

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 2022

Present: Stephen Perry (SP) (Chair) , Craig Steeland (CS) (Minutes), Ian Slater (IS), Nic Siddle (NS), Julia Bennett (JB), Howard Jennings (HJ), Anna Manning (AM), John Violet (JV), Cathey Harrington (CH), Rob Saunders (RB), Ken Thomas (KT), Roger Hones (RH)

Present via Zoom: Peter Williams (PW), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Eileen Morgan (EM), John Holiday (JH), Simon Tiplady (ST)

Apologies: Ashley McCraight (AMc), Steve Pemberton (SLP), , Christine Robinson, Pierre Walthery (PWa), Simon Brown (SB), Dave Parry (DP)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th July 2022** The meeting minutes were approved and will be placed on the Campaign website.
2. **Matters Arising:**
 - Banking Arrangements – JB reported that our new account is open and that the transfer of funds from our Santander account will take place on August 10th.
 - Campaign Objectives – IS reported that all objectives now have an 'owner'.
 - A Frames – HJ is still attempting to obtain more examples of problematic use of the Flintshire A frames. JH has offered to submit the representations to the council in due course. HJ arranging for photographs to be taken. **Action: HJ**
 - Bike Maintenance Classes – The last class for 2022 held today with 14 participants.
 - Give It a Spin – EM reported that use of adapted cycles now requires membership of Live! at £30 p.a. as well as advance booking and payment of £8 per session fee. CS has updated our website accordingly.
3. **Planning Review (NS)**
 - Road Faults – NS asks all members to update his spreadsheet with details of any faults reported to CWAC. These will be tracked to a conclusion with NS acting as a link with CWAC Highways regarding their action or inaction on the various faults reported. NS says that the closure of a fault on the CWAC system may mean that it has been passed elsewhere within the council. **Action: All**
 - Mollington Grange – NS pressing CWAC to require developers to build the planned cycle path to a high standard, particularly given the rise and fall of the path. There is also the need to get the new path designated as a public right of way.
 - Beechmoor Nurseries Development – A mere £30K in S106 monies will result from the development. JV says that the additional units now planned would not warrant the Campaign pressing for additional S106 money as this would be likely to be a very limited sum.
 - Caldly Valley Lidl Site – NS to draft a communication to members of the planning committee regarding the design and cycling facilities at this site. **Action: NS**
4. **ISTT Update (SP)**
 - SP reported that Mott MacDonald has been given £70K for a demand survey relating to how the S106 Saughton Camp monies might be spent. Individuals can make representations if they wish. Contact SP for details.
 - ATFFest – This is to be held on 18 June 2023 as part of the 2023 Green Expo. SP is seeking support for the 'push' elements of the event. All Campaign members will be encouraged to engage with their local contacts and networks to involve those who may not be regular cyclists. A full-time event manager is being sought to coordinate the various aspects of the event.

- Grosvenor Bridge 20 MPH Limit Reinstatement – The outcome of this is awaiting results of discussions between CWAC and the police.
- CWAC Grant Applications Outcomes – Disappointingly CWAC have failed in their bid to obtain £33 million for bus improvements and in their bid to obtain £100,000 for a mini-Holland feasibility study.

5. StreetCare

StreetCare is the new name for StreetScene. IS reported on a meeting between StreetCare, JV, SP and IS. StreetCare were very receptive to the Campaign's approach and representations, and apparently keen to work with us. They are responsible for 'green' tasks but not any vegetation on private property or scraping of SUPs.

- The bike racks at the side of the Town Hall have been replaced and the new ones are better spaced.
- RH reported that a commitment has been made that the SUP at the side of the A51 between Wicker Lane and the Esso garage is to be scraped back.

6. Surfaces

JV suggests that the Campaign makes a presentation to the ISTT regarding surfaces as reports of 40mm potholes posing a serious danger to cyclists are not being actioned. A CWAC intention to pay greater attention to the 1.5 metre band from the road edge does not seem to be happening.

Action: SP/JV to take forward within ISTT

7. Surplus Campaign Funds

The Campaign has nearly £4,000 in funds, some of which could be spent in line with our objectives. A decision was taken that we should retain £2,500 of our funds in the event that we ever had to resume paying for the printing of Cycling Matters. Ideas are sought for how the remainder might be spent. Ideas put forward included paying to make a cycling video, buying a cycling tool stand to position somewhere publicly in the city, cycling tools and bike stands for those running bike maintenance events, CycleStreets mapping improvements, and bikes for refugees. A long discussion concluded that the Campaign does not have the capacity to take on a specific project to buy or refurbish bikes for Ukrainian visitors. Also, the Campaign should not favour a specific demographic for assistance, as there are many others in need, both other refugee groups and struggling Cestrians.

Action: All to come up with ideas in preparation for further discussion at a future meeting.

8. Girl Guides

The meeting agreed that we should respond positively to the request from Huntington Girl Guides leaders for cycle maintenance sessions for their Guides during their regular meetings from 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm on Tuesdays, preferably on a couple of dates before the end of October. No charge would be made for this. With five Campaign volunteer mechanics and other help, we could perhaps enable all 60 girls to have a hands on experience of fixing a puncture as well as learning other skills using Cycling UK's bike maintenance YouTube playlist.

Action: CS to take forward, including setting up Doodle poll to assess the availability of potential helpers in order to find the best dates for such events.

9. Social Media

A discussion about how to extend our social medial presence including Instagram concluded that Angus King (AK) and Tom Smith (TS) might be best placed to advise us. **Action: IS to contact AK and SP to contact TS.**

10. Family Bike Rides

IS has identified 3 possible family bike ride routes. CH suggested that rides could start from local school as children and their parents might be able to easily cycle/walk their bikes to the gathering point. SP suggested that rides next spring could serve as useful run-ups to the ATFest. Any rides would need to be tested for suitability and assessed from a health and safety point of view. Insurance implications would also need to be explored to ensure that we could be covered by Cycling UK insurance.

Action: All to suggest further possible family cycle ride routes. IS to look into conditions attached to Cycling UK insurance, especially around leader qualifications.

11. Bike Maintenance Classes

Nine classes have been held over the past two years with about 130 participants altogether. IS feels that this initiative has run its course for the time being. The meeting approved £60 in expenditure to buy gift vouchers for the Bren Bike volunteers who have been involved. The meeting thanked IS for his efforts.

Action: IS to buy gift vouchers for Bren Bikes staff.

12. AOBs

- Cycling Strategy – CWAC has taken the decision not to replace their existing cycling strategy despite its obvious deficiencies. We understand that CWAC is not going to update the existing cycling strategy, but are going to retain it and list it as a associated document for the LCWIP. JV argued that this is not the time for the Campaign to press for a new strategy and rather that we should wait until there is a new head of Transport Strategy appointed reporting to Rose MacArthur.
- Cycle Buddies – CH has approached the Countess of Chester Hospital to draw their attention to our Cycle Buddies scheme and we wait to see if there is any take-up.
- Chester Station – CH has approached the station with a view to having them make copies of Cycling Matters! available to rail users and is awaiting a response.
- Cycle to Work Day – CH mentioned that this takes place on Thursday, August 4th and is being promoted by Cyclescheme.
- Letter of the Month – CH is the letter writer for August and has this in hand.
- Cycling Matters! – CH put out a call for items to include in the next issue of Cycling Matters!

The meeting concluded at 9:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7th at 7:30 pm in person at Bowling Green Court and online via Jitsi

Jitsi Link: <https://meet.jit.si/SaddleGearsTyresWheels>

Chair: Simon Brown

Minute Secretary: Ian Slater