

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021

Present (for some or all of the time): Simon Brown (SB), Andy Evans (AE), Andy Hamill (AH), Cathey Harrington (CH) (Minutes), John Holiday (JH), Ashley McCraight (AM), Eileen Morgan (EM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Stephen Perry (SP) (Chair), Monica Robinson (MR), Nic Siddle (NS), Ian Slater (IS), Craig Steeland (CS), Tom Smith (TS), Ken Thomas (KT), John Violet (JV), Pierre Walthery (PWa), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Peter Williams (PW).

Apologies: Roger Hones (RH)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th April.** The meeting minutes were approved. Proposed: CS, seconded: NS.
Action: CS to post on website.
2. **Matters Arising:** (taken at end of meeting)
 - a. **Item 3 Cycling Matters!** SB distributed Spring issue to all members as the April issue of the Campaign Bulletin.
 - b. **Item 5 A51 Puffin Crossing** – Several members has written to Highways and request the originally proposed Toucan crossing.
 - c. **Item 7 Planning Applications Update - recent planning approval for the Beechmoor Nurseries site** JV found out that the planning application was a supplementary one for 37 extra units, meaning that any finance which could be extracted from the developers would be on the basis of only the extra units. There was no award for active travel in the approval for the original application. As a result of this information, CCC chose not to pursue the proposed letter or write to the press.
 - d. **Item 8 Rough Road Surfaces** was due to be on the agenda at the March ATF meeting, but was not listed. Cycling UK and Sustrans confirmed that there is no standard for the smoothness of road surfaces.
Action: AW will pursue with Lydia Orford.
 - e. **Item 9 One City Plan** - NS has received an acknowledgement from Karen Shore of his letter highlighting the importance of securing the Charterhall Drive route through from Westminster Road to the Railway Station.
 - f. **Item 10 School Transport** . IS contacted Sarah Collins, CWAC Road Safety Officer. Further discussion will take place before deciding on a letter to Christleton High School on behalf of the Campaign highlighting key points of concern about their proposed licensing policy, and supporting arguments made by AE and CH.
Action: IS and AE.
 - g. **Item 11 Northern Eye Books.** CS gathered all the comments from Campaign members and supplied photos to Tony Bowerman, as assistance with a book Tony is planning to publish on cycle routes around Chester and the Wirral. The Campaign's contribution was very well received and the Campaign will be referenced in the final publication. Tony will send CS a link to a draft of the book. CS was thanked for the considerable amount of work done on this.
 - h. **AOB - SUP alongside the A41 between the hamburger roundabout and the railway bridge just before Christleton.** CH emailed a complaint about resurfacing being bumpy. Receipt was acknowledged by CWAC but no response received.

3. Zoom Account. CS reported that a Zoom account cannot be held by the Campaign as we don't have a credit or debit card. Same issue for alternatives to Zoom. It was proposed that the Campaign will continue to use Molly Brown's account and reimburse her the full cost of £143.40 including VAT per annum. Proposed: MR Seconded: CH. Carried. Our monthly meeting will be set up as an event which repeats automatically, even in the absence of Molly and/or SB.
Action CS will pay Molly from the Campaign's Paypal account.

4. Bike Week Activity (May 29th to June 5th). The following ideas will be taken forward:

i. **"Fancy Women Bike Ride"** (post-meeting note: see [here](#)) Sunday 30th May was suggested, to coincide with Cycling UK's [World's Biggest Bike Ride](#).

Action: Molly & SB to circulate details.

ii. **Cycle Buddy Scheme launch.**

Action: CH to circulate ideas, TS to draft press release.

iii. **Offer to take out CWAC & Parish Councillors, Police, PCSOs & PCC out on bikes** in/around Chester.

Action: PWA to draft email & circulate.

iv. **Live** (rather than online) **cycle maintenance session.** Steve Fidler from Bren Bikes has kindly agreed to be the mechanic (arranged by IS).

There was agreement to consider AW's suggestion of Dr Bike sessions involving other bike shops, for future sessions.

Action: IS to arrange with Steve Fidler & Bren Bikes. CS will find links to good cycle maintenance videos on the internet and post on the Campaign website,.

v. Put Cycling UK's Cathedrals route, which is being launched in Bike Week, on Campaign website.

Action: CH to send link, CS to put on website.

vi. Inclusive Cycling event, showcasing as many different types of cycles, trailers, etc as possible, hosted by Live! This could possibly be a good alternative to the Greenway Festival.

Action: EM to discuss with Paul Beaudoin of Live!

5. Campaign Membership – IS reported that membership which now stands at 164, with growth coming from personal contacts rather than from social media.

Action: Facebook users are encouraged to share posts widely.

About 20 people did not renew their membership this year. IS offered to compose a suitable letter encouraging renewal or gently eliciting reasons for non-renewal.

Action: IS.

IS is working with Angus King on ideas to improve the Campaign's image and its offering to members.

No uptake yet of free bike check for new members. EM offered to test out the system by being the first user.

Action: EM. *Post -meeting note: EM has had 30 point bike health check and submitted a review to CS.*

School Transport – IS has made contact with the headmaster at Bishops High School and will get involved with the forthcoming school travel plan and expansion of cycle storage. The head had seen significant growth in cycling during COVID and wants to double cycle storage capacity. Bishops still have 6 buses per day for pupils from e.g. Ellesmere Port and Runcorn. The head sees this as a definite 'green' activity.

- 6. Cycling Matters!** Spring issue has been emailed to 68 individuals or organisations so far. CH is continuing to search for potential recipients.
- 7. Planning Applications Update.** NS sent his comprehensive document on cycle parking to CWAC. Receipt acknowledged, but no further response.
All the bigger developments in our area are on ex-industrial land in Ellesmere Port. Opportunities for good cycling infrastructure are undoubtedly being missed because there is no overarching plan for the area, resulting in piecemeal development. PW agreed, quoting as an example the SUP under Rossmore Road East, which Sean Traynor had agreed should be improved to 4m wide, but is still planned at 2m. PW will raise at the STTF Pilot Group for Ellesmere Port tomorrow.
Action: PW
Major developers are consistently undersizing garages. NS is looking for a CWAC contact who will pursue compliance with CWAC's Supplementary Planning Document on parking.
- 8. Inclusive Cycling Update** – The Facebook posting about EM has generated a good response and CS proposed that an Inclusive Cycling page should be set up on the Campaign website. EM and TS have met to start putting together content for the page.
Action: EM, TS, CS.
EM has approached Paul Beaudoin who runs Give it a Spin sessions at Live! in Newton, about opening up sessions to adults (rather than just youngsters). EM is proposing to arrange to meet interested adults there, who can then talk to her and maybe try a GIAS session. EM's plan is that a group of people using non-standard cycles could be formed. EM will discuss a booking system with Paul.
Action: CS.
EM has discussed with Jim Gayes (local 360° Google Street View photographer) the difficulty of seeing signage from wheelchairs and requested that he add accessibility points, cafes, etc to his work. He has added them for the zoo, Backford and some other places.
- 9. Northgate Development Cycle Parking – CWAC's Design Proposals** – SB shared on screen a comprehensive document, collating all Campaign comments & input. It was submitted to Clare Huber, Head of Construction, Major Projects & Markets, CWAC, cc Andrew Arditty CWAC. No response yet.
Action: SB to follow up.
- 10. Sustainable Transport Task Force** – SP advised the meeting that all pilot groups and projects are progressing. The EATLs group has produced suggestions for alternatives to be tested in Boughton. There is concern at a lack of engagement from CWAC.
All welcome to attend the next online open meeting of the task force on Thursday 13th. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Kristy Littler at CWAC to obtain the link
Kristy.Littler@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- 11. Active Travel Forum** SP, SLP, JV and Martin Preston (on behalf of the Ramblers) wrote to Karen Shore expressing concern about lack of engagement by CWAC and requesting information about CWAC's budget for active travel. They were extremely disappointed by the response, which did not address their concerns.
Action SP to contact Karen Shore to request meeting.
- 12. Greenway Flooding** KT reported a response from Mary Seaton of Sustrans that Sustrans would be doing work on their land later this year, but that she had not received a response from CWAC.

AOB

- a. Sustrans is asking for volunteers to help audit and amend signs on Sustrans routes which are no longer designated as NCN routes.

Action: Contact SP, RH, AW.

- b. Hoole Road corridor study by Mott MacDonald – An update was due to be circulated by CWAC (Minutes of the ATF meeting on 4th March 2021 said "*Hoole Road corridor: Sean is meeting with Mott McDonald tomorrow and can share an update via e-mail*"), but nothing has been received by CCC.

- c. 5 cycle stands have been removed from the row of stands in the town hall square, to allow access for builders working on the Northgate Development. Could they be re-sited elsewhere, even temporarily, so that capacity is not lost.?

Action: CH to send photo. SP to contact Claire Huber.

- d. The Greenway will be closed for 2 weeks where it is crossed by the road bridge at Mannings Lane South, for work to be done on the road bridge. The road bridge itself will be closed for about 12 weeks from 17th May.

Action: CH to circulate information.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 2nd June 7.30pm, online.

Meeting closed at 21:44.