



CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN
.....Working to Create a Cycle Friendly City



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2025
at 7.30 pm at Bowling Green Court**

Present:

John Violet (JV) (Chair), Stephen Perry (SP) (Minutes), Laura Ryan (LR), Nic Siddle (NS), Arnold Wilkes (AW), Simon FitzMaurice (SF), Monica Robinson (MR), Ashley McCraight (AM), Ian Slater (IS), Cathey Harrington (CH)
From Chester Critical Mass: Paul McCormack (PMc), Claudia Calderia (CC)
By video link: not available

Apologies

Andy Ashton,(AA), Simon Brown (SB), Steve Pemberton (SLP), John Holiday (JH), Peter Williams (PW), Eileen Morgan (EM), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Julia Bennett (JB),

- 1. Minutes of May meeting.** Draft Minutes of CCC Meeting May 2025 (subject to one amendment) were approved, ready for posting on the website.

Action: CS to post to website.

- 2. Matters arising from the minutes of the May meeting.**

- Volunteers urgently needed to chair and minute future monthly meetings:**

2025	Chair	Minutes
June	John V	Stephen
July	Cathey	John V
August	Stephen	
September		Simon B
October		Laura
November	John	Cathey
December	Simon B	

Please put names on [Google spreadsheet](#). **Action: All.**

Fountains Roundabout – as agreed a letter with our CCC response to proposed changes has been sent by SF to CwaC.

Anne St crossing of St Oswald’s Way - as agreed a letter has been sent by SF to thank Highways for the improvements completed so far.

Illegal delivery bikes - JV has written to PCC re illegal delivery bikes. PCC responded that this issue is being addressed across Cheshire but it is hard to achieve convictions. PCC also responded to an earlier request from JV to support the purchase of Hi-Viz vests with a ‘safe pass’ message. The PCC response was that funds are no longer available for such an initiative.

Publicising the Market Parking Cycle Hub – IS queried what happened about Publicity to advertise Cyclehub. It had been Carried forward at the March meeting, but

the outcome was not recorded at the April meeting. At the next meeting, could SB please remind us of the outcome/pending action. **Action: SB.**

3. Critical Mass Ride Leadership

PMc introduced the fact that the Critical Mass cycle rides have now been running for a year and the current ride leaders would appreciate support from others to help lead future rides. The CCC team was therefore invited to lead 4 rides per year. It was agreed that any new volunteer ride leaders would need some form of training/induction and they may wish to limit their involvement to one particular route, at least initially. MR, CH and SP said they would be happy to consider offering their support and Andy Ashton had previously agreed by email. LR agreed to invite further support from the wider CCC membership in the next bulletin. Anyone interested should contact civilisedcycling@outlook.com. It was suggested that a training session should be arranged in the next month or so, with a plan to start with additional ride leaders in the autumn.

- 4. Membership Report.** There are 239 members as at end of May, with no further change. There are 79 one-off memberships (those not covered by automated renewals) that will lapse on September 30th. Including Family Members this accounts for a total of 117 members. IS will send an email reminder at end September and the next membership secretary can follow-up with issuing new membership cards, from October.

Action All: find a new Membership Secretary

5. Treasurer's Report for April.

CCC funds stand at £ 5,714.08. Please note expenses of £248 for Active Travel weekend have not yet been paid. JB was thanked for continuing to manage the Campaign's accounts.

Action All: find a new Treasurer

6. Strategy for spending funds currently held by CCC - Criteria for spending.

An action was agreed at the April CCC meeting for the May meeting to discuss the need for CCC to develop a strategy for use of the currently held funds. This was discussed in May and the outline proposals recorded in the May CCC meeting minutes. In this June meeting there was further discussion and some confusion about the details of what has been discussed so far. Attached is a draft paper that has been prepared to try to clarify the suggested strategy, including the initial criteria that have been suggested for spending money that were proposed in this June meeting. These being: in line with CCC Aims and Objectives, as per the Constitution, Value for money, Promoting CCC, Spent within a certain amount of time.

Action next meeting: to review the proposals put forward and agree how to present these proposals to the wider CCC membership

7. CWaC Liaison.

SF's report is below in blue:

City centre cycling provision

As reported at the last meeting - words of encouragement but no tangible action. Richard Beacham has (without success) pressed officers for a reply on bidirectional cycling.

More push-back on Bridge St/Pepper St ACLs:

"LTN 1/20 10.6.44 ASLs should therefore only be considered to meet the full accessibility needs of *most people* on a junction approach which meets the following criteria..." (Karen Stevens, my italics)

Highways meeting

A positive and quite lengthy meeting was held on June 4th 2025.

Present:

CCC: IanS, NicS, SimonF

CWaC:

Andy Coward (Contract Delivery)

Karl Farrow (Area Engineer)

Karen Stevens (Decarbonising Transport Officer)

Kay Parry (Principal Engineer)

Gerard Coleman (Team Leader, Street Light and Traffic Signals)

Notes from the discussion are included in the report below. It was agreed that, in future, the meetings might benefit from being held more frequently - CCC to propose some dates within the July timeframe (following the completion of the Fountains Roundabout trial).

Fountains Roundabout

The trial is taking place 12th May - 7th July 2025.

At the May CCC meeting, considerable concern was expressed as to the effect that the disabling of traffic signals would have on the use of the roundabout by cyclists.

The CCC concerns were notified in writing to council members and officers, of whom only Karen Stevens responded, emphasising the intent of Highways to liaise with CCC. However, the liaison is in a sense one-way - CCC are expected to mail comments to Highways, either as individuals or collectively. CCC will not be proactively provided with information.

The Active Travel England funds used will total £79,485. This is justified on the basis that the trial was to the potential benefit of pedestrians (although the CWaC web site also mentioned cyclists).

Counts of pedestrians and cyclists are to be made, including use of the underpasses.

Reference was made to measuring university students' use of the roundabout as pedestrians; it was pointed out that the final three weeks of the trial is during Chester University vacation (14th June - 12th October 2025).

Reporting

The "reportit" web page severely limits categories of reports that can be accepted; this is also true for the app, although less so.

The app gives rise to duplicate submissions because no confirmation is made of a submission (at least, if there is one, it flashes too quickly to be noticeable).

The execrable surface condition of Elizabeth Crescent was reported, but rejected as “not a safety concern” (to motor vehicles, one assumes).

Cycle parking

There is acceptance that secure cycle parking is absent from some parts of the city centre (e.g. Eastgate St, Watergate St). CCC is invited to suggest locations in which it might be established.

Pedestrian Crossings

Anecdotally, pedestrian wait times at many crossings the city are excruciatingly long (although exceptions exist: e.g. Hough Green, Russell St). It was explained that crossings within the city are typically linked using UTC so as to optimise flow of traffic - wait times being therefore not easily predictable. However, a *maximum* wait time of 90 seconds applies throughout - anything in excess of this should be reported as a highway fault. In any case, feedback is welcomed.

A particular concern was raised regarding the Hoole Way/Faulkner St crossing - eastbound cars invited to turn into Faulkner St by westbound Hoole Way traffic potentially creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

LTP4

The timescale for consultation/agreement is unclear; according to Jack Mayhew (December 2024), there would be “detailed policy statements next year” so as to “present the consultation findings to date direct to full Council”.

The current situation is that consultation on the Draft Plan to start “later this month” (June 2025) [<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>], but no precise date is known.

Grosvenor Bridge

Implementation of the 20mph speed limit has again been delayed - this time due to “embankment work”. A *possible* date for fulfilment of the scheme is now September 2025.

The Dingle Bank pedestrian crossing is not planned to be included in the scheme; however the island is to remain, the risk of collision by motor vehicles and the encroachment into the path of cyclists notwithstanding.

20mph Speed Limits

Following the fatality outside the King’s School on Wrexham Road in November 2024, councillors resolved to impose lower speed limits outside those schools and colleges where existing limits were 30 mph or above.

In the March Scrutiny meeting Highways officers indicated that “more data was needed”. This data is apparently still being gathered (hence “pipes” across the road outside a number of educational establishments in the area). If the mean speed of vehicles is found to be 30 mph or above, then no action will be taken. Only if below 30 mph will a limit of 20 mph be considered; CWaC (not national) policy of 2009 is cited. Consultation with police is also deemed to be necessary.

St Anne St/St Oswald's Way

Highways have been thanked formally for prompt implementation. As a result, Sian Williams asked for feedback. CCC pointed out that cyclists are not typically using the St Anne St (south side) toucan crossing, presumably due to the fact that a more typical desire line is via Oulton Place.

There was no clarity on whether or if the completion of the work at the Victoria Road end would be completed. The Victoria Road partial closure TRO expires on 4th October 2025.

Several "Road Closed" etc... signs on Victoria Road have been knocked over/displaced, in some cases causing a hazard for pedestrians and/or vehicles.

Highways Online Reporting

The "reportit" web page severely limits categories of reports that can be accepted; this is also true for the app, although less so.

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Frodsham Street

The missing (damaged) Sheffield stand has still not been replaced. The damage is likely to have been caused by reversing delivery vehicles; however the expense of recovering money in such situations often outweighs the benefit.

The shared use path from Brook Street to the Cow Lane Bridge lacks signage.

The exit from the shared use path along Gorse Stacks invites head-on encounters with traffic prematurely assuming a one-way carriageway outside the bus station interchange.

S106 Spending on Active Travel

We know of at least three tranches:

- Saughton Camp - £2.5 million
- Wyldewoods project - £36k
- Lidl Caldby Valley project £50k

In each case, Highways were unsure of what has been/will be spent, and how. They are to investigate and report back.

Bruera to Aldford resurfacing work

CCC reported that, although the road has now been resurfaced to a good standard, in many areas the new road edge is now unsupported such that if cyclists stray off the road edge there is a significant risk of a fall.

The suggestion was to fill the gap at the road edge with road planings.

Burton boardwalk

The surface is deteriorating rapidly. Remedial action needs to be taken as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of the boardwalk being closed due to safety concerns.

Some repair has been attempted; a (DIY?) metal plate has been inserted in place of one board, and some protruding screws have been addressed by Highways. A source has now been found for replacement boards, so there is some hope of progress. Highways will let CCC know if volunteers might be of assistance.

Coddington

Highways have white-lined the junction (near the church). However, the priority is south to east rather than the straight south to north, but without a Give Way sign for southbound traffic the priority is unclear. Highways will look into it.

Street Signage

Minor correction of signage (e.g. cleaning, re-orienting) is not *officially* encouraged (largely for reasons of creating paperwork).

The meeting congratulated those present at today's meeting with Highways and thanked SF for his efforts in providing a prompt feedback report to the meeting. The meeting encouraged the CCC Highways liaison team to support a further meeting in July; to follow up on a number of open items (eg LTP4) and to propose additional items; eg an update on the current plans in the Lache and Hadlow Road Willaston. It was also suggested that an email be sent to Karen Stevens, inviting more information on the current Active Travel England funding available to CW&C (£3-400k?), emphasising our interest in schemes outside the Chester area, as well, for our own interest and to see if we can offer any practical help in their review and design.

Action SF: follow up actions as proposed

Fountains Roundabout.

We need to make sure that as a Campaign and as individuals we give feedback on the changes made to the Fountains Roundabout. We will not be invited to comment so WE have to be proactive

Action All; give feedback to Highways@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk with a copy to cccactivists so that SF can compile a response on behalf of CCC

Action LR: place same request in a CCC Bulletin.

National bike week; message received from Karen Stevens *We're just in the process of planning some communications for Bike Week which is taking place next week. We'll be promoting our Bikeability courses and encouraging people to get out on their bike more during the week. We would love to also showcase some of the fantastic work groups and organisations such as yours are doing across the borough to get people cycling.*

Action SP; submit information relating to the Chester Green Weekend and school engagement in particular

Charterhall Drive: a very positive meeting took place on 8th May, on site with Cllr Richard Beacham, Cllr Katrina Kerr, Cllr Ben Walker, Karen Stevens, Rob Chandler (CW&C Planning) plus Nic Siddle, John Violet, Simon Brown and Eileen Morgan. Our suggestion to use an access route from Westminster Road to the Station via the canal towpath was well received by the Councillors in particular. We now have to wait and see what Planning can achieve.

8. Development Control Report

Charterhall Drive meeting reported above. The full report is attached, in which NS expresses his concern over managing the current workload. The meeting thanked NS for the volume of work he undertakes and proposed that he should consider limiting the geographical and minimum size of the development application that he reviews and tries to influence

7. Inclusivity Officer report

Report from Eileen, not shared at meeting due to lack of online connection, but instead shared by subsequent email. EM made her first journey by train from Chester to M/C with her wheelchair trike to attend a Northern rail access panel meeting. EM arranged assistance at both stations and had intended to give more feedback at this meeting. In the light of her inability to join the meeting on-line EM suggested that maybe some of the CCC funds might be used to buy a laptop for use at the meetings. EM also proposed that we consider commissioning a video about what is involved for a wheelchair trike user to use public transport.

Action all: EM's proposals to be considered as part of our strategic spending plans

8. Green Weekend 7th & 8th June 2025.

SP had circulated a final rota detailing those named to cover the various stalls that CCC will be responsible for over the weekend. All CCC Gazebos, plus Bren Bilkes, will be in the Town Hall Square. The contents of the Gazebos will need to be taken away on Saturday night and reinstated on the Sunday morning. The Bike Factory will be in Deans Field, with a Dr Bike set-up and an area for bike trials.

Action CH: (plus others if appropriate) to submit to SP all expenses agreed to be paid by CGW. SP will then report back to JB.

9. AOB.

CCC Social and Review meeting. SP proposed that with the current number of vacant/temporary officer roles and a feeling that a limited number of members seem to take on most of the responsibility, maybe those interested could get together for an informal chat about how we might change our ways of working. Tuesday 24th June at 7.30pm was proposed as the preferred date/time and the Architect pub as a possible location.

Action CH; check out a room at the Architect

Action LR: once details have been agreed, send out a bulletin to invite any CCC member to join us.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.30

Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

Chair: CH

Minutes: JV