

CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN – November Meeting - 1st Nov 23.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirm minutes.
3. Matters arising
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. CWaC Liaison
6. Membership
7. Development Control
8. Inclusivity
9. Feedback on recent activities
10. Objectives – appraise list.
11. AOB

PRESENT: John Violet (JV) (Chairperson), Ian Slater (IS) (Minutes), Monica Robinson (MR), Nic Siddle (NS), Ashley McCraight (AM), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Simon Brown (SB), Claudia Caldeira (CC), Laura Ryan (LR), Simon Sandford (SS)

PRESENT ONLINE: Stephen Perry (SP), Eileen Morgan (EM)

Unfortunately, the projector and screen were not available on this occasion and we had issues getting a stable 2-way video connection established, which meant that meeting effectiveness was hampered, especially for those connecting remotely.

1. **Apologies:** Peter Williams (PW), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Julia Bennett (JB), John Holiday (JH), Cathey Harrington (CH)
2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted. CS to upload to the website.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - JB has reviewed practicality of having a savings account at Lloyds but the required bank balance is too high to make this a practical proposition.
 - JB made the agreed £100 donation to Cycle Streets.
 - Whilst the suggested donation to NWAA was not approved, SB included an invitation for individual members to donate in the monthly bulletin, as was requested.
 - The laminated maps were on display. They have come up very well and are already proving useful. Many thanks to Craig Steeland for producing these for us.
 - NS has looked at options to buy further holders for displaying 'Cycling Matters!', but the cost of suitable holders was at least £12.50 per item and this was deemed excessive.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Cycling UK Membership has been paid.
 - The £1000 Cycling UK Big Bike Revival funds have now been spent. There are options to apply for further funds for the Winter season.

At this point the floor was given to Simon Sandford (a Campaign Corporate Member representing Healthbox, Ellesmere Port). Simon is a Director at Healthbox, Chair of Cheshire West Volunteer Action and is on the Ellesmere Port Development Board as Voluntary Sector representative (EP Development Board has representation from industrial groups such as Stellantis, Protos, Essar, Peel Holdings, Origin and the Council) Simon is working to deliver measureable improvements in health outcomes for Ellesmere Port residents by (amongst other things) social prescribing of activities such as walking, cycling and wheeling. His outfit

has a budget and staff to help deliver this. He will help to link us into the EP Development Board with e.g. an invitation to attend the next Zoom meeting on 1st December. This would be an opportunity to present our thinking on active travel route connections to North Road and to the Boat Museum.

NS would like the opportunity to present to Peel our thinking on former rail trackbed preservation and re-use. It would be an opportunity to discuss failure of Peel Holdings to connect Footpath 35 to the SUPs on North Road.

The potential importance of the North Road link to The Wirral for cycle commuting and leisure was mentioned.

We could assist with a few led rides starting at The Boat Museum car park and building on the success of the rides that the Canal & River Trust (C&RT) have demonstrated. IS will evaluate some options and timetable a few rides. AW will assist IS, as he has good knowledge of that area and some ideas about certain strategic improvements. Simon Sandford could provide us with a budget to cover some costs to provide incentives.

IS will liaise with the folk at Bren Bikes to see whether we can also assist to maintain a constant presence for activities at the EP Market, which currently take place on a Thursday.

The discussion with Simon was very animated and the attendees felt this was a very useful contact.

5. **CW&C Liaison – see report attached**

- Grosvenor Bridge 20mph signage not yet in place.
- JV has written to David Land (CW&C Transport Strategy) suggesting that the Saughton Camp section 106 money be used to improve the emergency active travel lanes along Boughton. Dave Land will consult with colleagues
- JV had a productive meeting with Mark Youngman of Transport for Wales (Active Travel Manager – Cardiff based) on Monday, about improvements to the railway station's provision for cyclists (notes attached).
- there is a plan to install an extra platform at the station and we discussed whether there would then be opportunities to create access from Lightfoot Street e.g. via Thomas Brassey Close or from the new Heritage Centre.

6. **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT attached.**

Membership numbers inevitably fall after renewal notices have been sent out at the end September but are recovering steadily.

7. **PLANNING REPORT attached.**

- NS will share relevant planning history of the new Heritage Centre on Lightfoot St. and Active Travel routes considered, as input to JV's discussion with TfW.

ACTION: NS

8 **INCLUSIVE CYCLING OFFICER'S REPORT ATTACHED**

EM reported attending one of the C&RT rides on a Monday morning and some difficulty was experienced on parts of the route. The rides are intended to be inclusive and the ride leader needs to be conscious of how participants are managing and plan rest points and shortcuts.

9 **Other Activities**

- AM attended a CW&C council meeting where the need for new crossings on roads was discussed. (Meeting of CW&C council on 19th October - Item 14 NOTICE OF MOTION - Pedestrian Crossings for our Communities). The item was narrowly voted down - costs of

implementation being the issue. AM has since asked Simon Eardley to share the TOR of the Highways Board.

- CC and LR have offered to record short video interviews of people they meet on bicycles, to find out why they cycle and what would motivate them to cycle more. The idea is to use these on the newly-created Instagram account (and link to Facebook). Items featuring individual stories are popular on Social Media, so this looks like a good initiative.

ACTION: SB will add CC to the list of Facebook content editors.

- JV reported that he and CH had attended a meeting at the racecourse to discuss the 'One City Plan' – a meeting attended by (amongst others) CW&C top brass and chaired by City MP, Sam Dixon. It's a long term plan to change the nature of the city by e.g. increased residential utilisation.
- We discussed the start of building works on a new hotel at Charterhall Drive, which will have an impact on access via this important route during the ground preparation and subsequent building works. There are plans to demolish the former Lloyds building too. This route features in the LCWIP.

ACTION: JV to raise this with Paul Parry in the context of LCWIP and the Local Transport Plan.

ACTION: SB to raise the profile of this with the councillors for the area.

- 10 Next meeting - December 6th: Chair – IS Minutes: SP
Letter of the Month - December: SB

APPENDED REPORTS - shared prior to or after the meeting.

(These may have been edited for brevity)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The donation of £100 to Cyclestreets has been made.

The BBR fund has been used up.

I have not started the process of opening a savings account with Lloyds as the higher interest rate of 3.6% is only available on a balance over £10,000!

Opening Balance	£4952.26
Income	£772.27
Expenditure	£432.80
Closing Balance	£5291.73

CWAC LIAISON REPORT

- Grosvenor Bridge 20 mph Traffic Regulation Order proceeding but without our requested longer extent. Intend to still press for 20mph Overleigh Roundabout to Castle Drive.
- Ellesmere Port Town Centre scheme now out for consultation and have made supportive comments on behalf of CCC. No detail so far, just principles.
- Joint meeting with Transport for Wales, CWaC and CCC to discuss railway station access, cycle hub, signing etc. (see notes below)
- Submitted suggestion to CWaC Transport Strategy that consideration be given to using some S106 funds from Saughton Camp, Huntington development for the Boughton dual carriageway where we still have the bus/cycle lanes suspended. Sent scheme developed by Emergency Active Travel Lane group during Covid and explained that Active Travel England may look more favourably on CWaC if the scheme moves forward. Favourable acknowledgement received.
- Councillor Chris Copeman meeting with Councillor Karen Shore was ineffective as meeting time coincided with M53 school bus crash.

JV'S MEETING WITH TRANSPORT FOR WALES AND CW&C.

Present: Mark Youngman TfW Active Travel Manager

Karen Stevens CWaC

John Violet Chester Cycling Campaign

- MY is keen to upgrade cycle parking at Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn East, and Neston.
- Provision will depend on whether stations are staffed and/or CCTV.
- TfW is the operator of the stations and Network Rail the owner. TfW find it much easier to provide Active Travel schemes at stations in Wales as they also fund the Local Authorities for road alterations etc. KS aware of difficulty of TfW operating stations in England and consequent funding issue.
- At Runcorn East he wants to provide a new combined passenger shelter and cycle racks.
- TfW has over 240 stations and MY is to make a presentation to the board shortly on the types of provision he wants to make. He is currently talking to suppliers and

getting cost estimates. There is an expectation that a large bulk tender will provide economies of scale. They will cater for larger bikes and adapted bikes.

- There are 5 stations on the network where cycle hubs will be provided of which Chester is one. Hubs will be very secure, covered and have CCTV. He showed photographs of several he has looked at already including Wigan North Western.
- At Chester, he accepts that current provision needs to be improved and wants to explore using some of the existing ground floor space in the main building where he feels there is a surfeit of accommodation. KS felt that the location should suit the Chester Gateway project and JV to send details.
- JV raised concerns about signing and maps provided at the station. The signing of the cycle route to the town centre needs to be improved and KS agreed. MY is keen to improve signing from the station as part of the current upgrade works.
- JV raised the problems of Hoole Road Bridge and asked about the possibility of access from Lightfoot Street possibly using the CWaC History Building area, especially as there is to be a new island platform constructed on that side of the station. MY was very supportive of having two access routes to the station for pedestrians and cyclists.
- JV showed how the station is not connected to existing cycle routes (using our new map!) and the importance of the LCWIP routes for the future.
- KS raised the Mersey-Dee alliance which is taking an LCWIP approach to active travel routes focussing on Hawarden Bridge from both sides of the river.
- MY felt that organisations like CCC were very useful in giving advice locally on identifying problems and suggesting possible solutions.
- Although no firm commitments were made it was felt that the meeting had been a useful exchange of ideas. Much depends on how the Tfw Board receive MY's presentation in about 2 months' time. All to keep in touch with each other.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT.

- 226 members at 29th October. Numbers recovering steadily as members re-subscribe following the end of the membership year. (118 have re-subscribed. 58 recently-lapsed members yet to re-engage.)
- 6 new members since 1st October

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL - NS's Planning Report.

1. Little activity on my part due to Family Commitments. Three actions to roll forward:-
 - (1) Investigate cost/availability of leaflet holders for external use
 - (2) order land registry hard copies for the land covering the disused railway land opposite Vauxhall on N Road, E Port
 - (3) Review of footpaths and submission against plans for Sutton New Hall Farm.
2. Karen Shore has given us the names of the members of the new Highways Board. They are:- Karen Shore (Lab, Central & Grange, E Port), Gillian Edwards (Ind, Weaver & Cuddington), Dan Marr (Con, Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead), Simon Eardley (Con, Saughall & Mollington), Adrian Waddlove (Con, Farndon), Mike Garvey (Lab, Frodsham), Gina Lewis (Lab, Winsford, Over and Verdin), Paul Chamberlain (Lab, City & Garden Quarter).

As previously noted, this is an advisory board to the Cabinet and so minutes of meetings will not be published. But these Councillors might be crucial to any attempt to get funds specifically allocated for cycling infrastructure.
3. Frodsham Marsh Solar Farm. No further news of the supposed report on the local consultation.