

Minutes of Chester Cycling Campaign meeting
Wednesday 1st April 2026
Bowling Green Court Brook Street Chester

Present:

Andy Ashton (AA) Simon FitzMaurice (SF), Cathy Harrington (CH) (Minutes), Steve Pemberton (SLP), Nick Siddle (NS), John Violet (JV) (Chair).

Present by video link:

Stephen Perry (SP), Peter Williams (PW), Arnold Wilkes (AW).

1. **Apologies:** Julia Bennett (JB), Monica Robinson (MR), Laura Ryan (LR), Ian Slater (IS).
2. **Minutes of last meeting (7th January).** Accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Action: CS to post on website.

3. Matters arising

- Brought forward. Publicity for cycle Hub – to send documents to the Council for approval before printing. **Action: SB.**
- Council meeting on bus franchising: SLP attended, nothing relevant to cycling.
- NB: SLP was recently refused entry to an Arriva bus when wanting to board with a folding bike. [Arriva's conditions of carriage](#) say the folded bike should be in a bag 9.3. *Folded bicycles/Electric scooters and other types of scooters should be carried in a suitable carrying bag or holdall to reduce the risk of injury or damage to other passengers and their property. Unfolded bicycles/electric scooters and other types of scooters are not carried in any circumstances.*
- Brought forward. AA will write a job description for social media people to try and attract some helpers for this function. **Action: AA.**

4. Reports received

a. Treasurer (see full report at the bottom of these minutes).

- Current bank balance £6106.41.
- As no-one else has offered to check the accounts for 2025 JB will contact Sam Marshall. **Action: JB.**

b. CW&C Council liaison (see also full report at the bottom of these minutes).

- There was further discussion of points to raise for the Chester Movement Strategy.
- JV & NS agreed, with IS, to continue their existing links with CW&C Highways. CH will liaise with Transport Strategy.

c. Development Control (see also full report at the bottom of these minutes).

- NS is currently unable to find a system for reducing the huge amount of work of scanning planning applications to pick up, and can't update the Development Control spreadsheet at present. SF offered help. **Action: NS, SF.**
- Planning application has been submitted for 90 dwellings off School Lane, Guilden Sutton CW&C reference **26/00830/OUT**. Discussion of how the development, should it be approved, could link up with the Greenway.
- A question was asked about how School Streets outside Guilden Sutton was working. **Action: CH to ask.**

d. Membership

- 226 paid up members of the Campaign.
- Communication with Campaign members was discussed. 3 areas of concern were identified:
 - i. The CCC Activists email list is unknown to most members and can feel exclusive when people find out about it, so it would be good to have a more open and accessible system for all members.
 - ii. Some people leave the Activists email list because of inbox overload. It would be good to have a way of opting in or out of areas of interest. SF reported that [Cyclescape](#) -a messaging system designed for cycling campaigns – is used successfully by Cambridge and other Cycling Campaigns and might address both these concerns. It allows users to subscribe to messages about issues in a geographical area of interest to them. It would replace emails. It has been used in Chester about 8 years ago. It was decided we should all look at Cyclescape. Should we start using it? For those in CCC who have used it in past, why did we start using email? **Action: All.**
 - iii. To the wider membership, we are not communicating enough about campaigning, and we are not asking them to get involved by issuing calls to action. It was agreed to put a short survey together in the next Bulletin about what members want us to tell the Council for the Chester Movement Strategy. Action: AA to put together a short survey for the next Bulletin **Action: AA, LR.**

5. Forthcoming meetings

- May - social cancelled. Agreed to have business meeting. **Action: CH to Cancel St Werburgh's, CS to ask BGC whether we can be accommodated on 6th May.**
- 1st July: ride into town from suburb.
- September: Ride - Inner City snickets. **Action: CH to check availability St Werburgh's.**

6. Meeting roles

- May: Chair CH
- June: Chair JV.
- Aug: Chair AA.
- Action: All. Please see [spreadsheet](#) and volunteer if you can.

7. Green Day Sunday 7th June, Chester town hall area.

- SP asked for interest and support for a CCC activities.
- The meeting agreed to expenditure up to £250 for a maximum of 3 gazebos (tbc but probably CCC, Get Going on Cycling, 20's Plenty), fruit for smoothie bike, supplies for activities for children etc.
- Smoothie bike is always popular. The Sustrans one we usually use may not be available, but SP is hoping to get one.
- SP reported a good response from primary schools to a decorated cycles wheels competition, building on success from previous years. SP has distributed wheels to 16 schools.
- Ideas needed for entertaining, fun activities to attract and engage children. Suggestions to SP please. We have badge making kit and . A free raffle/lucky dip

was suggested. We had a recent donation of a backpack suitable for an adult to use when cycling, which could be a prize.

- Volunteers so far: AA, MR, LR, CH have indicated availability
- **Action: All. Suggestions, offers of help to SP.**

8. Feedback on recent activities

- March Social (Cycling with Kids) – attendance was very low (6), which perhaps tells us that parents of younger children are too busy to engage. This echoes our experience in the past with organising activities for families.
- Hoole Green Festival Saturday 28th March: CCC stall staffed by SP, AW & CH. Very worthwhile conversations, despite light footfall.

AOB

Storage of Campaign materials. SP is currently holding a large quantity of Campaign materials, but may not have capacity to do so in future. We need to find a storage solution, given that we may also have our own smoothie bike in future. It would also be useful to store the Campaign cycle stand and tools. **Action: for agenda next business meeting.**

Next meeting Wed 6th May.

Meeting closed 21.30.

Treasurer's Report January-March 2026 for April meeting

January-March 2026

Transactions

Bank Charges	-£13.17
Membership x 6	£60.58
Stationery	-£20.88
Subscriptions	-£35.00

Totals

Debits	-£69.05
Credits	£67.37
Nett	-£1.68

Account balances

Current	£1,053.21
Deposit	£5,051.52

CW&C Liaison Report for CCC meeting April 2026

1. **Introduced myself** by email to all CW&C councillors for Chester. Ditto Council officers in Strategic Transport.
2. **Met with** Jack Mayhew and Kristy Littler 09 February (arranged serendipitously by Martin Preston of Chester Sustainability Forum) Was golden opportunity to ask for updates on lots of current issues:

a. **Budget:**

In Dec 2025, Government announced multi-year, integrated funding for Active Travel over the next 4 years (good news - no more ad hoc competitive funding). CW&C has £5.8M, for capital and revenue. Not much, but it allows CW&C to plan. How it will be spent, ie the draft Local Transport Delivery Plan (LTDP) Consolidated Transport Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30 went to Cabinet on 11th March. This contains no detail, but includes:

- Active Travel: Enhancing borough-wide walking, wheeling and cycling networks, including LCWIP routes, cycle hangars, monitoring, and accessibility improvements.
- Safety & Traffic Management: Safer routes, 20mph areas, signalised crossings, School Streets and targeted road safety measures to reduce collisions and encourage active travel.
- Active Travel Corridors & Placemaking: Delivery of larger active travel projects, which could include Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan priority routes (e.g. Origin Business Park, Road One, Rilshaw Lane, Nun House Drive) and Shropshire Union Canal enhancements.

There is also a Local Transport Grant (£47.8M), some of which may be used for some aspects of active travel. The Council also receives a grant for Highways Maintenance (£78M), a bus grant (£19M) and a Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant (£0.4M). CW&C are looking to the Combined Authority coming into force in May 27. The Mayor will have a large influence on spending.

- b. **LTP4** see email circulated Wed 11 Mar, 10:51.
- c. **S106** JM/KL will get back to us.
- d. **Cycle path Victoria Rd.** JM/KL will get back to us.
- e. **Boardwalk.** JM/KL will get back to us
- f. **Regular meetings with CCC.** Cautious yes but they have various other groups to liaise with eg rail users, bus users. I suggested Chester Sustainability Forum to brief lots groups together. JM/KL will consider.
- g. **Karen Stevens' successor.** To be appointed. Title unsure.
- h. **Lache Lane scheme.** Delayed to after April. JM & KL think our 2-way cycling on the one-way road proposal was not included, will confirm.
- i. **Design Code.** Draft done, approval awaited. Council will discuss how it will be adopted, and to what extent will be policy. Soft launch in next few months. Currently a lot of changes to planning nationally. CW&C will post, start using & try to get developers to use. Aim is to raise the bar in developments standards. Won't get perfection but is a move in the right direction.

- j. **Cycle stands/lockers.** KL brought this up. Karen had been working on it, has now left and CW&C would now like to continue the project. IS will lead, is now in contact with KL.
- k. **Traffic Enforcement Officer** using a bike to get around (as spotted by Simon T and others). Meeting online 31st March with relevant Officer to see about promoting.
- 3. **Cycle stand Whitefriars area:** Chester Residents Action Group for the Whitefriars area want to install cycle stands. IS will lead.
- 4. **Chester Movement Strategy.**
 - Being developed by CW&C now they have more secure AT funding. Other towns in CW&C will follow.
 - It's a long-term vision for how people move into, around and across Chester. It will include a focused action plan prioritising early delivery within the first five years.
 - Being developed under the "Connectivity" Group of One City Plan. CCC were invited to be part of the group. I view my mission as to get across as much information about cycling and what we want, as possible. 2 meetings of Group so far (Feb, March).
 - Stakeholder information gathering has started. Myself and JV attended a session on 23rd March. After the meeting I submitted an email with many points.
 - Posted on CCC pages on Facebook & Instagram, asking for comments. I will copy & paste these and submit. So far 54 comments on Facebook, none on Instagram.
 - Sent Chester Cycle Masterplan 2010 to the consultants charged with producing the CMS (same consultancy did the Masterplan!), to ensure the current team are aware of it (they weren't, so they will review it and check which bits of the report are still current.), ditto CW&C Transport Strategy.
- 5. **Recycling centres:** I've asked the new company taking over recycling in CW&C how cyclists can identify themselves at recycling centres when the new system requiring vehicles to pre-register for ANPR comes in.
- 6. **New 20mph speed limits** outside schools at Huntington, Dee Banks, Hoole Rd and Liverpool Rd. emailed appreciation from CCC (& 20's Plenty).

Development Control Report

CCC Report on Planning application submissions for Mar 2026 meeting

1. Royal Oak 23 Town Lane Little Neston

Whilst the site plans have not been amended following our comments about cycle stand & disabled parking bay positioning, it is interesting to note that priority at the entrance is now being given to the pedestrian footway which fronts the site rather than to the cars exiting or entering it. The concept of Active Travellers being given such priority where footways or SUPs cross a site access point is one we have long argued for but which CWaC have been reluctant to impose (eg at the Esso garage on Parkgate Rd etc). One to plug in the future? The cycle parking is conditioned and is subject to agreement with CWaC but no details given.

2. Planning Website Issues

I reported during the month that CWaC appeared to have removed the useful 'map' filter facility from their website. Am pleased to advise that this now appears to have been restored.

3. Fault & Pothole reporting

Ian has already advised that many of the potholes that he flagged up via the 'report it' system have now been fixed. A couple of faults that I had reported (including the very dangerous one on Brook Lane) have also been fixed.



Before



After

I did involve Richard Beacham in this one, but I do think that use of the Council website system makes a difference anyway. Is it worth some mention in a future Cycling Matters to try and encourage more reporting by others?

4. Old Hall Country Club & imposed planning conditions

Ian spotted that construction is well underway despite the condition in the permission – “No development shall take place until the works required within the highway to construct the footpath in accordance with the details secured under Planning Permission Reference 21/02587/FU”. Richard Beacham has taken up the issue with Planning for us and elicited this response “Work is well underway (some are almost complete) and so the Case Officer (Edward Bannister) has been liaising with the applicant and Highways Team to establish the progressing/likely timeframe for the highway works..... At present,

they are in breach of the condition and we are considering our options in terms of more formal action. Our main concern now is the sale/occupation of the dwellings (the planning harm would come if the dwellings are occupied without the footpath being completed) but the Developer has confirmed they are not being actively marketed, he is aware of the requirement for the footpath and is trying to progress the s278 agreement”. Councillor input got a response that I suspect might not otherwise have been forthcoming – at least Planning are aware that the issue is being tracked – but I suspect that this battle for a footpath is not yet over.

5. Caldly Valley & Bloor Homes

Cllr McGlashan's attempts to organise a site visit in February have been frustrated, allegedly due to officer movement. She remains committed and is now trying for a May site visit. No

sense of commitment from Highways for a holistic look at the area which ideally would need to involve Chris Hardwick or Kristy Littler.

Recent planning outcomes on checked applications:-

(Outcomes:- green - OK, peach - mixed, red - not so good, lilac - uncertain, white – info only)

24/00778/FUL	Erection of 6no Dwellings	Overdale Farm Hinderton Road Neston CH64 9PW	Approver	Cycle store and exit to main road	cycle parking conditioned but no details
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24/00687/FUL	Erection of new retail unit, delivery parking bay, plant enclosure and reconfiguration of access	Royal Oak 23 Town Lane Little Neston Neston CH64 4DE	Approved	Type and position of cycle stands. Also position of disabled parking bays	No changes to position of cycle stands or disabled bays. But footway across entrance now gets priority
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23/00670/S73	The use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 2no. permanent gypsy pitches and 6no. transit pitches with dayrooms and hardstanding ancillary to that use - Removal of condition 4 of planning application 14/04412/FUL (granted at Appeal Ref: APP/A0665/W/15/3129221)	Little Meadow Green Shotwick-Frodsham Road Thornton Le Moors Chester Cheshire	Awaiting decision	Refused	no storage	Refused largely on Green Belt considerations
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22/00194/FUL	Full planning application for 25 Extra Care Units (Use Class C2), with associated access, parking, landscaping, ecological enhancements and other works	Gifford Lea Retirement Village Frog Lane Tattenhall Chester	Approved	Lack of storage and SUP to village. Also 2nd submission	Cycle storage conditioned but no details. s106 contribution to footpath improvement but no details. Conversion of old railway line to green trail as suggested by Parish ruled out
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The complete list of applications monitored is at:-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dM_1NQWdqGosuktDSDxuimTrqd7F2w3NaG4p3SeD3Cg/edit?usp=sharing (Applications on that sheet highlighted in yellow have been examined, un-highlighted ones have not. Many others are eliminated at the data selection stage and are also not examined)

Please note that from the GoogleSheet you have to press 'Alt + Enter' to activate the link (at least in Windows) – and not simply 'double click' the link.

Nic