

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th October 2021

Present at the meeting: Cathey Harrington (CH), Ian Slater (IS), Roger Hones (RH), Monica Robinson (MR)(Minutes), Nic Siddle (NS) (Chair), Ashley McCraight (AM), Peter Williams (PW),

Present via Zoom: Pierre Walthery (PWa), Sam Marshall (SM), Eileen Morgan (EM), Simon Brown (SB), John Violet (JV), Andy Hamill (AH), Sarah Morgan (SMo) David Shields (DS)

Apologies: Craig Steeland (CS) Andy Evans (AE), Steve Pemberton (SLP), John Holiday (JH), Arnold Wilkes (AW)

(please note there were some interruptions with the link to Zoom during the meeting)

David Shields (DS) was welcomed as a visitor. Sarah Morgan who is a new Corporate Member from the Mid Cheshire Rail Community Partnership was also welcomed to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, held on 1st September 2021.** The meeting minutes were approved.

Action: CS to post on website.

2. Matters Arising

- **'Taking You for a Ride'**. PWa reported back on progress with this scheme. He has had positive responses from 7 councillors/officers and is still hoping to hear back from others who had expressed an interest. Names of a number of senior officers who should also be invited to join the rides were suggested and details given to PWa. There are currently 8 activists who have offered to assist and PWa proposed 2 separate rides – one on 22 November at 2 pm and another date to be confirmed. All agreed that the aim should be a positive experience and keep the event 'low key'. CH adding that it might not be a good idea to seek publicity/press releases at this early stage as we are trying to engage with the Council to highlight significant issues around connectivity etc. SB and SM felt photos could still be taken for our own library records. PWa confirmed that he would set up a small task group to finalise details for the rides and anyone interested should email him directly.

RH confirmed that on 22 October he will be riding with Cllr Beacham along the A51 from Littleton to Tarvin, and will feedback at the next meeting.

3. **Mid Cheshire Rail Community Partnership (MCRCP).** SMO reported on initiatives that the MCRCP are hoping to develop with support from CCC. The 3 Rail and Ride route maps prepared by CCC members and supported by funding from Cheshire East, now need refreshing and they would appreciate our help in doing this exercise. She also flagged up the need to create new potential routes which could be shorter and more suitable for families. Liaising with Sustrans and meeting with the organiser of the Northern Rail Community Partnership, Marina Fahey, they are hoping to encourage Network Rail to participate in these initiatives.

SB confirmed it is 5 years since the first maps were last updated. He has contact with the original designer who might be able to assist with both updating existing maps and creating new ones. He also outlined the process and some ball park costing.

PW confirmed that he had been asked to create a circular route incorporating the Whitegates Way which is 6 mile cycle/walkway (former railway line) near Cuddington Station. JV wondered whether routes through Delamere Forest starting at Delamere Station should also be considered.

IS suggested an inventory check of existing maps and then work on the new routes. SMO confirmed there would be money available and her organisation has suitable storage for keeping the stock of maps. She thanked members for their help and support.

Action: AM to contact SMO via email to review options. PW and SMO to work on Whitegates Way proposed route.

- 4. Road Surfaces.** AM reported back that Andy Bithell (CWaC officer) confirmed that the Highways system is not designed to measure suitability of road surfaces for cycling. With limited budgets work is focused on motor vehicles. SP had raised this issue at the Active Travel Forum (ATF) where it was made clear that there was very little chance of getting anything done. It was decided to focus on reporting all potholes hazards >4cm to the Council using the CWaC App. AM confirmed it is quick and easy to use in practice (details outlined in recent email from AM to activists). All members were asked to try and do at least 5 hazards as soon as possible and by the end of October. It is best to take photo and upload to App at the location. *(post meeting note – IS warned that it is important to be careful to drop ‘pin’ in correct location so that it can easily be identified by officers)*
JV suggested that all CCC members be asked to report hazards not just the activists group.

Action: All to report at least 5 hazards by end of the month. Please reply directly to AM with number of cases and approx location eg Hoole, Tarvin etc. at following address:

ashley.mccraight@btopenworld.com

- 5. Active Travel Forum (ATF).** There was some discussion about the effectiveness of the ATF. PW wondered if the inclusion of bus and train travel might water down the focus on walking and cycling. RH noted that the meetings would improve with fewer presentations and more discussion. SP's feedback also suggested that there is no strategy on Active Travel and a lack of clarity how it will be delivered. It still appears to be a talking shop.
- 6. CWaC Consultation Feedback.** Following a lack of communication from CWaC, AM made a presentation to the Oversight & Scrutiny Committee on 7th June expressing our dismay at the absence of feedback relating to four consultations to which CCC/CNC had responded. This was well received and Cllr Barker asked for the 4 sets of feedback to be prepared by officers by early September. This was achieved through the determined approach of the Insight and Intelligence team who worked with officer colleagues and several Councillors. The reports were sent to activists via email prior to this meeting and it was agreed that small working parties would examine the papers and report back to AM by the end of the month to enable him to prepare a further presentation to the Scrutiny Cttee in December. CH thanked AM very much for all he has achieved, and he acknowledged the help from Cllr Riley.

Action: SB agreed to set up separate zoom meeting for the following:

Air Quality Plan for Chester - CH, RH, AM

Walk Ride Thrive – RH and JV

Climate Emergency Response Plan – PWA and IS

LCWIP Tranche 2 design – AM and CNC

- 7. A51 Littleton to Tarvin.** RH confirmed that lights had been installed at Littleton crossing.

8. Membership. IS reported that a blanket delivery of Cycling Matters around where he lives had not generated any new interest or members and concluded this may not be the best approach. He is planning to try a Facebook campaign for which an initial £50 cap was agreed. Angus King will support this work.

9. A.O.B.

Letters of the month – there was some discussion about how many letters have been written and or published recently. SM felt that CCC should be campaigning for cycle paths to be more efficient (reference to the good work done by Flintshire at the Deeside Industrial park) and offered to link this to the new version of the Highway Code which is due out soon. He would write to the Council on behalf of CCC and to the papers as an individual. Letters by IS and JH have been printed and PW has also drafted a letter re A5117 for Nov.

Event in Faulkner St, 10.30 am on 30th October –EM concerned that too many cycles in the street at once might antagonise shop keepers. CH and others felt that filling up the cycle stands and making it clear cyclists are there to go shopping should allay concerns. Up to 6 cycles would only take up the space of one car suggested IS.

Cycle Buddy scheme – A Cycle Buddy has been out with CH and may do another similar ride. CH confirmed we have not been inundated with interest and suggested more publicity. Cycling Matters newsletters are now available at Hoole Community Centre.

Event at Cathedral 6 November – RH reminded everyone of the event on 6 Nov where CCC will have a stall.

Chester Wheelers project – EM confirmed that Spacehive had gone live that day. She asked for the support of members for this worthwhile project. It was also proposed and seconded that the Campaign should pledge £50. *(post meeting note EM would like to thank members for the support she has received)*

Next Meeting Wed 3rd November at 7-30pm at Bowling Green Court (Members can also join via Zoom)