

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 4th August 2021

Present (for some or all of the time): Cathey Harrington (CH), Craig Steeland (CS), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Morgan Jones (MJ), Stephen Perry (SP)(Chair), Ian Slater (IS), Ken Thomas (KT), John Holiday (JH), Roger Hones (RH), Monica Robinson (MR)(Minutes), Nic Siddle (NS), Eileen Morgan (EM), Simon Brown (SB), Pierre Walthery (PWa), Tom Smith (TS), Sam Marshall (SM)

Apologies: John Violet (JV), Andy Evans (AE), Ashley McCraight (AM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Peter Williams (PW),

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th July 2021.** The meeting minutes were approved.

Action: CS to post on website.

2. Matters Arising

- **Surfaces.** JV and AM are planning a co-ordinated blitz on reporting pot holes and poor surfaces to CWaC sometime in Sept. It is recommended that we all use the CWaC App which several agreed was a straightforward process and appears effective. SP offered to contact AM and ask if he is happy to guide those who need help with the App and suggest a suitable week in Sept.

Action: SP to contact AM (*post meeting note – AM has agreed to sort this out with a possible slight delay in timing to a week in early October. Further update Sept mtg.*)

- **Cycle Buddy Scheme.** Work on this is ongoing. A meeting is planned for next week.

Action: CH and CS

- **Inclusive Cycling Event.** EM to continue exploring.
- **'Taking You for a Ride'.** No update available.
- **Cycling Matters.** Summer issue now sent to all members via latest Bulletin. CH continues to explore new people to send copies to.
- **Feedback from Virtual Meeting with Karen Shore.** SP has initiated the idea of combining the Active Travel Forum (ATF) and the Sustainable Transport Task Force (STTF). Between the two groups many ideas and a lot of effort is going in with little time to follow up, creating some dissatisfaction. SP approached Kevin Riley (WSP consultant) who works closely with CWaC to seek a better solution to the problem. Members of the meeting agreed this was a good idea and worth following up. CH and JV had successfully put forward ideas to the SE Chester Pilot.
- **Local Plan.** Although there was no discussion on detailed ideas it was agreed that it would be beneficial for a formal response from CCC to be submitted. CH confirmed that CWaC were impressed with our submission for the Air Quality Action Plan and have asked to use the document. SB agreed to set up a framework document which others are asked to contribute to via the activists' emails. In addition all members were encouraged to make personal contributions to the consultation.

Action: SB set up draft outline response. All members contribute.

- **Cycle to School Week 28th - Sept to 1st Oct.** SB wondered if the Company that delivers Bikeability are finding it difficult to recruit staff and this might have impacted on the

organisation of Cycle to School week. A brief discussion followed about Bikeability and how important it is for schools to take up the offer of this training.

- **Next meeting and future meeting venue.** SP thanked all those members who worked hard to research future venues for our monthly meetings especially CS who found Bowling Green Ct with very good facilities which will enable us to welcome members via Zoom at the same time. This may need careful chairing as those on Zoom will only get a view of the whole room rather than individual speakers. SM offered to lend the group a microphone to assist in picking up contributors voices more clearly. SB confirmed that the Zoom meeting link and ID and password will continue to be the same for all future meetings.
- 3. **St Martin's Way – CCC response to proposals for advisory cycle lanes.** SP summarised the background to the proposals. SP, JV and AE were shown the scheme drawings at a meeting organised by Cllr Beacham (RB). Their Initial reaction was this is a great idea but fraught with difficulty. The Transport Strategy Group officers were instructed to draw up plans for advisory cycle lanes on each side of St Martin's Way from the Northgate Dev as far as the Magistrates Court. As this will be part of the Northgate Development Brief i.e. with no specific funding it basically involves road marking rather than physical barriers. RB contacted both SP and NS individually to explain his vision. Key points put forward by SP – Local Authority would be in an exposed position if the Government's Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 guidelines were not met; it is not a primary cycle route of choice; not in the LCWIP plans; there would be a lack of continuity as routes don't join up; if done badly there would be risk of not pleasing anyone; needs to be done properly. RB takes a slightly different view i.e.do it in stages. He thinks more might use it for work especially as scooters can't go through the city centre. All roads should be repainted especially the cycle lanes. He supports 20mph, Advanced Stop Lanes, and advisory cycle lanes citing the success of the Grosvenor Bridge.

A lengthy discussion with contributions from approx 12 members followed. SP agreed to summarise CCC response (taking note of points raised by others in activist emails prior to the meeting) for submission by the deadline the following day.

Briefly, contributions made at the meeting were:

- CH – scheme does not comply with LTN 1/20 and therefore no government funding would follow. Queried the width of the proposed traffic lanes suggesting all should be at least 2m wide. Would they consider 20mph without the proposed cycling facilities which would not be suitable for some riders/cycles. Council need to say it was only an interim measure and that they are planning for better in the future. When CCC initially saw Clockwise as an opportunity it was hoping for road space reallocation e.g. one lane of traffic only.
- EM – riding the Grosvenor Bridge on a trike was frightening. It is important that thought be given to those who are differently able and not on 2 wheels. We should talk more about integrated travel including rail and buses. Everybody is active in different ways – look at the wider picture of how people get around. User groups should be involved to make sure funding is used to benefit all.
- NS – support should be given to RB but also need to ensure the Council have the mindset to look long term. There are wide pavements that could be re-purposed. How far will the 20mph extend along St Martin's Way, as need to do it all.

- SB – need to ensure any cycle lane does not have pot holes. Suggested alternative route via Nun’s Road and City Walls Road should be promoted. Queried why anyone would use the Fountains roundabout which is hazardous.
- KT – recommended that the traffic lane next to the cycle lane should be a full width size leaving the outside lane the one that is reduced.
- SP – articulated lorries would need to stay behind a cycle. Confirmed nothing would happen without engineers’ approval. There has to be some declared intent longer term.
- PWa – agreed with giving positive feedback. Need to stress it would be better to advertise the proposal as provisional. We should be clear about what connectivity we want and it should be meaningful. Suggested that if the route goes to the Fountains roundabout people will opt to go through the city centre. There should be an explicit intention to do something.
- CS – Plastic wands delineating the cycle lane might help.
- IS – doesn’t make sense to have cycle lanes on the inner ring road.
- AW – plans are a good idea feeling that cycling through the centre of town is not ideal. Agrees plans are not perfect but better than nothing for those wishing to travel from Garden Quarter area to Bridge St for example. Had also been advised that more scope for cycle facilities could arise in Phase 2 of the Northgate Development.
- MJ – noted there was not an obvious agreement about the proposals but felt we should acknowledge appreciation of what RB and officers are trying to do. It would be better to have an overall plan which is what CCC is trying to call for. 20mph is a good idea.
- RJ – felt the majority are against proposals if there is no long term plan.

All thanked SP for his time and effort in bringing this together and offering to draft CCC final response.

Action: SP to draft response to CWaC (*Post meeting note – see copy of SP response to CWaC*)

4. **Corporate Membership.** IS is hoping to get agreement to a review of the terms for Corporate Membership of the Campaign. A number of suggestions had been circulated but no agreement reached. IS would like a decision before the renewal process at the end of Sept. Agreed to discuss at Sept Campaign meeting. SP thanked IS for his outstanding input to the role of membership sec.

Action: All consider options for discussion at next meeting

5. **Ellesmere Port.** NS sent his monthly report prior to the meeting, including considerable attention to applications in E Port. SP noted that NS has been supporting PW with his efforts in E Port and wondered whether CCC should give more attention to this area - in a similar way to work on the SE Chester Pilot and the Upton area - as there is significant development going on and a lot of money being spent. IS suggested this could dovetail with work being done by Garfield Southall in that area. CH felt that support might generate new members.
6. **Mini Holland.** CWaC is working on an expression of interest for this funding. The scheme would extend from Sainsbury’s roundabout to The Bars. The deadline is very tight and a one in twenty chance of attracting funding, but putting in a bid is a hopeful step.
7. **Northern Rail.** IS and EM continue to work with Northern particularly with regard to improvements at Mouldsworth Station. Further news is expected shortly.

8. Events. CH confirmed the following events due this autumn.

- Chester Sustainability Forum @ the Cathedral on 6 Nov. CCC have taken a stall which will be shared with 20's Plenty. Several members have offered to help and more are invited to join if available.
- Big Green Week 18-26 September supported by Chester Friends of the Earth. Main event is on 25 Sept in Grosvenor Park. All invited to go along.
- 13 Nov at Rowton Hall – Chester Sustainability Fair. (SB explained that this event is more focused on small businesses than on campaigning groups.

9. A51 Littleton to Tarvin. RH reported briefly on the substantial improvements made to the SUP's along this route although there is noticeably little signage – original signs have been taken down during the works and not replaced. SP suggested an email to Mark Averill (Sean Traynor's replacement at Highways) might help to get a response. CH wondered if it was worth a press release but RH preferred no action until good signage is in place.

Action: RH email Mark Averill

10. Any Other Business. CH confirmed she was due to write August letter of the month. NS wondered if there was any progress on the A56 corridor. It is expected that Kevin Riley (CWaC consultant) will feedback on the Council's future priorities via the SSTF in September.

Next Meeting Wed 1st Sept at 7-30pm at Bowling Green Court (Members can also join via Zoom – same link as previous meeting)