

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2023

Present: Ian Slater (IS) Chair, Arnold Wilkes (AW), Monica Robinson (MR), Minutes, Nic Siddle (NS), Peter Williams (PW), Ashley McCraight (AM), Cathey Harrington (CH), Stephen Perry (SP), Mark Kuramoto-Headey (MKH), Andy Cairns (AC), Paul McCormick (PM), Chris Langley (CL)

Virtual attendance: Eileen Morgan (EM) John Holiday (JH)

Apologies

John Violet (JV), Julia Bennett (JB), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Simon Brown (SB)

IS welcomed the new members (CL, AC and PM) to the meeting and asked them to say a few words about themselves.

1. Minutes of April meeting

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Action: CS to post on website

2. Matters arising

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

CH confirmed the matter re connectivity across the hospital site was still ongoing.

Action: CH

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

Karen Stevens, CWaC confirmed to SP that she does not have time to deal with this issue at present. NS/PW will continue to follow up any opportunities in this area.

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

IS confirmed he had contacted Mike Craven at Bartletts and followed up with an email. Will continue to follow this matter up.

Action: IS

Involvement with clearing of abandoned bikes. Andrew Coward Highways engineer replied to IS with a comprehensive explanation of all the issues that would need addressing which are lengthy/legal etc. All agreed that CCC would not pursue this idea at present. In future members should continue reporting as fly tipping to Council website.

3. Introduction of iPedalCargo by Paul Buckley

This talk was deferred to a future meeting as Paul was unable to attend.

4. Cycling Without Age (CWA) – request for funds

Kate Rayner representing CWA explained that the charity had been going for a year and had not been without a number of challenges. They own and operate 2 trishaws in Hoole and Upton where they offer the service to elderly and isolated residents who would benefit from the opportunity to get out and about in the community. Most participants have been from Care homes although there have been difficulties. It is hoped that this next year will bring more involvement by networking further. CWA are looking for assistance with the first year servicing of the trikes which will be carried out by Bren Bikes. IS, who is a volunteer pilot, indicated that it might cost about £100 per trike. He noted that we look to support schemes that further the aims of the Campaign and proposed a £200 donation. The general view was sympathy for the request but not wanting to set a precedent. AM wondered if match funding was a possibility but Kate regretted that would not be available. CH suggested CCC pay the bill rather than donating a fixed sum. All agreed and IS will contact JB to check whether CWA pay upfront and reclaim or invoice.

EM felt that her accessible rough terrain trike will also need a service soon. It has not been available for hire to date, but is taken to a number of events for promotional purposes. All noted that would be something for the future.

3. ATfest

SP said he would be very keen for CWA to attend the ATfest event to represent cycling with alternative bikes. He reminded us of the plan for the day and hoped that as many volunteer helpers as possible would help to share the work load over the day. IS agreed to send the email which SP had sent to activists, to the wider membership. SP also emphasised how important the 'before' and 'after' surveys would be to assess the impact of the event for future planning.

AC offered to assist IS on the CCC stand at the venue.

4. Family Bike Rides

The next ride is planned for 7th May – so far no interest from the public but IS confirmed all are invited and ride will go ahead. EM regretted that she would not be able to make the journey as the condition of the canal is not easy especially over the cobbles by the canal bridges. IS acknowledged this difficulty when planning future rides.

5. SUP Clean-up Activity

Next session will be on 8th May at the Dukes Drive (link between the Wrexham Rd and the Drive) an event combined with the nationwide Big Spring Clean Day. CH passed on her thanks to IS for his initiative in setting up these activities as they have created an excellent response on Social Media and raised the profile of the Campaign. She suggested a site in Blacon might be a good option for the future where we currently have a fairly low profile.

6. Treasurers Report

JB had forwarded her report detailing the current position. She also confirmed that Sam Marshall had completed his review of the books and was satisfied that the accounts appear to be a fair and accurate reflection of the finances for that year. He also noted that suggestions made in the examination of the 2021 accounts have been suitably addressed and was pleased to see good governance practice by the campaign. He observed that the stock of T-shirts and tabards has been listed as an asset for many years with no reduction in value. This seems unlikely and it may be more realistic to now write-down the stock for more accurate reporting of the Campaign's assets next year. A vote of thanks was suggested for Sam Marshall's thoughtful review of the accounts.

7. Use of accumulated Campaign funds

Sam Marshall, noting the decent cash balance, encourages the campaign to consider setting a formal reserve threshold (e.g. 2 years' worth expenditure). He says this would show good governance with a prudent safety net, but also enable the campaign to think strategically about how the remaining balance can be spent proactively on furthering the campaign's aims. There was a brief discussion on this matter at the meeting and we agreed to be open to opportunities and good ideas for projects. AW agreed he would reconnect with his joiner with a view to creating a portable/foldable display table which could be used for various promotional events.

8. Public Liability Insurance

It was suggested contact be made with Cycling UK's insurer to see what they can offer. IS has contacted Mark Robinson of Butterworth and Spengler (Cycling UK provider) and awaits a response.

9. Charitable status.

The action to approach a Chester based umbrella organisation for charities for support or advice is complete. Follow up discussions with Sustrans and The Bren Project have taken place to see if we can partner up with one or other organisation.

10. Accessibility Officer's Report

EM will shortly meet with University students regarding their mapping projects.

She has met with Train company contacts regarding access to various trains using her trike. They showed her the mat they have to check if a chair or bike can be wheeled onto a train safely but EM's trike was 1" too wide. Staff advised EM to check destination stations to see if they have this facility to avoid being stranded.

The following week she would be at Wheels for Wellbeing meetings in other areas including London and Liverpool. This is a good opportunity to have a voice with other groups around the country.

EM was thanked for her feedback and continuous work in this important area.

11. CH Report

CH's electronic report updated the Campaign on a range of issues which are ongoing including:

- Update on Spring and Summer issues of Cycling Matters - all agreed Summer issue should be published after ATFest.
- Chester Cycle Buddies – CH will promote during Bike Week in conjunction with CWaC's Comms and Road Safety teams. Posted on CWaC's Participate Now website and they would like to feature the scheme in their next Climate Emergency newsletter. Emailed Rose McArthur proposing working with a small group of CWaC employees. Asked Chester Handbooks if they would print an article.
- COCH – CH has contacted their Sustainable Travel and Transport Manager about taking Cycle Buddies forward. Awaiting reply.
- University – working with staff and students developing maps between the different campuses and providing insight into the issues and opportunities surrounding active travel.
- Cheshire East Primary Care Network – their first actions are a standing desk proposal and promotion of local activities, which includes Cycle Buddies, to staff and patients.
- Army – CH has met with the Health, Wellbeing & Welfare Support Information Officer at Dale Barracks and covered a wide range of issues about CCC. Lorraine will circulate our information on her networks which include a weekly blog, a monthly newsletter and the Dale's Facebook group.

12. 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.

- LIDL, Caldly Valley application still awaiting a committee date, but in the meantime NS continues to pursue opportunity to convert existing footway from Caldly Valley Rd to the store, to be converted to a SUP. Jo Redmond has been asked to find out more about the ownership of this footway. *(Post meeting note:- Telecon with Jo subsequent to meeting:- She is still going to see if there is another way of getting the path ownership info. If she cannot, it may be possible to get more from the Land Registry (at a cost). However, she did suggest that CWaC (assuming that they own it) might be reluctant to cede the land necessary to widen the path as it would lead to a loss of trees.)*

- The 'Waitrose' Canal lift and bridge. NS has written to Sam Dixon to see if she can help do something about this. It was agreed that it is important to try and get to the bottom of why it has never been opened.
- Charterhall Drive – No progress to report. There has been no response from Nick Smith (now Acting Head of planning) to NS's letter emphasising the importance of establishing a full through route along the canal. This was also covered in his letter to Sam Dixon as above. *(Post meeting note:- Sam has responded and organised a TEAMs meeting with the Case Officer for 25th May)*
- The Old Trooper, Whitchurch Road - The lack of cycle park/store provision is allegedly due to delay in equipment provision. To be monitored.

13. AOB

AW highlighted that there is no secure bike parking for visitors to Chester as there is no alternative to the £10 pass for the market cycle hub. SP offered to contact the Chester BID team to see if they can help. *(Post meeting note: good ideas have been suggested for further consideration)*

The Meeting closed at 21.20

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 June 2023

Chair: Ian Slater

Minutes: Stephen Perry

Letter of the month: Ken Thomas