

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1 March 2023

Present: Arnold Wilkes (AW) Chair, Monica Robinson (MR), Minutes, Nic Siddle (NS), Peter Williams (PW), Simon Brown (SB), John Violet (JV), Steve Pemberton (SLP) Mark Kuramoto-Headey (MKH)

Virtual attendance: Cathey Harrington (CH), Stephen Perry (SP), John Holliday (JH), Dave Holton (DH)

Apologies

Ian Slater (IS) Julia Bennett (JB), Joanne Herzog (JoH), Ulf Herzog (UH), Ashley McCraight (AM), Craig Steeland (CS), Eileen Morgan (EM),

1. Minutes of January meeting

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Action: CS to post on website

2. Matters arising

After some discussion and in recognition of the importance to record the content of officers' report, received electronically prior to the meeting, it was agreed that the minute taker would summarise these reports, ensuring they are appropriate for public consumption, and highlighting the key points made.

Action: All future minute takers.

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

CH confirmed the matter re connectivity across the hospital site was ongoing. NS confirmed the temporary car park has been approved. There is no access to the Upton Dene development and it is not obvious where the cycle parking will be located.

Action: CH

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

SP will raise this again with Karen Stevens CWaC. SLP has liaised with Sustrans re connectivity of Halton Borough cycle routes to CWaC. It had previously reported that there had been a disappointing response from CWaC.

Action: SP

Location of cycle parking in Chester

Simon confirmed he has created a QR code but we still need to identify who will implement the idea (signage etc) at CWaC – SP will raise again with Karen Stevens.

Action: SP

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

Deferred to next meeting as IS was not present.

Action: IS

Saighton Camp Development – Section 106 moneys

JV confirmed there has been no progress regarding the 106 money. He is awaiting a copy of the Consultants' report regarding the best use of funds. There was no further discussion on this topic.

Action: All to agree on priorities for use of moneys once report available from Consultants

Potential Name Change of Campaign

CH confirmed that there was no opportunity for University students to undertake a research project on behalf of the Campaign. CH has liaised with Angus King, who will help us pursue this project. Details in CH's report below.

Working collaboratively and better with Sustrans

Peter Hollins met with PW, SLP and JV. Discussions have taken place and JV is still awaiting further contact from Cycling UK Head Office.

Active Travel expert funding

JV chased this with no response from Highways to date.

Levelling up & Regeneration Bill

NS agreed to follow up the idea of writing to local MPs.

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

Chester Station Improvements

There was a brief discussion about some of the ideas put forward by members including a direct route to the Greenway. JV had written 2 letters and has received positive responses from the consultants who are likely to get back to discuss his ideas.

3. Sustainability Festival 22 April 2023

It was agreed we should ask for a table and a Dr Bike space for the Campaign. Several members have indicated they will support the event. MKH will speak to Bren Bikes about possible costs.

Action: MR notify CS to confirm our requirements

4. Treasurers Report

JB had sent a copy of the balance sheet which shows little change from previous meeting. She had contacted Sam Marshall who is happy to look over the accounts for last year. Due to his schedule and hers this hasn't happened yet, but hopefully will before the next meeting.

5. Cycle Infrastructure Issues around Chester

SP reported that he was due to meet with Karen Stevens for a cycle ride around Chester on Monday aimed at showing her some of the key areas of concern. He planned to show her the Overleigh roundabout/Grosvenor Bridge, some of the coloured routes, his ideas for contra flow cycle lanes in the city centre, as well as further afield to Upton, Hoole etc. We were all encouraged to send additional suggestions to SP before Monday. (**Post Meeting Note** – SP's detailed report is attached to these minutes for information)

6. CWaC Liaison role – Report from SP

SP went through his ideas for the transition of the various aspects of his current roles:
Highways – NS, IS and JV will maintain and progress CCC relationships with Highways.

Transport Strategy – need to build on working with Karen Stevens and the new senior officer due to join the Department soon. CH, JV, EM, NS, and IS have held a virtual meeting which was a good first step, plus PW, NS and Sustrans in Ellesmere Port was also important. SP will try and agree with Karen Stevens how best to progress these relationships.

Planning – Recognising the pivotal role played by NS the main support SP has provided is occasional thoughts and ideas as well as access to other senior CWaC managers when needed.

Chester City Developments – Having maintained a close working relationship with Andrew Arditti during Northgate Phase 1 it will be important to do the same with the Phase 2 plans. CCC are established 'go to' advisors for the Authority, and hopefully someone will take this on.

One City Plan – SP has proposed that his current role on the OCP team could be passed to CH. This decision will be up to Rose McArthur.

ISTT – JV confirmed that he has been invited to the next meeting and has agreed to represent CCC . SLP agreed that it is important that this group regenerates as it is in need of reform.

7. ATfest

This initiative has been a major demand on SP time in the last 10 months. He explained that it was a crunch week for the festival as time was fast running out to raise the total funding required. It was difficult to get serious commercial sponsorship, and there has been a poor response from charities. However he was also pleased that he has received positive responses from 18 schools out of 36 and hoping for more to come on board. The aim is to get a commitment in some way from them all by the end of March. SP will forward a list of those who have not responded in case anyone has contacts with those schools.

Action: SP

8. Potholes, potholes and the thousands of potholes in the Borough

Following a suggestion from AM it was agreed that all members of the Chester and North Cheshire Campaign groups should aim to report as many potholes as possible in March by using the very easy CW&C 'Report it' App.

Action: All

9. Public Liability Insurance

In his report to the meeting IS thought it would be a good idea for CCC to consider having public liability insurance. This could be important if we are going to work independently on path clearing activities, as it is a requirement of CWAC for similar groups of volunteers. It was decided that the best approach would be to identify a broker and seek a quote directly. SB recommended Zurich International and will send details to AW who agreed to follow this up.

Action: SB, AW

10. Charitable status.

IS has suggested we apply for charitable status as this is important to e.g. Bank of America (and no doubt other similar large organisations) before they could consider taking Corporate Membership and work more closely with us. SB remembered that this was considered when CCC was first set up but at the time it was decided there would be no benefit to the organisation. There is likely to be an admin burden and the need to rewrite the constitution. Decided to put off a decision until next meeting to get IS viewpoint.

11. Involvement with clearing of abandoned bikes

IS has proposed that we get directly involved with identifying and clearing of abandoned bikes around the city. It was decided that the way forward is to report them as fly tipping on the CWaC website.

Action: All

12. Use of accumulated Campaign funds

After a brief discussion it was decided that we should prioritise the most important issues bearing in mind that there is some value in having reserves in the bank for the future. AW has been designing a portable/foldable display table which could be used for various promotional events. He will report back at our next meeting. It was agreed to defer a decision until another meeting.

13. CH Report

In addition to items already covered under other headings, CH's electronic report updated the Campaign on a range of issues.

- She has posted about the final push for ATfest on many local Facebook groups and pages and asked members to re-post on their networks.

- Spring issue of Cycling Matters! was with the printer and will shortly be available for distribution. Electronic version to follow.
- Chester Cycle Buddies – CH is planning to work with Rose McArthur on getting a few people from the Council going on cycling.
- Cheshire East Primary Care Network – CH has met with their project group working on making GP practices more active, offering Cycle Buddying, talks and information.
- Angus King (a Campaign member who is Global Head of Marketing at Bikmo, the cycle insurer) has agreed to help us design a survey to help us find out what people think of our name, what we do etc, which we can then distribute.

14. Planning Report

The Planning Report sent by NS prior to the meeting covered a wide range of issues including the key points which are summarised below.

- City Gateway – a detailed and extensive submission was made to the consultation. On this occasion it was made on a personal basis as here was no time to check with others.
- LIDL – their latest drawings were totally unsatisfactory and a new objection has been lodged. They do not appear to have responded to a detailed report from Paul Parry (Highways) and NS will try and contact Paul to see if they can work ‘in tandem’ on this case.
- Charterhall Drive – The application for Apartments on the site adjacent to the Shot Tower, allows for a through route along the canal side to the neighbouring site (due for redevelopment) and (eventually) could lead out onto an exit at Westminster Road. This was approved without details re secure cycle parking and charging for electric cycles but did secure the through route. A later application (not yet approved) for a Retirement Living complex is totally unsatisfactory on both maintaining this through route and in terms of lack of cycle storage. We have posted two detailed objections to this one.
- Old Hall Country Club – minor success here including a footpath from the development to the Primary school – not an SUP but better than nothing at all along this busy road. They have also separated the bin and cycle storage area.
- Lache Lane etc – Blue Oak Development. Objection put in against a ‘kissing gate’ which will impede access to the shared use cycle path/footpath to Westminster Park facilities.
- Countess of Chester temporary car park. Briefly referred to under Matters Arising above.
- North Rd Ellesmere Port and MSC railway lines. Covered under Matters arising above. NS notes that we have to win acceptance that ALL new factory exits/entrances that cross a cycle path should give priority to the path (as in Flintshire/Government guidance) and should be raised at senior officer level in CWaC.
- ‘Changing Places’ toilets. Locations have now been included in the interactive map.
- The Old Trooper, Christleton. The final approved plans incorporate nearly all our suggestions (separate cycle storage and parking for residents, staff and café customers and a ramped access to the canal path)

The Meeting closed at 21.35

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th April 2023

Chair: CH

Secretary : tbc