

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6 Sept 2023

Present: Simon Brown (SB) (Chair) Julia Bennett (JB), Monica Robinson (MR) (Minutes), Peter Williams (PW), Ashley McCraight (AM), Cathey Harrington (CH), Claudia Caldeira

Virtual attendance: Arnold Wilkes (AW), Eileen Morgan (EM) John Holiday (JH) Steve Pemberton (SLP),

Apologies

John Violet (JV), Ian Slater (IS), Nic Siddle (NS), Stephen Perry (SP),

SB welcomed Claudia as a visitor to the meeting. Everyone present introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of August meeting

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Action: CS to post on website

2. Matters arising

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

IS will continue to follow up this matter.

Action: IS

Planning Report

NS is still awaiting a response from Planning Enforcement re cycle parking at the Trooper-Costa Coffee site. (See the full report in Appendix to these minutes.)

Cycle Hub – Visitors' Passes

IS checked out the ease of getting a pass and no one at the Information office was aware of the procedure. SP and IS will follow this up with the officers concerned. AW confirmed that he will contact market holders to raise awareness of the Hub and visitor passes etc.

Fancy Women's Bike Ride 17th Sept

Plans are well advanced and CCC website has been updated re the change in meeting place.

Active Travel Transport Fair – Chester Business Park

SB attended on behalf of CCC and confirmed it was a very successful event. A lot more interest in active travel particularly because Lloyds Bank has increased the time staff need to be in the office. Alice Thatcher, their active travel coordinator, has drawn up a travel plan for Lloyds. She is enthusiastic and confirmed there is a lot of interest from staff. SB gave out QR codes for various cycle routes and talked through the best ways to get to the site. This was well received.

CWaC Officer Roles

SLP confirmed he will deal with this in due course. He added that JV circulated a list which is a good base for reference.

3. Sustainable Fair 23 Sept

£35 fee already approved at a previous meeting. CH is the lead member for this event. SB confirmed he will bring the equipment for CCC stand as well as the Transition Chester Apple Press equipment which he will be operating at the event. MR and PW agreed to assist the Campaign stand at the event.

Action: SB/CH

4. Grosvenor Bridge Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

The council have published a TRO to establish a permanent 20mph speed limit over the Grosvenor Bridge. Any representations should be submitted by 15th Sept. JV had circulated a very comprehensive list of comments we could submit and which were supported by all present. After some discussion it was felt that speed monitoring should be undertaken on a regular basis including enforcement. Might be an idea to encourage a local speed watch group? It was felt that the Police should be able to record how many times the speed limit is exceeded. Some felt that signs with 'smiley faces' seen in many villages might be helpful. *(post meeting note: JV indicated there are likely to be objections from English Heritage regarding extra signage on this historic bridge.)*

EM mentioned that she had seen a cyclist riding in the cycle lane on the wrong side of the road which is extremely dangerous and in breach of the Highway Code. However all agreed it might be a good idea to see if the local councillor could arrange for the PCSO for the area to increase checks and monitor the situation.

Action: CH agreed to email CCC response and MR would contact local Cllr

5. Police Commissioner's Community Action Fund

The Community Action Fund makes £100,000 available for projects which benefit their local community by working towards improving the safety of individuals in the area.

IS had suggested CCC could bid for funds from this initiative. The proposal is that each successful bid would be match funded by the Commissioner's Fund. Any bid we submit could perhaps support our corporate members in some way e.g. Bren Bikes, Cycling without Age etc. He recommended an amount of approx £250 could be earmarked for such a bid. JB suggested that all bids should be vetted before submission. It was agreed that the Campaign could look favourably at a cycle related bid.

Closing date for submissions is 30 Nov 23.

6. Membership

IS confirmed that membership stands at 268 at month end. We have our first café signed up as a Corporate Member - Lily's at Aldford Village Store and also our first member in Blacon. Membership renewals fall due at the end of the month.

There was no final decision taken about the different options regarding membership fees, although the general feeling was that there was no point in reducing our charges. There was a wide ranging discussion on membership income and it was suggested that maybe we should take a step back to think about what it is for. JB felt that it might be useful to fund a research student to look at this although she recognised that the total cost would be significant over say a 3 year period. She felt that we are not targeting the right people if we are hoping to get a wider age range of activists. CH also felt that we should spend money on out-reach to others and probably most effectively via social media channels. Again, the cost of buying time from an agency would be costly.

JB made the point that young people are short of time as being active is basically a job. The key group of parents with young children are very time poor. Young people need to feel they are wanted. She also suggested that it would help to get to know members and work towards succession planning – deputy post holders for example. Developing other social media e.g. Instagram, branding and gathering more information about our members were all suggested.

AM felt that not enough pressure is put on local councillors and we should spend more time telling them what the Campaign is doing – possibly via Councillors’ surgeries etc. He also felt more action by the Council on Climate Change is needed.

AOB

PW confirmed he had sent Lyndsey Prosser of BBC North West details of the situation in North Road, Ellesmere Port. PW and NS will follow up this contact. (See NS Planning report below)

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th October

Chair: John Violet

Minutes: Cathey Harrington

Letter of the month: John Holiday

Appendix

Treasurer’s Report September Meeting 2023 (Figures as at 3/9/23) (circulated prior to the meeting)

Transactions	£ Inco me	£ Expenditure	Balances £
Opening Balance (Lloyds) 30/7/23			5,235.30
Credits			
Memberships via Stripe	35.23		
Membership Cheques/direct bank payments/ donations	40.00		
Debits			
Stephen Perry printing costs		20.88	
Cycle parking visitor passes (to Ian Slater)		60.00	
CWA rickshaw 2 nd service		60.00	
Sub-total		140.88	
Cyclists’ Club Cycling UK Grant (£1000)			
(BBR event related payments £117.11)			
(Tools: £64.21)			
Remaining: £428.68		181.32	
Total	75.23	322.20	4988.33

Development Control Officer’s report (circulated prior to the meeting)

1. Frodsham Marsh Solar Farm. Ref request to Matt Bryan as to the authorship of CWaC’s Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (May 2023), (SCP.1.1). I have now had a response: “I’ve asked for their details but the head of planning is away until the 5th. Conditions will be built into any proposal and yours sounds very sensible. No need to panic! Cheers, Matt”. Will chase when I am back from Ireland.
2. Advice proffered to a resident of a block of flats in Volunteer St where the developer had commandeered the space allocated in the plans for cycle storage. Basically, we advised: a) Approach landlord and demand re-instatement of storage b) If unsuccessful, contact Planning Dept and demand to speak to Planning Enforcement officer. C) If still no success, then it may need a Solicitor. Suggested Bartletts if he deosn’t have his own solicitor. It

appears that the store has now been cleared of developer material but not yet re-instated for cycle storage

3. LIDL, Caldy Valley – 22/00579/FUL. Still no sign as to when this will go to the Planning Committee. Not on list for September.

4. Pepper St NCP Car Park redevelopment. Cycling parking has been provisioned in plans (due at committee this week). The parking in is a bit of an alleyway but is lit, covered and protected by CCTV.

5. Ellesmere Port. Peter has been approached by Lyndsey Prosser of BBC North West re Cycling in Ellesmere Port. She is a cyclist and rides with the Tuesday Evening Cyclists in Wirral and appears interested in what we are trying to achieve. We will follow up – it might give us a bit more traction.

Ian has established contact with Simon Sandford and Jeorgia Rowbotham of HealthBox who are interested in mapping and promoting cycling (and more) in Ellesmere Port. Simon is heavily involved with the EP Development Board and regional planning and again this could be a route for exerting additional pressure re E Port.

6. Revised plans have been posted re the proposed development on the A41 at Canal Place/ Caldy Brook. They do not address our earlier objection re lack of link to Canal Path except via the Cheshire Cat car park. A further objection has been posted.

7. As reported last month, Redrow have applied for permission to build out last phases of the Ledsham/Great Sutton development. Peter & I have still to try and follow this one up, but given the amount of detail and the age of the original permission, there will be a limit to any influence that we can bring to bear. Action: NS to review docs with reference to gravel footpaths and (lack of) access to Capenhurst Station.

The complete list of applications monitored is at:-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dM_1NQWdqGosuktDSDxuimTrqd7F2w3NaG4p3SeD3Cg/edit?usp=sharing