

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2022

7.30pm Bowling Green Court and online.

Present: John Violet (JV) (Chair), Ian Slater (IS), Peter Williams (PW), Craig Steeland (CS), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Nic Siddle (NS), Paul Beaudoin (PB), Zoe Boustead and Kate Rayner (Cycling Without Age Chester).

Present online via Jitsi: Roger Hones, Stephen Perry, John Holiday, Eileen Morgan, Simon Brown, Steve Pemberton, Cathey Harrington (Minutes).

Apologies: Monica Robinson, Julia Bennett, Anna Manning, Ashley McCraight, Andy Evans.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September 2022.

Action: CS to place on the Campaign website.

- 1. Presentation by Cycling without Age** CYCLING WITHOUT AGE (CWA Chester) made a short presentation of their activities. ACTION: Share the video link as part of the MOM. CWA Chester are keen to recruit new pilots and walking volunteers for their expanding activity. Their target is to have 30 of each by Spring 2023. A time commitment of at least 4 hours per month is requested. All necessary training will be given. A DBS clearance is required and this will be paid for by CWA Chester. Contact via Facebook or email Kate.rayner@cyclingwithoutage.org.uk or Zoe.boustead@cyclingwithoutage.org.uk
Stephen Perry suggested making contact with the Living Streets organisation in Upton. (email address: uptonbychestergroup@livingstreets.org.uk)
- 2. Matters Arising from the minutes.** None.
- 3. Inclusive Cycling Report (EM).**
Inclusive Cycling Event at Ness Gardens.
This event was very positive: well-received and well-attended. Various versions of the trike (powered and unpowered) were available to be trialed. A wide age range of people tested out the equipment. One visitor has sent a 'write-up' about the Mountain Trikes to the editor of the Ness Garden magazine.
Eileen's next Inclusive Cycling events are:
 - the University Sustainable Travel Relaunch on the 26th October.
 - the Storyhouse Climate Event on 4th November, with her Mountain Trike.
 - talking to University staff and students in June 2023 about barriers to sustainable travel for people who use mobility aids.
- 4. Treasurer's Report - Surplus Funds.**
Treasurer's Report October Meeting 2022 (submitted by JB in advance of the meeting).
Below is a summary of transactions for September.

Transactions	£ Income Paypal	£ Income (Stripe/Lloyds)	£ Expenditure	Balances £
7 Membership renewals via Paypal	80.53			1082.98
14 Membership renewals via Stripe		170.50		
Income via Ian Slater (1x reduced membership+£10 donation)		18.00		
Webhosting Service			90.86	
Big Green Week stall			25.00	2817.80
Total				3900.78

Memberships consist of:

- 1 x corporate (Bren)
- 5 x family
- 14 x Individual
- 1 x student

It was noted that we have a very healthy financial position. There was no discussion of how to use our surplus funds.

Action: All to consider ways of implementing use of surplus funds.

5. Report back on Girl Guides event (CS).

A leader of the Girl Guide leader had contacted CCC via our website, asking for help with providing cycle maintenance sessions as an activity to help the Guides get their 'Fixing' badges.

The first session was held on Tuesday, September 20th at Huntington Village Hall, with a team of 6 people from the Campaign who took workstands and tools. Each worked with a small group of Guides to do an M check, change an inner tube and adjust brakes. About 20 Guides in total took part. The session lasted 1½ hours. Videos of cycling maintenance (from Cycling UK) were not needed. The session went very well.

A second session will be held on Tuesday 11th October.

A Guide group in Newton may also be interested.

6. Report back on Great Big Green Week events:

a. Festival Saturday 24th September, Grosvenor Park, Chester. (IS, AW)

Ian, Arnold and Monica attended and spoke to a lot of people. Ian took a cycle workstand and fixed a few bikes. It was a good awareness-raising event and one new person joined.

b. Big Green Day at Frodsham Community Centre on Saturday 1st October (SLP).

The event was very well attended. Cycle North Cheshire had a stand, did cycle safety checks, demonstrated an old bike which had been refurbished and supplied free cycle route maps & advice. Doing this raised awareness and visibility of CNC and good contacts were made, including with the local MP. Very worthwhile.

7. Planning Review (NS)

NC's report (submitted in advance of the meeting) is below – click [here](#).

- a. **Hoole Enterprise Centre** - CCC need to keep up pressure so that the cycling aspects of the station improvements don't get forgotten.
- b. **Lidl Great Boughton** – nothing further to report.
- c. **Faulkner Street cycle racks** are still ridiculously wobbly.

- d. **Tesco Frodsham Street** - SB reported that it took 3 years to get cycle stands outside Tesco (at the time, the precinct was owned by a property company). After 8 years, they were removed when the store was refurbished. Later, some stands were installed behind a wall in the alleyway alongside the store where people access taxis and were largely unknown. Lighting was installed some time later. Tesco now own the precinct, so it may be worth CCC approaching Tesco again, pointing out that cycle users lock cycles to the barriers at the top of the precinct which are designed to divide pedestrian flow. SB has all the historical data.
- e. North Road Railway route, Ellesmere Port:
 - i. PW has emailed Julie Barnes, head of Active Travel, Wirral Council about working with CW&C on cross-border issues. Julie Barnes drafted Wirral's AT document and is willing to work with CW&C. Wirral also seem to be engaging with the AT aspects of the Merseyside Dee Alliance.
 - ii. SB raised the importance of councils preserving the routes of old rail lines for use as AT corridors, rather than granting development rights on parts of the routes.
 - iii. SP has forwarded Nic's report to Rose McArthur.

8. CWaC Liaison (SP).

SP's report (submitted in advance of the meeting) is below – click [here](#).

- a. At SP's recent meeting with Rose McArthur, the value was recognised of CCC meeting with someone on the Highways team to show them our maps, possible infrastructure improvements which are small but make a big difference, and general knowledge and expertise around cycling in Chester. No individual was named or available yet. SP will pursue.
- b. SP would like to cycle all the radial routes into Chester with the Highways person when available.
- c. SP has suggested a review of ISTT's function. The proposed ISTT working groups have not got going and the ISTT seems to be having little effect. JV has asked for "Active Travel Forum Legacy Issues" to be put on the agenda for the next ISTT meeting. It has to be approved by the Chair. SLP also raised similar concerns.
- d. Meetings were held on 4th and 6th October to start to engage communities around Chester about ATFest.

9. Christleton accident (JV).

JV has been approached by Christleton and Waverton Parish Councils, asking for CCC's support for an e-petition requesting improvements at the junction of Plough Lane with Rake Lane/Brown Heath Road. It was decided to wait to see the police report and the wording of the petition before expressing an opinion. It was noted that the junction was not identified on the South East Chester Cycling Plan as needing improvement.

10. Northgate Cycle Hub £10 Charge.

A £10 fee for a card to use the Northgate Cycle Hub was reported in the local press. It was confirmed to be a one-off charge.

11. Storyhouse Climate Event, Friday 4th November. This is going ahead. Eileen, Ian and Cathey are presenting.

12. CCC stall at Chester Sustainability Fair, Cathedral, Saturday 12th November. Going ahead.

13. Family Cycle Rides (IS).

IS has suggested Family Cycle Rides on a monthly frequency starting in April and has proposed 3 routes and would like to hear of ideas for other routes.

CS has shared a couple which have been used in the past, which could be revisited.

SB reported that "5 Mile Challenge" routes had been used by CCC in the past to demonstrate that 5 miles on a bike is easily achievable. Once checked out, these could be put on our website maps page.

Risk assessments need to be done on each of the proposed routes, best done in pairs so that there is some degree of challenge.

Action: Volunteers to help IS risk assess the rides he has proposed.

Suggestions for other routes, perhaps starting from a school.

SB to dig out 5 Mile Challenge routes.

14. AOB

- a. SB noted the value of online access to these meetings for productivity and continuity, with 3 members tonight joining from a distance.
- b. IS has met with the Chester-based cycle insurance company Bikmo, who have invited CCC to sign up to "1% for the Planet" <https://bikmo.com/uk/about-bikmo/mission/one-percent-for-the-planet/>. There is no cost, it is a statement of intent. It was agreed that CCC would sign up.
- c. PW reported that Quarry Road in Willaston has been blocked off to vehicles at the Neston end, but still allowing access for cyclists. This is a temporary scheme for 18 months.
- d. Monthly Letter to the Editor:
September was IS.
October is JH.
November is PW.

Meeting closed at 21.25.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2nd November at 7:30 pm in person at Bowling Green Court and online via Jitsi.. Jitsi Link: <https://meet.jit.si/SaddleGearsTyresWheels>

Chair: Cathey Harrington

Minute Secretary: Ian Slater.

CCC Report on Planning application submissions for October 2022 meeting

1. Again, am just back from another extended trip, so the large backlog of applications to review remains.
2. Article re Hoole Enterprise Centre site at https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/chester-history-centre-proposals-advance/#wait_approval. No mention here of the additional railway platform and the potential for a new foot/cycle bridge. If this goes ahead in isolation, the opportunity will be lost forever..... We need to start stirring the pot.
3. Ref the LIDL, Caldys Valley proposal. It is not listed (as I had anticipated that it would be) for the October planning meeting. I will request a speaking slot when it does come up but may have to give way to the Parish Council if they wish to object.
4. I am not convinced that the Highways fault reporting via their App/website is really cutting it. As far as I can see, little has actually been done to rectify reported faults though some may have been 'scheduled'. Can the originators please update their reports on the spreadsheet at:-
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yhCAmTvLPN40CeFodc5qDYwC-6M7ZTUCt1FMLVycM30/edit#gid=0> or, more simply (if this link still works), at:-
www.tinyurl.com/CWaCFaultMonitor?
Unless fixed in the last week, the Faulkner St racks are still useless despite having been 'repaired' at least once. But we do need to maintain this monitoring to use as evidence to take back to Highways if we need to justify our dissatisfaction. As I have said before, the 'Enquiry closed - job complete' may only mean that it has been passed on – not that the work has actually been done. Stephen/ John – is it time for a follow up meeting with Sian's team?
5. North Road Railway route. Nothing new to report, other than that Wirral Council have **approved** the variation of conditions embodied in the outline Planning permission for the site at the top end of North Road. Whilst they do not have the final say over the actual track-bed at this point (that is for CWaC), it may make it more difficult for CWaC to condition the application. I have had **NO** response at all from Peel despite pushing (further emails also ignored). I am now absolutely convinced that they do not want to engage for fear of us disrupting what they have already got planned.
I wrote again to the Case Officer responsible for this application but have just had word that he has now left CWaC – have forwarded my messages to the C.O. now responsible, but I suspect that this will all be new to him and that he may not be 'on-board' with our concerns.
Of further concern is that I have read a report suggesting that CWaC is applying for Government assistance in further re-structuring this area (which already has special status as a development zone) – see:-
<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news/ellesmere-port-to-host-new-investment-zone>, and worry that success in this may be contingent on further relaxation of Planning constraints (more power to Peel?).
I have made no progress in determining who is now actively in charge of the overall strategy for this area within CWaC. The churn within CWaC continues as noted above and Catherine Walker has now left. This lack of continuity is all rather depressing.....
6. Proposed meeting on application of Garage conversion rules with Rob Charnley and Richard Beacham still to be arranged.

7. Nothing new to report on Mollington Grange old Golf Course development. There is no indication to suggest anything other than that the developers will do the minimum to abide by the result of the appeal allowed by the Secretary of State. This will leave a totally unsuitable/unusable path which will get little use. No doubt the lack of use will then be used to object to infrastructure obligations in future.

Some Recent Planning Decisions of monitored applications

(Outcomes:- green - OK, peach - mixed, red - not so good, lilac - uncertain, white – info only).

22/00746/FUL	Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable space.	11 The Ridgeway Tarvin Chester Cheshire CH3 8JR	Approved		Approved before we checked - Access to garage storage lost	2 spaces lost	
21/04303/FUL	Existing single Storey Garage extended and converted to home office linked to existing dwelling	18 Depmore Lane Kingsley Frodsham Cheshire WA6 6UB	Approved	Nick Smith	Loss of cycle storage to habitable space	" It is not considered reasonable to impose a requirement to provide storage in this instance."	2 spaces lost
21/03767/OUT	Erection of two detached bungalows	Land Adjacent To Fingerpost Cottage Marston Lane Marston Northwich Cheshire CW9 6DL	Withdrawn	Angela Wrigley	Storage for bikes	May possibly be amended and resubmitted	
21/02113/FUL	Change of use from Agriculture to Dog Walking and Dog Training	Land At Fiddlers Lane Saughall Chester	Enforcement notice issued		ccc-entrance to site unsafe	Appeal against enforcement notice in progress	

The complete list of applications monitored is at:-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dM_1NQWdqGosuktDSDxuimTrqd7F2w3NaG4p3SeD3Cg/edit?usp=sharing
 (Applications on that sheet highlighted in yellow have been examined, un-highlighted ones have not. Many others are eliminated at the data selection stage and are also not examined)

Please note that from the Googlesheet you have to press 'Alt + Enter' to activate the link (at least in Windows) – and not simply 'double click' the link.

Nic

CCC Secretary and CWAC Liaison update to the 5th October 2022 Meeting

ATfest

Progress is being made with plans to hold the proposed Active Travel Festival on Sunday 18th June, This event will be managed alongside the Midsummer Watch Parade on the same day and aligned with the second Green Expo event that will run from 15th to 17th June. We are working closely with both of these organisations.

Funding is a major issue. We have attracted a small initial contribution to maintain progress, but the main funding source will be from SpaceHive crowdfunding, maybe supplemented by local business support.

Initial cross-community meetings are planned for this week, as a first step to share and develop our plans to encourage maximum support from the Chester city and its near suburbs. Several CCC member are attending these meetings.

Lead Rider Training

Within the context of ATfest, but also in support of our proposed CCC Family Rides, Sarah Collins (CW&C Road Safety Officer) has offered Lead Rider Training for 10-12 people in March 2023. We need to confirm our support to this and agree the best timing as soon as possible

Grosvenor Bridge speed limit

I have kept in close contact with Andy Raynor but no workshop date has yet been fixed. Andy is finding it hard to get a meeting time to suit all those involved.

ISTT Meeting 13th September 2022

This meeting has been delayed until 14.30 17th October

One City Plan

I have been invited to represent the CCC at a 'One City Summit' on 12th October at the Town Hall, to review the updated One City plan. I have also been invited to the first meeting of a group looking at how the (Active) travel elements can be realised in the updated One City Plan, including WSP, the Zoo and the UoC.