

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the meeting held at the Bowling Green Court, Brook Street, Chester

Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7 30 pm

Present at the meeting:

Nic Siddle (NS), Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Ian Slater (IS), John Holiday (JH), Roger Hones (RH), Peter Williams (PW) (Minutes),

Attendants via Zoom Ashley McCraight (AM), Eileen Morgan (EM), Arnold Wilkes (AW).

Apologies:

Monica Robinson (MR), Simon Brown (SB), Stephen Perry (SP), John Violet (JV), Pierre Walthery (PWa), Tom Smith (TS), Sam Marshall (SM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Morgan Jones (MJ), Cathey Harrington (CH).

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 th August 2021. The minutes were approved.

Action: CS to post on website.

Matters Arising

Surfaces.

It was agreed to do the planned co-ordinated blitz on reporting poor road surfaces (pot holes) etc to CWaC in October. AM explained that he has sent a link to us on how to report poor surfaces via a mobile phone app.

Action AM to report which week we co-ordinate this action.

Local Plan.

No discussion took place. CWaC's Local Plan conversation 2021 twelve-week consultation comes to an end on 15th September 2021.

St Martins Way.

NS reported that he has been told by councillor Richard Beacham that there will not be an ASL on Nicholas Street / St Martins Way by Watergate Street by the Beauty Clinic shop where you can turn left.

A51 Littleton to Tarvin.

RH reported that little had changed. No further progress has happened at the crossing of the A 51 at Hare Lane and Littleton Lane with regards to the Toucan Crossing going in. No progress on proposal to widen the central reservation when crossing over the A 51 at Wicker Lane.

Action. RH to raise at the Active Travel Forum 7th September 2021.

1. Eileen reported that the council are supporting a crowd funding scheme called spacehive. They are asking for local community project ideas which may help improve health, tourism, Covid recovery etc. There are various different pots of funding available which each project can pitch to if eligible.

I have put forward my idea about having an active walking wheelchair trike hire scheme based at the Countess country park and for use around Chester and other sites. It would enable individuals to take part in community events such as Nordic walking and rambles and enjoy the freedom of all terrain equipment allows those with mobility issues to take part. My project needs to be verified and will be live from 15th September 2021.

If I get enough likes and pledges (anything from £2 upwards) the council will support the project by offering funding up to 95% in mid-October. The project needs 100% of the funding required by December otherwise it receives no funding at all.

To view the project, go to www.spacehive.com search Eileen morgan Walking wheelchair and click the thumb to like the page. Pledges are not being accepted until 15th September but “likes” are important to indicate community interest which requires verification.

If successful this could be the start of an “inclusive wheeled” hire scheme which would be a wonderful asset for many Chester visitors and residents. If you have any problems accessing the project page or questions, please let Eileen know.

2. Corporate Membership. CS reported that this Corporate Membership idea had gone to a poll among the activists of which 9 members responded. 5 people had responded as undecided. 2 responded yes and 2 responded no. It was decided not to take this forward due to lack of interest. **Post meeting note: - IS has reported that Northern Rail have joined with a Corporate Membership!**
3. Bike Maintenance Classes for Ladies. This has been a success story so far. Today on the 1st September 2021, 20 ladies had been booked and 15 ladies attended at Bren Bikes. In total 70 women have attended and although the classes are free. “£120 had been donated to Bren Bikes after this latest session and similar amounts were yielded at earlier sessions too”. All ladies attending the course had enjoyed the bike maintenance courses which gave them more confidence to do simple repair jobs like repairing a puncture. Sue Booth’s Fab Ladies from Chester, have also shown an interest in doing the course as have some men. “There was a modest uptake, following participation at the workshop into membership of the campaign, but it was useful for our campaign profile”.
4. Cycle Buddies Scheme. CS has set up a procedure on how people meet on this scheme. CS has sent out a Launch Email and 10 helpers have signed up 7 men and 3 women. CS will administer the scheme.
5. Planning Updates. NS gave an update following his emails to us on recent planning applications. CS also reported on the email/ letter received from Iwan Hughes, CWaC’s Planning Business Manager and from Charlie Seward, CWaC’s Deputy Chief Executive. Both communications were circulated. The letter/email to PW was in response to a meeting he had with Justin Madders M P for Ellesmere Port in early August on Rossmore Road East about a new SUP going in under Rossmore Road on what was an old railway line to the dock system that was in Ellesmere Port. NS also explained that Chris Farrow who is the Ellesmere Port Development Manager has played a part in these emails/letters. PW and NS are also trying to get SUP’s put in using these old railway lines up to LTN 1/20 standard on North Road Ellesmere Port. NS also reported some success with developers installing good cycle storage facilities.
Action by PW and NS to find out who sits on the Ellesmere Port Regeneration Team.
6. Blacon High School Extension. We seek a volunteer from that side of town to engage with the school on a travel plan to Blacon High School for students.
7. Safe Cycling Scheme for Christleton High School. Action. CH and IS are working on this.
8. Cycling Matters Autumn Edition. An email from Cathey Harrington says: We need to update our distribution of Cycling Matters as some venues have closed and new

establishments have opened. Action. To let CH, know of closed venues and new ones opened up and to let CH know if members can distribute Cycling Matters. 1000 copies are being printed and some of these will be required at “forthcoming events”, see below.

9. Events coming up.

Big Green Week from Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th September 2021. Main event in Grosvenor Park 25th Saturday from 11am to 4 pm. AW and IS have volunteered to attend for the CCC. Any more volunteers to contact CH.

Chester Cathedral’s Sustainable Event 5th and 6th November 2021. Set up Friday afternoon in the cloisters with a Choral Evensong at 6 30 pm in the evening followed by guest speakers. Main event is Saturday 6th November. Peter, Eileen and Ian have volunteered to attend. Contact CH if you can volunteer.

Chester Sustainable Fair Saturday 13th November at Rowton Hall. We may not attend this event?

10. Taking councillors for a cycle ride. IS asks. “How far did Pierre get in requesting that some councillors’ come on a bike ride with some of our members. Action PWA

11. Any Other Business. So far, no response from CWaC as who owns the Link Path to the A5117 from the canal by Cheshire Oaks. Action by NS to contact Councillor Richard Beacham. **Post meeting. It was reported at the Active Travel meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 that this link path is owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council.**

New meeting room.

Our thoughts on the The Bowling Green Court Brook Street Chester. We were made welcome and Tea and Coffee was available. It was a nice size room with a large table and 16 seats available. There were some technical problems setting up Zoom which Craig managed to overcome. A lap top is required for the connection to Zoom. Craig will give instructions on how to use the equipment provided for our next meeting in October. Someone will have to provide a laptop as Craig will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 6th October 2021 7 30 pm at the Bowling Green Court. (Members can also join via Zoom- same link as previous meeting)