

MOM Chester Cycling Campaign - 5th April 2023

Present: Cathey Harrington (CH) (Chair), Ian Slater (IS) (Minutes), Monica Robinson (MR), Nic Siddle (NS), Peter Williams (PW), Simon Brown (SB), John Violet (JV), Eileen Morgan (EM), Stephen Perry (SP), Joanne Herzog (JoH), Julia Bennett (JB), Stewart Shuttleworth (SS)

Virtual attendance: Arnold Wilkes (AW), Simon Tiplady (ST)

1. Apologies.

Ashley McCraight (AM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Ulf Herzog (UH)

2. Minutes of March meeting.

Accepted. CS to post on website.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

Countess of Chester Car Parking arrangements and Cycle parking/routes on site CH confirmed the matter re connectivity across the hospital site was ongoing. **Action:** CH carried forward

Potential use of redundant railway for cycle route - North Road, Ellesmere Port SP will raise this again with Karen Stevens CWaC. **Action:** SP carried forward

Signage for cycle parking in Chester. Simon has created a QR code linking to 'Cycling Matters!' and some laminated posters have been made. Possibly need something more robust for long-term resilience.

Inclusion/membership with '1% for the planet' website. Failed to reach Bartlett's Mike Craven. Try written approach (again) and then proceed if no response. **Action:** IS

Involvement with clearing of abandoned bikes. Report as fly tipping to CWAC (see later) **Action:** IS

4. Treasurer's report.

- Modest increase in reserves due to two new members.
- Potential use of surplus funds. SB reports that Andy Hamill has worked on a display board proposal and AW has had contact with a joiner to create something suitable. It was requested that we agree a design and a cost before money starts to get spent. SB identified that there are potential issues with storage, portability and accessibility for any selected solution. **Action:** AW to get design/quote for approval.

5. Secretary & CW&C Liaison Officer's Report, including ATfest.

- ATFest team achieved their funding target and is going ahead! Well done to SP and team for getting this to this important milestone.
- Importantly, event organiser TASTE CHESHIRE are onboard. School liaison has been patchily successful. Further Member support will be required to promote/enthuse. A school info pack has been prepared. The event will take place 11:00-16:00 at the Castle car park and on Castle Drive. It is intended to have activities such as stunt bikes, bike marking, e-bikes & Ginger scooter demos, Dr.Bike sessions and food stalls. Bikes will not be allowed in the public area but facilities for bike parking will be provided. The intention is that this is a family-led event rather than school-led. Data gathering about people's travel habits/preferences will be important for which purpose there will be a questionnaire with a decent reward for one lucky participant.
- JV offered to promote the ATFest at the upcoming Chester and NW Cycling UK AGM **Action:** JV
- SP will share a synopsis of the event to be shared with other organisations. **Action:** SP

6. Membership Secretary's report.

- 239 members as at month end. Still short of peak numbers, but increasing slowly.

7. Accessibility Officer's Report.

- EM has had a period of ill health, including a stay in hospital, but has put the time to good use by canvassing opinion on Active Travel. There is a lack of awareness of facilities and support available e.g. secure bike parking, Cycle to Work scheme discounts, our Cycle Buddies scheme etc.
- EM has an active discussion ongoing with staff/students at the university and is hopeful that a 6-week project on interactive digital mapping will come to fruition.
- EM also continues dialogue with a Northern Rail user group looking at train design for next 30 years, with particular focus on making facilities accessible to all.

8. Planning Report.

- NS still pursuing clarity over ownership of a strip of land affected by the Lidl application on Caldby Valley Road.
- McCarthy & Stone development on canalside objected to due to (amongst other things) lack of provision for access along canalside, which could offload the popular canalside path on the south side.
- New Costa drive-thru at The Old Trooper did not fully respect the planning requirements (e.g. cycle parking provision) before opening. Another example of non-compliance.
- Rowcliffe Avenue development (Westminster Park). NS objected to an inadequate design of kissing gate that would prevent cycle access to/from local shops and might therefore result in more short car journeys.
- NS wondered whether we need to approach the relevant ombudsman to pursue examples of non-compliance. NS was encouraged to pursue this via MP Sam Dixon in the first instance to find out who is responsible for pursuing developer non-compliance.

9. Cycling Matters! report.

- The MailPoet list of recipients of electronic copies of CM! is up and running. New suggestions for recipients always welcomed by the editor CH.

10. Asking candidates for CW&C Councillor elections about cycling.

A list of questions had been compiled but there was insufficient time in the meeting to reach a conclusion and/or to do anything coordinated with the output before the elections took place. Item dropped as a result. (List of questions appended for individual use, if canvassed.)

11. Forthcoming events:

- a. Sustainability festival, to celebrate Earth Day, The Carriage Shed, Chester, Saturday 22nd April. MR, SP and IS to attend.
 - b. Neston Earth Festival Sunday, 23rd April. No volunteers. Unsupported.
- POST MEETING NOTE:** PW will go along and support with a few Campaign leaflets.
- c. "Great Big Green Week", 10 to 18 June. Cheshire West libraries will be delivering events to celebrate community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. If anyone is able to help, approach the contact in CS's email of 30th March 23 (10:39)
 - d. Friday 26th May at the Chester Zoo. EM and SP to attend. SP to reply on behalf of the Campaign
Action: SP

12 SUP cleaning as a Campaign activity.

- With support/encouragement from CWAC StreetCare (Garrett Jones), a successful activity took place on the foot/cycle paths by the side of the A41. This was well-received in the field on the day and subsequently via Social Media. After discussion it was agreed that future activity will be scheduled on a monthly frequency. IS proposes to start with a Wednesday morning and see what uptake/enthusiasm there is. IS retains a few CWAC

tools and will lead this activity. (Next activity now planned for 19th April.) Action: IS
Members are invited to nominate other areas for attention Action: All

13 April 7th - Family Bike Ride.

- There was no public uptake for this ride. Paul McCormick and IS rode it anyway,
- SP requested that these stay in the diary for May and June as we gear up for ATFest. Next ride will start at The Cheshire Cat pub car park (not The Groves as was stated at the meeting) and take place on 7th May.

14 3rd party liability insurance.

- Zurich have quoted £157 for £10 million cover for up to 12 events per annum. Another quote is still awaited from a Chester broker. It was suggested to also contact Cycling UK's insurer to see what they can offer. Such insurance is desirable for SUP cleaning activity but also useful to cover our presence at public gatherings (ATFest will be separately covered). In principle, approval was given to proceed, subject to not exceeding the £157 quote. Action: IS

15. AOB

- SP asked whether others had experienced difficulty operating the upper racks in the new Cycle Hub. SB recognised the problem and fed back that he thought there was a bolt missing in some of the hydraulic actuators. It was suggested to notify this (and similar issues) to car park staff. (POST MEETING NOTE: IS visited. One of the actuators is broken (sheared bolt) and the others are stiff but operable)
- IS requested that SB get together with others (Andy Ashton, Simon Tiplady) who might help to improve our Social Media presence with more posts and supportive follow-up, especially on Facebook and Twitter. Same thing is requested of our Publicity Officer as Tom Smith works together with Mark Headey.
- Charity status for the Campaign. Whilst this might be important for us to attract the involvement of larger corporate bodies (Bank of America is a case in point), there are extra responsibilities, which probably outweigh the benefits as long as we remain a small organisation. By not pursuing this we may also be limiting access to Corporate volunteer hours for our activities. SP suggested approaching a Chester-based umbrella organisation for charities that may be able to offer support/advice. Action: SP
- Four examples of abandoned bikes littering the city centre were reported as fly tipping via Report It app. CWAC have only reacted to one at Northgate Arena, which they report as 'not a problem'. IS sought clarification whether this meant not worth removing or not seen. No reaction to this request. IS following up with StreetCare. Others are invited to report examples and we may remove them ourselves (eventually).

Meeting closed: 21:35
Next meeting: May 3rd 19:30
Chair: **Volunteer required**
Minutes: Monica
Letter of the Month (see list appended): Ashley

Appendix 1: Potential questions related to Active Travel for politicians seeking election

(Derived from input of the Activists group)

Can you explain the purpose of the LCWIP and its potential for improving Chester's infrastructure in the future?

What would you place as the top three priorities to improve sustainable travel in Chester?

What would you do to improve Chester's standing in the eyes of the DfT, considering CWAC's failure to get any significant competitive funding in the last 3 years? Our recent self assessment against DfT criteria resulted in a score of only 1 out of 4 (4 being the maximum)

If you had to prioritise 3 actions from the 45 actions defined in the One City Plan which would you choose?

How can Chester secure the money necessary to install and run/maintain safe cycling infrastructure throughout the whole of the city?

What can be done to reduce the numbers of children being driven to school in cars in Chester? Could a cycle taxi service assist? What about support for school cycle buses?

What, in your view, are the two main obstacles which prevent more Cestrians from taking up cycling as their chosen mode of transport for journeys of under five miles, and what might be done to overcome these obstacles?

What would you consider to be a reasonable proportion of the annual Highways budget to be allocated to Active Travel?

In order to lead by example, would you commit to switching to cycling as your main means of transportation in and around Chester during the campaign and once/if you are elected?

Appendix 2. Letter of the Month.

Starting point is that which was copied over from last year.

January	-
February	-
March	Craig
April	Ashley
May	Ken
June	Stephen
July	Mark
August	Cathey
September	Ian
October	John H
November	Peter
December	Simon