and targets have been established. The atmosphere remains positive under the chairmanship of Garfield Southall.

SLP reports that Warrington have received funding for a new bus station as part of city centre improvements. **ACTION:** SLP to share contact details for the Warrington activity.

Mini-Holland bid preparation. SP suggested that this is best handled via the STTF. With the enthusiasm for the Waltham Forest project in mind, it was suggested we prepare a proposal for Chester in case money becomes available at short notice. Perhaps build on the inventorisation and planning done for the five parish councils in SE Chester and add proposals to the map managed by NS to build an overview.

SP has reached out to contacts at Northwich and Winsford to identify a person keen on cycling to promote ideas.

JV and CH met with Karen Shore of CWAC on 5th January and she was encouraging about being in touch with the Department for Transport about funding for Mini Holland proposals.

PW asked what happens to the public's input to the 'Walk, Ride, Thrive' initiative where many proposals for improvement were logged. NS will see whether it is possible to extract those ideas from the database. AE checked whilst we were online and believes that CWAC should be able to access data within that particular system for analytical purposes.

SP encouraged CCC members to listen in to the next meeting of the STTF (date: 14th January 2021)

4. Five Parishes report on Active Travel ie Cycling Plan for South East Chester.

JV reported that Sean Traynor will meet with representatives of the five Parish Councils at the end of January. JV, CH and Parish Councillors met with Karen Shore on 5th January in order to brief her. Each councillor made a short presentation and this went well. JV suggested during that meeting that now would be a good time to move from feasibility stage to more detailed evaluation using S106 funds to cover costs incurred. Karen Shore suggested taking the plan to the ATF but JV had reservations about how effective that would be. PB is supportive of the work and suggested using the work done in SE Chester as a potential basis for a demo project as per Mini Holland.

SP suggested having CCC volunteers to represent the main arterial roads into Chester in support of the CCC mapping project. He will take this offline, the objective being that volunteers will add to the existing mapping of cycling infrastructure.

CG is making progress on active travel planning with the Upton action group. She will give an update at the next meeting.

5. Climate Emergency Response Plan (AM).

RH and AM are working on a response on behalf of CCC & CNC and invited input from other members by 7th January, having agreed with CWAC that comments on the plan may be submitted up to 8th January. AM emphasised the importance of getting existing local activities incorporated e.g. LCWIP proposals and 'Walk, Ride, Thrive' suggestions.

6. Chester Air Quality Action Plan not yet published update (AM)

AM has chased the lead CWAC officer in September but has yet to receive a response and the report is still not published. It was suggested to chase this again via Matt Bryan- CWAC's lead for Climate Emergency action. **ACTION:** AM to chase up with Matt Bryan.

7. Planning Application reviews and update (NS).

NS reported details earlier via email.

NS expressed concern about an inconsistent approach to provision for cycle storage and active travel by different planners but his efforts are increasing awareness and resulting in some improvements.

NS would welcome assistance on planning applications for Northwich and Winsford (see SP's point in item 3 above) as these areas are unfamiliar to him.

POST MEETING NOTE: NS shared the link to the latest planning summary

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dM_1NQWdqGosuktDSDXuimTrqd7F2w3NaG4p3SeD3Cg/edit?usp=sharing

NS met with a CWAC representative (David Saville) on-site to discuss footpath and access issues in Capenhurst. There is some hope that a right-of-way can be established at that point due to the age of the nearby housing development (approx. 20 years) and regular use of the path by locals over a prolonged period. A very high price estimate was floated for making the path permanent due to the need to provide permanent path of appropriate standard and lighting.

ACTION: NS to chase CWAC for a formal response following this on-site meeting.

NS reported that he had previously worked on options for a potential footpath from Helsby to Mouldsworth via the disused railway line, which SLP has been exploring recently. **ACTION:** NS to share details with SLP.

8. A51 vegetation clearance update (RH).

RH provided an update via email prior to the meeting. The hedges affecting the A51 SUP were cutback between Wicker Lane and Lansdowne Road as promised by Sean Traynor (ST) but the work was of poor quality and the debris was not cleared up. ST was informed and he will meet with his team to discuss. Such shortcomings should be avoidable by contract service level agreements, defining standards of work. RH considers his role in this activity complete now. Thanks for your persistence Roger.

The Toucan crossing in Littleton is expected to be installed in February.

9. Inclusive Cycling update (EM).

EM reported that the cones outside Sainsbury's in Hoole (Faulkner St.) have been removed and will only be in place when a delivery is anticipated. Blue badge holders can now park on the yellow lines. No disabled parking bay has been provided as yet on Faulkner Street. Access for wheelchair users from the Bishops St. car park to Faulkner St. is impeded by e.g. waste bins.

Storyhouse (Georgia West) has been contacted about use of their facility for future meetings but Georgia says that the preferred meeting space is already booked for Young Storyhouse on Wednesday evenings. EM asked whether a different day would be suitable for CCC meetings. This was unresolved.

EM continues to look for opportunities to promote active travel options for those who may wish to try adapted cycles e.g. trikes or hand-cranked wheelchair-compatible bikes. Main contacts are with CWAC (Cornel Hrisca-Munn) and Paul B based at 'Give it a Spin' in Hoole.

EM has joined in via Zoom with a group of post-grads involved with Active Travel. **ACTION:** EM to share details to this group.

(POST MEETING: EM shared the link activetravelacademy@westminster.ac.uk)

10. School Travel Plans update (IS).

A short summary was shared via email by IS. Next steps are to try to get a formal response from the CWAC road safety officer and to try to engage with a few schools which represent the more and less-active ends of the spectrum. Christleton High seem active and successful in this regard and have an additional focus following two recent cycle accidents. Christleton are preparing a questionnaire to parents and this may be a useful template for other schools. Bishops and Catholic High might be interesting candidates due to their wider catchment areas.

JH suggested to contact providers of Bikeability instruction to find out which schools are more (or less) actively engaged.

SLP reported back that engagement with the PTA at Helsby High provided very useful support but it took time and effort to achieve an adequate level of engagement.

11. Greenway Flooding issue (JH).

Severe flooding seems to be a relatively recent phenomenon (last few years) and there are several contributory factors e.g. change of drainage from nearby fields into the culvert; damage to or blockage of relevant drains away from the culvert. Whilst the relevant people have been informed there has been little/no progress. The builder, who has plans to further develop the site, and who may have created the problem, is a subsidiary of Barrett Homes. KT suggested getting the Environment Agency involved. SP has talked to ST about this but Sustrans (responsible for the upkeep of the path) have failed to engage sufficiently.

ACTION: SP will write to Xavier Brice and Paul Bruffell at Sustrans to raise the profile.

12. 360 imagery by Jim Gayes (AE)

AE has had an in-depth discussion with Jim Gayes about the technology employed and his potential 'offering'. There is potential to run a pilot in the Chester area at no cost to CCC. Jim is in discussion about funding with various providers. AE gave a short demo on-screen of the extensive area covered by Google Street View, as contributed to by Jim Gayes. EM saw this as a helpful tool when reviewing mobility issues such as the 'Raising the Barrier' initiative. The pilot could also be used to support a Mini Holland bid.

13. 2021 AGM preparation.

In view of the time it was agreed to finalise this off-line. **ACTION:** SP to send an email inviting contributions and volunteers for filling official positions for those where incumbents wish to stand down.

14. AOB.

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

AGM on 3rd February.

Chair: Stephen Perry.

Minutes: Craig Steeland.

Meeting closed at 21:45