

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 04 October 2023 at Bowling Green Court at 7.30pm.

Present: John Violet (JV) (Chair), Julia Bennett (JB), Claudia Caldeira (CC), Cathey Harrington (CH) (Minutes), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Monica Robinson (MR), Laura Ryan (LR), Nic Siddle (NS), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Pierre Walthery (PW), Peter Williams (PW).

Virtual attendance: Simon Tiplady (ST).

Apologies: Ashley McCraight (AM), John Holiday (JH), Eileen Morgan (EM)(post meeting), Stephen Perry (SP), Ian Slater (IS)

Everyone present introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of September meeting

After the reporting of a minor typo, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record. **Action: MR to correct typo then forward to CS, CS to post on website.**

2. Matters arising

“1% For the Planet”: There has been no response from Bikmo Insurance about their potential support, so this will be shelved.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Bank balance is £4952.26. There will be some expenditure on donations. It was noted that whilst the balance looks high, it is insufficient to fund a big project like research or paying to provide an ongoing social media presence.

JB proposed opening a savings account, now that interest rates are higher. Approved. **Action: JB.**

Suggestions for donations from our funds were considered and tested against our aims and objectives, as stated in our Constitution.

- The proposal for a donation to North West Air Ambulance, whilst being a good cause, did not fit directly with our aims and objectives so was not approved. It was agreed that in the next Bulletin to members, an item about NWAA helping a cyclist during the recent Bob Cliff 100 mile ride should be included, and members encouraged to donate if they wish. **Action: SB.**
- A donation of £100 was approved to CycleStreets to further their mapping work. **Action: CS, JB.**
- The £1000 Big Bike Revival grant has been well spent, reaching 74 people. £170 remains. It was agreed that it should be spent on commissioning a decent quality laminated map of large scale of central Chester area and also a smaller scale map of the wider Chester/Deeside/South Wirral area. Both of which should show existing cycle paths. These could be stored rolled up together in a cardboard tube, available for any public engagement exercise for the future. **Action: SB/IS.**
- There was discussion of buying more leaflet dispensers for Cycling Matters! It was agreed not to buy more of the existing stands, as some have disappeared. NS will pursue the idea of a weatherproof version which could be permanently attached, subject to the landowner or premises owner’s permission. Thought will also be given to displaying laminated QR codes (with explanation) in public areas. **Action: NS**

- Matched funding for Bren Bikes' application for £250 to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire's Community Action Fund. It was agreed that CCC will match fund the £250, if the bid is successful.

4. CW&C Liaison

- Grosvenor Bridge 20mph - the CCC response to the Traffic Regulation Order was submitted and received an acknowledgement.
- Submitted CCC suggestions for improving accessibility in city centre area within the Ring Road. The Council have responded indicating the need to check Traffic Regulation Orders before some changes can be made but indicated it will be done in this financial year. Consultants have been appointed for improving the Pink route. PW suggested that cycling in otherwise restricted areas could be allowed at certain times only, eg early morning and evening, as is done in Oxford.
- Bike Lockers – submitted Cycling Campaign suggestions as a way of improving the use of cycle lockers with a possible action plan. No acknowledgement to date.
- Bike Marking-Council advised CCC of the Transport for Wales initiative at the station and in turn we were able to publicise effectively such that it was regarded as a successful day. Council later thanked CCC for our efforts.
- Cycle route mapping-there is an ongoing discussion with Council over the best electronic method to use. CCC's family cycle rides will be added to the Council's map.
- Cllr Chris Copeman contacted CCC for suggested topics for his imminent meeting with Cllr Karen Shore. The meeting is mainly about active travel in the Borough. CCC have sent him a comprehensive list of a wide range of topics. We await feedback from meeting.
- CW&C Highways Board. This is newly formed. Minutes will not be published as it is an advisory board to the Cabinet.
- CWaC Officer Roles – _SLP, NS and JV continue to work on collating a diagram of “who's who” in transport in CW&C.

5. Membership

Membership stands at 276 at the end of the Membership year – increased slightly from 267 at same time last year. IS was thanked for his hard work on increasing membership, and for his other many activities on behalf of the Campaign.

6. Development Control

CW&C is doing a good job of picking up lack of cycle parking in developments, thanks to the work of Paul Parry. This has improved greatly in the last 12 months and is saving work for NS.

Active Travel England has commented on the development at Ledsham.

Ellesmere Port – IS is making contact with someone on the Ellesmere Port Development Board, with a view to a future meeting.

The complete list of applications monitored by NS is at:

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

7. Feedback on Recent Activities

Fancy Women Bike Ride 17th September - well attended 26 women riders included lots from CCC + 2 men. Worldwide event. Fun. Gave cycling a presence on the streets. Looking to make this an annual event.

Sustainable Cheshire Festival 23rd September Grosvenor Park. MR, CH, PW & CC helped. Worth doing. Spoke to lots of people, most new to the Campaign. Worth repeating. There will not be a winter fair this year. CC suggested several ideas for more engagement at future events:

- a pin board to pin answers to questions like “why do I cycle”. We could use this for PR later.
- Balloons with CCC logo and a positive message about cycling, for children to take away. These would be good advertising.
- Stickers with the CCC logo, to go on helmets.

8. Objectives – appraise list. This was not discussed, due to lack of time. Carry forward to next meeting.

AOB

None.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st November.

Chair: CH

Minutes: IS

Letter of the month: PW.