

Chester Cycling Campaign

Minutes of meeting held at Bowling Green Court, 4th January 2023 7:30pm

Present: Ian Slater (IS) Chair, Nic Siddle (NS) Secretary, Nic Siddle (NS), Peter Williams (PW), Simon Brown (Minutes) (SB), Linda Shuttleworth (LS), Joanne Herzog (JH), John Violet (JV),

Virtual attendance: Cathey Harrington (CH), Stephen Perry (SP), Steve Pemberton (SLP) Eileen Morgan (EM),

Apologies

Roger Hones (RH), Julia Bennett (JB), John Holliday (JH) , Ashley McCraight (AM), Monica Robinson (MR), Anna Manning (AnM), Craig Steeland (CS), Julia Bennett (JB), Mark Thompson (MT)

Minutes of December meeting:

There had been some discussion as to whether electronic reports submitted in preparation for the meeting should be appended to the minutes. In the absence of an agreed policy and in view of a divergence of views it was agreed that the reports would not be appended to the December minutes and this issue would be discussed and hopefully resolved at the March Campaign Meeting.

EM requested that the contents of the report she submitted to the meeting as Inclusive Cycling Officer should be publicised through the Bulletin, Social Media channels and also on Website in view of its usefulness to others using cycles as mobility aids, often in association with any issued blue badge for cars.

Action: SB, TW,CS

Minutes were accepted by the meeting and passed .CS to put on website.

Action: CS

Matters arising

AGM preparations

In view of erroneous date for AGM being included in last Bulletin it was agreed that another Bulletin be produced and circulated as soon as possible with correct date and a New Year message. CH agreed to chair AGM and to encourage those needing to submit reports to have them ready for circulation a week prior to the meeting. SP was prepared to take minutes if CS was not willing to produce minutes as in previous AGMs. SP to ask CS.

Action SP, CH

Use of accumulated Campaign funds

AW had not been able to collate suggestions received for circulation in time for meeting. It was agreed that this item be discussed in March Campaign meeting with a report to be circulated to activists email group prior with support from IS.

Action AW,IS

AOB - Letter of the Month – December

SB had written letter which was published in Standard. In same issue an article was included about the opening of the facility.

Countess of Chester Car Parking arrangements and Cycle parking/routes on site

NS yet to meet with CoCH Sustainability Officer to raise issue of lack of prominence of cycle parking on site and obvious cycle route lines through site. CH offered to speak with CoCH Sustainability Officer regarding this and also the publicity of cycling facilities on the hospital site on the CoCH website. She highlighted the issue applies to the Bowmere Hospital, also

on the same site, yet managed by a different Hospital Trust. She offered to identify an appropriate contact and make contact regarding the same issue.

Action: CH

Potential use of redundant railway for cycle route - North Road, Ellesmere Port

SP had raised issue with Karen Stevens (CWaC) . SLP yet to discuss connectivity of Halton Borough cycle routes to CWaC

Action: SLP

AT Fest donation

£200 to be donated to Spacehive crowd funding appeal.

Action: JB (Treasurer)

Location of cycle parking in Chester

Simon to produce QR code leading to CCC mapping site for potential use with any CWaC signage around cycle parking. SB to liaise with SP over how this might be raised with CWaC and suggested for implementation.

Action: SB, SP

Inclusion/membership with '1% for the planet' website

IS still to pursue.

Action: IS

2. Saighton Camp Development – Sn.106 moneys

There is approx £2.5 million remaining of funding pot. CWaC has allocated around £70K for consultants to develop strategy for best use of funds. Huntington PC priority is for an allocation of funds to create a safe route for pupils to reach Christleton H School from area. JV in his capacity of Cycling UK rep has requested from CWaC the report from the Consultants. JV suggested that CCC develop strategy for use of funds once report available which can then be used to inform actions to have the Campaign's priorities considered by CWaC.

Action: All

to agree on priorities for use of moneys
once report is available from Consultants
(discuss at March meeting?)

3. Potential Name Change of Campaign

Following various discussions within the Activists Email group a number of issues consequent to any change have been highlighted including likely degradation of search rankings of website, potential public confusion as to nature of Campaign (e.g. whether it is focused on organising rides or is campaigning for improvements), whether public perception of campaign is accurate, unknown public awareness of presence of campaign locally. etc... Meeting decided that an appropriate course of action might be to make use of potential capacity available to explore public awareness and public perceptions of the Campaign via Chester University project studies. Projects for consideration by students occurs in October/November each year – likely courses might be marketing, social studies, geography, environmental . CH offered to discuss with Jade Cox at University as to how project proposals could be developed for undergraduate/postgraduate students to consider to undertake

Action: CH

4. Forum Shopping Centre

NS had circulated a CWaC report about potential development of the site as residential. This has ramifications regarding cycle friendly access and design of such developments, for example secure cycle storage, easy cycle access doors etc. SP agreed to approach Cllr. Beecham (as Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration) to highlight the desire of the Campaign to be consulted at an early stage of design and planning (as for the new Chester Market area)

Action: SP

5. Working collaboratively and better with Sustrans

In the light of lukewarm response from Sustrans to an approach by PW in relation opportunities presented by disused railway routes near North Road, Ellesmere Port (and in the context of lack of response from CWaC) there was discussion as to how our input to Sustrans planning could be improved. PW agreed to actively liaise with Tim Hollins (Sustrans NW), JV agreed to make contact with Roger Geffen and Janet Atherton in Cycling UK and SP agreed to approach CWaC (Decarbonising Officer) now that a person had been appointed. And set up meeting including PW to specifically highlight the potential Ellesmere Port off road routes.

Action: PW, SP, JV

6. Levelling up & Regeneration Bill

This Bill is currently going through Parliament. Cycling UK (along with Sustrans, the Cycling & Walking Alliance, CPRE, RSPB, the Wildlife Trust and others) are suggesting the inclusion of a clause '*to oblige and empower Planning Authorities to pay more attention to Health and Environmental gain potential*'. NS suggested the Campaign should highlight this with surrounding MPs to Chester as well as MP Sam Dixon. Following discussion, it was agreed that NS would draft a letter to MP's in Alyn & Deeside, Wrexham, City of Chester, Eddisbury, Weaver Vale, Ellesmere Port & Neston and Wirral South to draw attention to this clause for their support. NS also urged everyone to write personally to their own MP to the same effect.

Action: NS, All who wished to write to their MP

7. 'Active Travel expert' funding

This funding has potentially been made available to all LA's in England., with LA's required to bid. Whilst not necessarily a substantial sum it could potentially provide some resource to CWaC. JV agreed to chase CWaC's response on this and to seek feedback from Rose McArthur (Transportation & Highways Chief in CWaC)

Action: JV

8. Cycling Matters! (Winter Edition) content

AW had expressed concerns as to lack of variety and nature of content of the Winter edition of Cycling Matters! that had recently published and distributed. AW was present at the meeting and said that he had spoken with CH before the meeting and was appraised as to the content included in the recent edition. AW expressed his satisfaction and appreciation of the publication as a result, and thanked CH for her work on this.

9. Any Other business

QR Codes on publicity ;

SB agreed to produce and circulate to Activists' Email group A4 and A5 pdf files of poster regarding Cycling Matters! including a QR code leading to CCC website.

Cycling Matters! (digital version)

CH reported that she had produced the digital version of Cycling Matters! and circulated to CS (for website) and SB for inclusion in next Bulletin

Chester Station improvements

EM had tried to circulate a consultation document that had been shared with her for members of the Campaign to provide a response on. The works are due to start in February. NS agreed to turn document (PowerPoint) into a PDF format that could be shared more easily with the Activists' Email Group so that comments could be generated and submitted by EM.

Action: EM, NS

Helsby/Frodsham Developments

SP reported he was talking through with Sustrans regarding routes from Halton Borough through to Helsby High School and Tesco's in Helsby. He noted the response from CWaC was disappointing which said they "were not in a position to take on additional responsibilities"

Additional Cycle Parking, Frodsham Street, Chester

JH reported that she had been pleased to see and use additional cycle parking in Frodsham Street, Chester (4 Sheffield Stands) outside Max Spielman, Planet Donut. Sadly, she noted that the number had reduced over time and now there were no stands now left in the location. SB Commented that he had taken part in a 'walkabout' last year with CWaC Officers regarding potential sites for additional cycle stands in the City Centre area which could be funded through availability of some limited Covid related funding. There had been no feedback to him regarding this, but these stands seemed to have been a direct result since this location had been included in their discussions. JH encouraged to report loss of stands on CWaC 'report it' app. Plans to include "shortcuts" so rides can be curtailed if weather becomes adverse or a rider is struggling to complete the route

Next meeting is to be AGM on February 1st :

Chair – CH

Secretary - SP or CS

Meeting closed at 21:450