

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022

Present: Craig Steeland (CS) (Chair), Ian Slater (IS), Anna Manning (AM), Maddy Moyle (MM), Cathey Harrington (CH), Peter Williams (PW), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Nic Siddle (NS), Monica Robinson (MR) (Minutes), Pierre Walthery (PWa), John Holiday (JH) Evie Adams (EA)

Present via Zoom: Steve Pemberton (SLP) Ken Thomas (KT), John Violet (JV), Stephanie Ellis (SE)

Apologies: Roger Hones (RH), Tom Smith (TS), Stephen Perry (SP), Eileen Morgan (EM), Julia Bennett (JB), Ashley McCraight (AMc), Howard Jennings (HJ), Andy Evans (AE).

EA and Christine Jones from the Crossroads Community Hub (CCH a Corporate member) were welcomed to the meeting. All present gave brief introductions.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th April 2022.** The meeting minutes were approved and RH was thanked for his work in preparing these.

Action: CS to make a minor amendment and then post on website. (Post-meeting note: Done)

- 2. Matters Arising.** A few matters were postponed until the next meeting as relevant people were absent. IS confirmed that Peter Cox had been thanked for providing a copy of his book to the CCC Library. Other items were on the agenda for this meeting
- 3. Greenway Grocer presentation.** Evie (EA) and Christine Jones (CJ) gave a very informative and interesting talk about the recently launched initiative known as the Greenway Grocer. Set up by the CCH and supported by Steph Ellis (SE) the Food Strategy Lead at Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA)

The hub began to help provide emergency food parcels to those affected by the pandemic. Since then the Greenway Grocer project has provided an opportunity for communities to access affordable fresh fruit and vegetables supplied by Hoole Food Market. The Greenway Grocer - a cargo bike - is currently used to deliver the food to primary schools in the 3 three areas of Newton/Hoole, Garden Quarter and Blacon. The headteachers concerned and the children have welcomed these visits enthusiastically. Children can purchase items with either cash or Healthy Start vouchers.

In time it is hoped to set up a meeting place cafe where families can collect their own food, as well as other initiatives, to develop dignified access to affordable food.

CJ said they were looking for help wherever possible. Hopefully encouraging allotment holders and gardeners to give any surplus produce to be shared out free of charge - the community feeding the community.

Some tuition is needed and Bren Bikes have helped out. Volunteers can get involved riding the bike and possibly supporting the operative (a new post in the offing) who may not necessarily be a keen cyclist. CH suggested that Brendan Harrington who leads the Cycling Without Age (Trishaw) project could help with a risk assessment.

CS suggested various ways CCC could help with publicity via our website, email bulletins, social media, Cycling Matters, Cycle Buddies, and bike 'know how'.

CH thanked EA, CJ and SE for the fantastic work they are doing. CCC members will assist wherever possible.

Grosvenor Bridge speed limit. There was a further discussion about this problem and it was noted that there had been another crash on the bridge recently which was likely to be a result of the

increase to the speed limit. Some progress has been made as noted in the report from SP (attached to minutes), and JV suggested we wait to hear outcome of the forthcoming ISST meeting. A workshop is planned to look at alternative designs for the bridge layout. He confirmed that the council are fully aware of our concerns. It was interesting to note that CWaC had come up with the decision to reduce the speed limit to 20mp initially and guidance from LTN/120 would point to 20mph in this location. CH confirmed that 20's Plenty would attend the planned workshop. IS will ask AE for some Twitter-based Speederbot data and Paul Buckley for video evidence of dangerous driving, to be shared by email and passed to JV.

Action: IS contact P Buckley and AE.

4. IT Issues.

5.1 CS confirmed that the document library he and NS set up with over 50 documents of interest to many including council officers had to be amended as CWaC do not allow their staff to access anything on Google Drive. Documents are now linked to the back end of the CCC website and are accessible to all. It will be interesting to see how much this facility is used.

5.2 Further to considerable discussion at previous meetings and with interested members it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of AV equipment to improve the experience of members attending hybrid meetings. CS and MM have considered the best options for our needs and agreed on the most appropriate and affordable. All were in favour of allocating up to a maximum £700.00 for the purchase.

Action: CS to proceed with purchase.

5. Letter of the month. CH suggested that we could widen our reach by putting these letters on Twitter and Facebook as The Chronicle appears to have stopped printing letters to the editor. Continue sending to The Standard and maybe copy to activists for social media information.

Action: KT to write letter in May and SP in June.

6. Chester Cycling Strategy. It had been agreed previously that the council's Cycling Strategy could do with a refresh. CH confirmed that CWaC published their Cycling Strategy in 2013. At the time CCC felt that there were very few actions which were measurable and that it was not fit for purpose. This proved to be the case. She also reminded us that Colin Watson (former chair of the Chester Sustainability Forum) had produced a detailed Cycling Strategy document in 2018. This was never adopted by the council.

JV put forward the idea of a new Cycling Strategy to the ISTT and has apparently been included in Highways department's work streams. In 2 to 3 weeks time we may know if it has been adopted. He was hopeful that progress will be made although there will still be work to be done. Cheshire East's strategy would be a useful basis to work on and would be a significant step forward. CS pointed out that CWaC have no cycling officer and that there would be organisational issues to be sorted. There was some discussion around the relationship of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Cycling Strategy – although they do different jobs the Strategy is referenced in the Plan, and councils will only get funding if there is a LCWIP in place. It is hoped that Chris Boardman the Director of Active Travel England, and the document recently published Gear Change, might bring better distribution of government funding in the future.

7. Revision of Constitution. The working group had completed their review. CH wondered whether a legal person should check the document but this was not supported. It was agreed that all members be invited to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at 7.30 pm on 6th July - immediately prior to the ordinary monthly meeting - to ratify or otherwise the final wording.

Action: CS agreed to issue the Bulletin giving the required notice period. (Post-meeting note: done)

8. **Membership Report.** IS report received prior to meeting confirmed 11 new members, (1 Life, 4 Individual, 2 Family Lead, and 4 Family.)
9. **Secretary and CWaC liaison report.** Pre-meeting report attached to accompanying email.
10. **Planning Report.** See NS's pre-meeting report attached to the accompanying email. All thanked NS for a very comprehensive update on all planning issues.
11. **Cycling Matters.** CH confirmed that the Spring/Summer issue was complete and had been circulated electronically. It is now with the printer. NS queried whether 1,000 copies would be sufficient as those sites with dispensers often need re-filling. CH agreed to monitor the situation.
Action: CS to put on website. IS to send to Corporate members. (Post-meeting note: done)

12. Events.

13.1 We were reminded of the Green Expo Exposition event due to take place from 16 – 19 June between 10.00 – 18.00 at the Riverside Centre, Castle Drive. No commitment was made to book a stall although as many as could were asked to attend. Copies of Cycling Matters to be handed out.

13.2 The Great Big Green Week Festival in September run by the Chester Eco Communities was also noted. CCC would attend on the Saturday 24th – no decision made about having a stall but networking with copies of Cycling Matters would be very effective.

13.3 Active Travel Fest 20 -30 April 2023. SP had sent an update on the progress with this event (see SP report referred to under item 10). His key message was that that CCC has a major part to play in helping the 'push' element; not only on the day itself (maybe directing and marshalling participants), but with many of the advance activities as well; identifying and encouraging community groups to take the lead, offering Cycle Buddy and similar support and signposting people to other support that may be available.

13. AOB.

- 14.1 CH has been trying to get the University to include cycling routes in their literature for staff and students regarding accessibility between the various campus sites across the city. Since CCC assisted them in producing a 'tube map' which specifically addressed this issue, it was felt that contact could be made with the team involved in its publication.
- 14.2 All members were encouraged to respond to the CWaC consultation on pedestrianisation of the city centre. CH offered to prepare a draft statement outlining the need for improved permeability as a group response.
- 14.3 PWa explained that his initiative to start Chester Fun Rides on Sunday afternoons would not be described as a critical mass event. They would be informal rides taking about 1 hour and all interested in taking part were asked to email PWa.
- 14.4 IS asked if CCC plan to do anything for National Bike Week (6 – 12 June). No decision was made.

Meeting closed at 21.30.

(Chair for June meeting will be IS and minute taker SP)

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st June at 19.30 at Bowling Green Court

(Members can also join via Zoom)