



CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

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



Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 7.30 pm at Bowling Green Court

Present:

Simon Brown (SB) (Minutes), John Violet (JV), Peter Williams (PW), Stephen Perry (SP) (Chair), Nic Siddle (NS), Laura Ryan (LR), Julia Bennett (JB), Ian Slater (IS), Cathey Harrington (CH), Robert Vaughan (Member of the public)

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

Apologies

Steve Pemberton (SLP), Monica Robinson (MR), John Holiday (JH), Ashley McCraight (AMc), Ian Slater (IS)

1. **Minutes of July meeting.** Draft Minutes of CCC Meeting July as circulated to activists, were agreed and are ready for posting on the website. **Action: SB and CS**
2. **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.**
 - a) **Ownership of Objectives** – 2 Objectives still have no person available to progress - **CW&C Liaison and development of a Social Media Strategy**. JV is no longer available to support this Liaison Role with CWaC, so this role currently is not being supported. No one is currently available to coordinate and develop a Social Media and Communications Strategy for the Campaign.
 - b) **'A'Barriers on River Dee Path** – EM reported that David Highes is writing on behalf of TCC (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru/Together Creating Communities), a Community Organising Charity founded nearly 30 years ago. As an organisation, it supports 40 member groups in tackling social justice issues within northeast Wales. Specifically, collaborating with Cycling UK, The FDF Centre for Independent Living and Sustrans, in this campaign - actively listening to people with lived experiences on the impact of barriers on the coastal path within Flintshire.

The letter will be sent to the Chief Executive of Flintshire Council, the FCC Legal Officer, County Councillors and Senedd Members and Members of Parliament within Flintshire.

The FCC councillors involved will be proposing a 'notice of motion' when they meet in Sept and Richard Brunstrom Independent Member, Wales Active Travel Board is submitting the scrutiny report to the Council.

- c) **Countess of Chester access Project** – CH reported that the public survey was still live (due to finish on 31/8/24). Responses from this will assist Veda Carter (Sustainability Manager, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust) to propose ways to improve site access for pedestrians and cyclists and try and influence the Hospital Trust to make changes to infrastructure.
- d) **School Access in Huntington area** – IS wrote to Huntington Parish Council and Head of Huntington School regarding difficulties in accessing school sites safely by cycle . No responses as yet. JV reported that Gt. Boughton PC, Christleton PC and Huntington PC are undertaking a survey of school children in September to support case for re-surfacing the canal towpath intended to assist safe access to Christleton High School. It was noted by members that this is not a very direct route and students are more likely to utilise the more dangerous A41 route, despite its hazards and poor safety record.
- e) **Cycle Parking at Boughton Coop** – An article was included in Campaign Bulletin encouraging Campaign members to contact the store regarding the non-existent cycle parking facilities.

- f) **Noise Reduction software for video productions** – Claudia Caldera reported that this has been purchased and has been utilised for recent videos posted on Campaign Instagram and Facebook pages. Has improved quality.
- g) **Cycle Hub passes** – AW had revised his proposals for utilisation of cycle hub passes and considered that they were a little impractical. SB suggested a good way to make use of them is to canvas cafes, bars and restaurants in the vicinity of the Market Building to identify employees who would be interested in cycling to work and utilising the Hub facilities. Whilst this was one proposal it was agreed that further discussion would be required to plan for effective utilisation of the passes. It was agreed in the interim that a pass each would be donated to John Violet in the Campaign and also Claudia Caldera. The allocation of the remainders would be subject to further discussion. IS to retrieve passes from AW and retain until further allocation was agreed.
- h) **Healthbox Event, Grosvenor Park** – CH and SB to attend event with Campaign publicity materials.
Action : SB & CH

3. **Active Travel Festival 2024**

SP reported on the recent event in Chester – Overall, the event was a success with positive public engagement and good footfall in the city centre location as a one day event. Schools engagement was OK, but not as successful as hoped, considering the amount of effort made to engage with them. Dee Point School had the best engagement event which was attended by a number of Campaign members. Newton School event also good – both school events resulted in small degree of attendance on the Day. Unfortunately Councillors and Council Officers could not actively take part in the Festival due to Election Restrictions on public engagement over the election period.

Cllrs. Richard Beacham and Simon Eardley, with a few other Chester councillors, met with SP in July to review the success of the Festival and for SP to introduce them to the ‘Taste Cheshire Team’ who supported SP as professional event managers with statutory responsibility for the event. SP received very positive feedback and support for a future event but this will depend on getting CW&C to fully finance the event (c. £5,000). It is hoped that the Taste Cheshire Team will take full responsibility for setting up and delivering any future event and it is planned that they will meet with the ‘Chester City Charter Trustees’ (Councillors representing the urban part of Chester) in late September/October. It is intended that any future Active Travel Festival will again coincide with the Chester Green Weekend in 2025, and other partners in the CGW will also be invited to meet the Chester City Charter Trustees. SP will not be able to attend this meeting.

It was agreed that CCC will “watch this space” and once there is a definite commitment from CW&C to lead on the event then the Campaign would consider how best to contribute. The meeting thanked and congratulated SP for all his efforts in coordinating and staging the successful event. A report on the Festival has been copied to all cccactivists (and since this meeting a video has also been shared)

4. **CW&C Liaison Role**

JV will formally step down from this role as from this meeting due to other commitments. This role is now unfilled. SP had a discussion with Cllr. Karen Shore (Lead on Transport) to suggest that we need to find a way to re-establish formal contact between ourselves, relevant councillors and officers to work in a coordinated way to encourage more Active Travel, including pedestrians and cyclists. Cllr Shore took in board this proposal and agreed to talk to other relevant councillors and officers before getting back to SP. There has not yet been any follow up discussion. SP has a face to face meeting programmed with Chris Hardwick (Transport Strategy and Highways lead officer) on 29/08/24 to discuss similar.

In the absence of a CW&C liaison Officer it was agreed that the Campaign would maintain the links that individual members of the Campaign have with various officers within CWaC (e.g Development Control/Planning, Road Safety etc) seeking further opportunities for dialogue.

5. Healthbox Family Fun Day Event, Grosvenor Park – 20th August

SB and CH would attend event with Cycle Campaign publicity materials and banner.

Action – SB & CH

6. CWaC Climate Emergency Consultation – response by Campaign

Campaign Members were urged to submit personal responses to this online consultation, and where commenting on transport issues, to forward on their comments to SP the detail of their submission, so that a Campaign response to Transport issues could be collated and subsequently submitted by email to CWaC by SP.

Action - ALL

7. CWaC led ride in Ellesmere Port

IS reported he took part in this short ride in Ellesmere Port Town Centre with 2 officers from CWaC Transport Dept (Jade Cox and Gemma ??). This was in response to a request by Sarah Collins. This was sum total of those who took part with no other Officers from CWaC present..

8. Critical Mass

Paul McCormick (Civilised Cycling in Casual Attire) and Claudia Caldera (Chester Critical Mass) (also members of the Campaign) attended the meeting in their Chester Critical Mass roles to encourage members of the Campaign to take part in this regular monthly event. 3 rides so far with around 10 to 24 riders taking part in this informal event. Next monthly Critical Mass taking place 2pm Saturday 7th September starting at Grosvenor Park (Lodge) entrance. This Fun Event includes families and cycle riders of all persuasions.

The Campaign wished to support the regular events and agreed to promote it through “Cycling Matters” and the Campaign Bulletin asking all members to ‘bring a friend to take part. SB agreed to meet with EM to support her to take part in the next event with her adapted trike.

Paul McCormick also spoke of his regular weekly rides on Mondays with Civilised Cycling in Casual Attire and encouraged members of the Campaign to take part and join the Facebook Page which gives details of the leisurely rides that are organised.

Action - ALL

9. Hoole Lane/Lightfoot Street Junction Issues

It was noted that this is a dangerous junction for cyclists coming off Hoole Lane at the junction with Lightfoot Street, largely due to poor road markings. A few members spoke of dangerous incidents they had encountered, largely due to Car drivers not noticing cyclists and not giving priority as they traversed the junction . All were encouraged to report the poor signage and road markings on the “Report it” app to highlight the danger in an effort to clarify road markings and signage. (POST MEETING NOTE: The road markings have been repainted at the junction, possibly triggered by the accident?)

10. Treasurer’s Report.

The following details were shared by JB (Treasurer) before the meeting
01/07/2024 Opening Balance £ 5,063.76

26/07/2024 Closing Balance £ 5,183.69

JB suggested that the Campaign waits for any event that may require additional insurance for the Campaign to take part in to then consider what is required . Until then, no further insurances have been arranged.

11. Development Control

NS report to the meeting was circulated. Key items to note -

North Road – Ellesmere Port - NS has been in contact with Cllr. Richard Beacham regarding the importance preserving the North Road redundant railway route and ensuring Peel Ltd do not escape the requirement to install a shared use path along its length to provide access to/from housing and employment areas and also Town Centre.

Active Travel Infrastructure Wrexham Road Housing area - Kings Moat (primary) School Proposal by Redrow Ltd (Wrexham Road Development) seems not to include active travel infrastructure within the outline plans. NS to contact Helen Southall (Campaign member with connections to University who lives in the area) to ask whether she could investigate cycling access for the proposal. The School Trust in the proposal appears to be sponsored by the University

12. AOB

It was noted that Claudia had completed the Cycle Buddies short video film to encourage more interest via social media. Meeting thanked Claudia for her excellent efforts which had the promise of generating good responses.

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

Current live consultation – CwaC Climate Emergency Response - Closing 1/9/24

Forthcoming meeting roles:

Month	Chair	Minutes
September	Simon Brown	Ian Slater
October	John Violet	Cathey Harrington
November	John Violet	Ian Slater
December	Cathey Harrington	Laura Ryan

Next meeting: Wednesday 4th September

Meeting closed at 21.45