



CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

.....Working to Create a Cycle Friendly City



Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7.30 pm at Bowling Green Court

Present:

Nic Siddle (NS), Simon Brown (SB), Cathey Harrington (CH), Ian Slater (IS) (Chair), John Violet (JV), Peter Williams (PW), Stephen Perry (SP) (Minutes), Ashleigh McCraight (AMc)

By video link: Arnold Wilkes (AW), Eileen Morgan (EM), Steve Pemberton (SLP),

1. Apologies

Monica Robinson (MR), John Holiday (JH), Julia Bennett (JB), Laura Ryan (LR),

2. **Minutes of May meeting.** Draft Minutes of CCC Meeting May.docx, as circulated, were agreed and are ready for posting on the website. **Action: CS**

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

CW&C Liaison report NS to prepare a list of useful contacts within CWAC

A password-protected version has been put on the Campaign website. Comments/corrections invited.

Development Control Officer report NS & PW to contact Green party councillor to get links to EP Development Board. *Discussed under agenda item 7.*

Social Media CC has made a tutorial for those wishing to share items via Social Media. Thanks to Claudia for her video explanation. *Action complete.*

Tandem Pilot scheme LR has included in the bulletin an invitation to anybody wanting to assist with tandem piloting with visually-impaired stokers.

Action complete.

Consultations Future CCC meeting chair will ensure upcoming consultations are highlighted.

Led ride for CWaC

IS will lead a ride (now re-scheduled for National Bike to Work Day – August 1st) for CW&C employees starting at The EP Portal and heading for the railway station and Boat Museum.

Ideas for the June edition of Cycling Matters! *Received by CH*

Charterhall Drive - SB has sent idea to local council to concise JV proposal

All other matters arising are covered by the meeting Agenda.

4. Ownership of Objectives:

At the last meeting we agreed that we would aim to have a named individual to be the focal point for each of our stated annual objectives - the idea being that this person 'owns' the history of a particular topic and drives the initiative, with the aid of other members. The names in bold entered against each objective were proposed by those at the meeting. Please note that those named are not obliged to take on the responsibility but it would be appreciated if the named person can provide one of the following responses:

- They would be happy to the lead as the objective owner
- They do not want to take the lead but would we would be happy support another as the objective owner
- They are not willing to take any responsibility for achieving this objective

1. *Develop a community engagement strategy for public and campaign members.* **Claudia**

2. *Identify key routes within the city centre that need to be modified to ensure easy and inclusive cycle access and/or permeability to, or through the city centre.* **CWAC Liaison Officer**

3. *Continue to improve formal contact with the Council Officers and Members for cycling related matters and try to broaden our base of contacts. **CWAC Liaison Officer***
4. *Provide comments on relevant planning applications and pursue action on enforcement as necessary through various channels including via Scrutiny Committee route. **Nic Siddle***
5. *Maintain electronic maps so they can be more readily referred to by CW&C Transport and Highways in future programs of work for improving cycling infrastructure. **Nic Siddle***
6. *Define and promote a suitable program (of Cycle Rides and) Cycle Buddy support during 2024 and focusing on a wider clientele other than families. **Cathey Harrington** (Cycle Buddy support only)*
7. *Organise and publicise a campaign to report and follow-up on the lack of cycle path maintenance and involve councillors in follow-up. (**Simon Brown** to write a guide for reporting issues)*
8. *Increase Social Media engagement across all channels by 15%, within a Communication Strategy to be developed. This to focus on active engagement at a programme of events and activities to be organised through the year. **Claudia Caldeira***

5. Treasurer's Report.

The following details were shared before the meeting

01/05/2024 Opening Balance £ 5,019.66

29/05/2024 Closing Balance £ 5,003.38

There followed a discussion on the options to renew our current insurance policies that we have held in 2023/24 with Zurich, alongside the cover we get from Cycling UK. After giving detailed feedback to Zurich on our current activities (in response to their questionnaire) Zurich have declined to offer us future cover, once the current policy ends on 15th June 2024.

IS has been in contact the insurers used by Cycling UK and they have offered cover for £219, which includes extra cover to protect our two primary officers (Treasurer and Secretary). However the public liability cover is for only £2m whereas SB feels that we may need £5m for any activities that interface with CW&C.

After much discussion it was agreed that IS will try to ensure that we have the necessary cover for the Active Travel Festival on 16th June via Cycling UK and if this is the case we will review the current options in more detail and make a proposal at the July CCC meeting. **Action IS, SP and JB**

6. CW&C Liaison

CW&C Transport & Highways team appear to be very stretched with zero response to various communications. It is assumed that during 'purdah' communication would be barred anyway. JV emphasised his plans to step down and SP agreed to reflect on what options we may have to fill this role in the current circumstances within CCC and within CW&C. SP will give feedback to the next CCC meeting. This review will take into account the significance of CW&C's need to progress and complete the Local Transport Plan. **Action SP**

7. Development Control

A summary of Nic Siddle's report to the meeting

- Centurion House, Northgate Street – Application for a Change of Use (from Offices to 15 flats) has been approved. The plans show 3 Sheffield Stands and 10 ‘semi-vertical’ bike racks (16 spaces for 15 flats meets the SPD requirement). The developer is BlueOak.
- Role of Highways in Planning - attempts to try and clarify how the Highways aspect of Planning is being covered, and by whom, have so far failed. This is important in view of some current applications (eg Land at Leftwich Farm. Northwich) where the proposed estate access point is very close to a roundabout.
- Bromborough to E.Port Boat Museum – CCC and a number of people in Eastham are trying to re-establish an old footpath route from Bromborough to Eastham and then a connection to the Boat Museum. The latter part chimes with our North Road ambitions. They have managed to generate some Wirral and CWaC Councillor interest in this project. There will be a meeting on Thursday (6th June) where we will gauge if there is potential mileage for us in this.
- Old Hall Country Club, Huntington Ref the additional 5 dwelling application (23/00827/OUT), in addition to the original 12. Amended plans have just been submitted but they do nothing to address the issues raised by CCC in terms of the safety of the B5130. In particular the promised improvement to pavement are no longer adequate and need upgrading.

8. Membership report

258 members as at 29th May (increased from 255).

9. Inclusivity

With reference the Flintshire ‘Barriers Check’ discussions, EM explained that Richard Brunstrom QPM, Independent Member, Wales Active Travel Board has recently stated that in Wales the term "active travel" refers only to utilitarian journeys: journeys undertaken with a purpose like going to work, or the shops, or the doctor, or to a leisure centre, etc, etc. It specifically excludes recreational journeys.

Discussions in the meeting suggested that this definition is either out of date or not relevant. EM will check this detail with Cllr Debbie Owen

10. Promotion Events

CH will be attending cycling promotion sessions at the Bank of America and Lloyds Bank on 12th and 13th June. CH supported a Zoom meeting with ‘Everybody Cycling’, who are supporting Lloyds and will be present on 13th June.

12th June: Active Transport employee engagement session 11am-2pm. Theme ‘Summer of Cycling’. Bank of America, Chester Business Park. With Gareth Evans, Travel Plan Programme Manager, TPS Consultants. Dr Bike from 9am, arranged by TPS.

13th June: Active Transport employee engagement session 11am-2pm. Theme ‘Summer of Cycling’. Lloyds Bank, Cawley House, Chester Business Park. With Gareth Evans, Travel Plan Programme Manager, TPS Consultants. Dr Bike from 10am, arranged by TPS. Novelty bike try-outs and guided rides from Everybody’s Cycling.

The Active Travel Festival will take place on Sunday 16th June in Chester City Centre, with great support from CCC members, as part of the Chester Green Weekend. Plans are well defined and in hand.

11. Feedback on recent activities

CH and SB supported a Healthbox CIC event in Exchange Square, and had offered to support a second event in Chester but this was cancelled

Veda Carter, our contact at the Countess of Chester Hospital, has responded to an analysis of cyclist entrances and exits at the hospital site, done by CH and AW. A survey will be circulated, once the closing date has been put on.

12. AOB

There are no upcoming consultations that we need to be aware of.

Forthcoming meeting roles:

Month	Chair	Minutes
July	Simon	Steve
August	Stephen	Simon
September	Simon	Ian
October	John V	Cathey
November	John V	Ian
December	Cathey	Laura

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd July.

Meeting closed at 09.15 pm.