

## CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Present (for some or all of the time):** Cathey Harrington (CH), Craig Steeland (CS)(Chair), John Violet (JV), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Morgan Jones (MJ), Ashley McCraight (AM), Stephen Perry (SP) (Minutes), Ian Slater (IS), Ken Thomas (KT), Peter Williams (PW), Andy Hammill (AH), John Holiday (JH).

**Apologies:** Roger Hones (RH), Andy Evans (AE), Monica Robinson (MR), Nic Siddle (NS), Eileen Morgan (EM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Simon Brown (SB), Pierre Walthery (PWa).

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.** The meeting minutes were approved.  
**Action:** CS to post on website.

#### 2. Matters Arising

- **Surfaces.** Andy Bithell's presentation was informative, but he made it clear that the current road surface standards worked to by CW&C (and in line with DfT requirements) are not designed to assess surfaces for cycling, and in the current climate of limited budgets this is unlikely to change. As this response completely ignores CWaC's stated goal of supporting & encouraging Active Travel & to emphasise the impact that poor surfaces can have on cyclists, AB has been invited to cycle a very badly rutted route on the busy B 5152 known to have caused a rider to fall off his bike. **Action: AM to follow-up.**
- **Cycle Buddy Scheme.** Feedback from London Cycling Buddy Scheme is that they do not take out any specific insurance. Instead they make sure that all participants acknowledge that they take part at their own risk. CH feels this is still too open an issue and will check for further options with Cycling UK. For the time being 'helper' buddies will be limited to CCC members, but we are also reviewing the name to be used for the 'helper' buddy and whether we need to consider the option of ensuring that same gender 'buddies' are available if requested. Draft web pages have been prepared to promote and support this initiative **Action: CH and CS**
- **Inclusive Cycling Event.** For various reasons EM was not able to run the event as planned, but hopes in future to arrange an alternative event 'off her own bat.' A new web page is being prepared from which responses will go directly to EM. EM will continue to press Live Scene to use their alternative cycles in future. **EM to continue exploring.**
- **'Taking You for a Ride'** No update available. To be discussed further at the next meeting.  
**Action PWa**
- **Membership Update** - We currently have **216** members. The database has been cleaned up, eliminating records for former members. Trevor is going to look into whether it is feasible to arrange auto renewal facilities for membership subs via direct debit with our bank and what the cost might be. **Action: TJ.** The business cards (first batch of 300) have been printed and some members have requested a few, for wider distribution.
- **Cycling Matters** Summer issue send by email. The distribution list is increasing, with copies going to key local figures, including all members of the Active Travel Forum and schools. We need to consider having a few printed copies for the next edition. To be further considered.  
**Action CH/CS**

- **Ring Road Clockwise.** SP attended a recent meeting organised by Cllr Richard Beacham to review options for change along St Martin's Way, post Clockwise. There is very little money available to make any major changes and it is hoped that more fundamental changes can be made as part of Northgate Development Phase2. Ideas for low cost changes were discussed and it was also emphasised that the key route for most cyclists coming into Chester over the Grosvenor Bridge is via Grosvenor Street. It was also noted that consideration should be given to a trial one-way system clockwise around the southern inner ring road, to be trialled before the 'end of Clockwise'. **Action: SP to keep in touch with possible changes**
- **UK Community Renewal Fund.** JV reported that he had very positive discussions with David Saville (CW&C) and with C&RT about applying for funding to extend the canal tow path improvements towards Waverton, but in the end the contractors could not provide a quotation in time to meet the application deadline.
- **World Car Free Day on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>.** JV reported that he had followed up plans for this event with Lydia Orford to see what CWaC are proposing. The meeting agreed that CCC should piggy-back CWaC actions for the day rather than doing something independently.

3. **Feedback from Virtual Meeting with Karen Shore.** Following an exchange of emails sent by Steve Pemberton on behalf of key members of the Active Travel Forum, expressing frustration at the way of working within the ATF, a follow-up meeting was held with Cllr Karen Shore, Kristy Littler and Mark Averill, with SLB, SP and JV in attendance. Cllr Shore acknowledged the concerns expressed as follows:

- There is a need to review the working of the ATF, in general and in relation to the STTF which can be confusing and conflicting
- There is need for CW&C to be more open about their budgets for Active Travel
- There is a positive opportunity for Highways to work more closely with the community (including the ATF and CCC) when planning changes and improvements
- ATF work should be less Chester centric

A follow up meeting to discuss this further has been arranged on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

4. **Local Plan.** It was agreed that CCC should submit a response to the Local Plan Consultation which is due to close mid-September. This will be discussed in more detail at the August meeting and members are encouraged to review the consultation website and bring their ideas to the next meeting. **Action: All members**
5. **Women's Festival of Cycling.** IS questioned whether SB and Molly would consider organising another 'Ladies Cycling' event during this festival planned for 17 July to 1 August 2021. **Action: IS to check with SB**
6. **Cycle to School Week 28<sup>th</sup> - Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.** The possibility of encouraging schools to participate in this event was discussed. It was felt that many schools have other priorities (C-19). However IS has made recent positive contact with some schools and CH is also starting to reach out to other schools, so we will do what we can. **Action: IS and CH to update at the next meeting**
7. **Next meeting and future meeting venue.** It was agreed to hold the August meeting as another virtual meeting. However all present were encouraged to look out for local venues which could be used for future meetings. Ideally these would: be accessible, have Wi-Fi available, be free or low-cost, provide drinks and be available on a Wednesday. **Action: All members**

- 8. Any Other Business. There was no further business**
- 9. Next Meeting Wed 5<sup>th</sup> August at 7-30pm – VIRTUAL**