



ABERDEEN CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

19:30 hours Tuesday, 30th September 2008

Committee Room 5 at the Town House

0. Pre-Meeting Birthday Party

ACF is 5 years old this month. To celebrate a number of members went for a "Curry Buffet" at Manzil. Starting at 6pm we enjoyed a leisurely meal and good company before moving on to the meeting at 19:30.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Attendance

Apologies

CG Carl Gerrard.

Present

DW Derek Williams(C)	DC Dave Cheseldine	LN Louise Napier	KH Kris Howard
MI Marjorie Inglis	II Ian Inglis	FF Fiona Fraser	NF Neil Fraser
MO Mark O'Connor	LL Liz Lindsay	DL Dave Lindsay	GM Gail McMillan
GC Gavin Clarke	ML Markus Linkelman	??	

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Previous minutes were accepted, with one spelling correction Mark Hagger (double G).

Cycle Maps – These were sent out by Louise's office (Will Heklar) in her absence.

Try Cycling – the lack of new members for try cycling was highlighted and a general discussion held on ideas of how this could be changed. Several key suggestions came forward (i) Advertising, it was suggested that Try Cycling could be advertised on Northsound Radio's 'what's on at the weekend' which is free of charge but would have to be re-entered every week. (ii) Distance, it was suggested that the distance might be off-putting for complete novices and that the distance could be shorter (perhaps on alternate weeks) or it could be phrased to sound less demanding. Perhaps loan bikes could be arranged through either Becycle or Bikefit for those who do not yet own a bike.

ACTION: Meeting between CTC and the Forum is to be arranged to form a working group – DL and LL to co-ordinate.

Fairview St Traffic Island – there was a comment that this island had no red tarmac for the bike lane through the pinch point and that warning signs for bikes had been erected by they were not located adjacent to the island. The council responded that the work was still ongoing and that the red tarmac would have to await resurfacing work (red tarmac comes from Glasgow). In the meantime yellow and white lines are now in place. 1.5m lanes are a

minimum requirement, the ideal should narrow the running width of the road, encouraging drivers to give way.

Agreed that new wide cycle lanes through islands on Nth Deeside Rd were Best practice and that ACF should seek to get this standard adopted city wide. **Action DW.**

3 – Confirm arrangements for October Cycle Count (1-2 Oct)

It was confirmed that the cycle count was to take place on the following 2 mornings with each location to have the option of whether to count on Wednesday or Thursday. There were an adequate number of volunteers to be able to extend the number of locations for the count.

4 – “Post Launch” update – BikeFIT / news from Becycle

Becycle – is running very successfully with a couple of minor changes, the use of the bikes is still free but subject to a £20 refundable deposit.

There was some confusion about the scope of Bikefit as it was thought that they would only be selling bikes to 'good causes' this was clarified that they will also be selling to the public when they are up and running properly.

Bikefit Launch – was due for the 29th September but the launch did not appear to have gone ahead. *Post Meeting Note, Bikefit launch was delayed by damage to their new premises and workshop as a result of vandalism, they hope to re-schedule the launch soon.* **ACTION DW to keep the forum informed of any developments.**

5 – Rail Station Access, (deferred from July meeting)

There is a lack of bike parking at the Railway Station and Union Square development. DW and DC met with a representative from Hammerson with respect to the cycle parking. The intention is to install 5 stands at the front of the development and a number of stands are to go in front of the bus station but the majority of the bike parking is to be at the back of the complex out of the way and out of sight. The overall quantity of bike parking is acceptable but the distribution could be much better. Cycle parking was not a condition of planning at the time when permission for this development was granted.

Action: DC to continue to liaise with Hammerson.

6 – Cycle Training

We now have 7 new cycle trainers funded by the council. They intend to set-up an umbrella body 'Aberdeen Cycle Trainers' to co-ordinate availability of trainers and information together with pricing structure. The intention is that training would mainly be voluntary but charges would be made to commercial companies.

Training opportunities will be available again in the future.

LN suggested that the council might assist with the set-up costs, any disclosure requirements and insurance. **ACTION LN to confirm.**

7 - Consultations & Responses

AWPR Public enquiry – there was a general comment about the adversarial nature of the proceedings at the public inquiry into the WPR.

Kingswells-Bucksburn Link (KBL) – CG and FF have completed. ACF's comment on the choice of route was returned to the council indicating a minor preference for option 1 – the entire response is on the website and can be found at:

<http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/index.php?pf=consultations.php>

8 - AOB and

MO raised that BP do not currently allow their personnel to travel to business meetings by bicycle but they are currently re-considering this and undertaking a risk assessment. If anyone else has completed a similar assessment a copy would be most welcome. GC thought that SNH might have an assessment which he could send out. **ACTION GC**

It was suggested that the forum could keep a database of incidents, accidents and near misses perhaps on the website. Discussion queried the reasoning for keeping this information and the idea that it could be a double edged sword and put people off cycling. It was decided that if it had a purpose, perhaps to highlight a particular problem area to the police it may be worthwhile, but probably not otherwise.

From this discussion it was decided that we should pursue the local police to get 'Bobbies on Bikes' in Aberdeen. **ACTION GC to look for examples of police cycle patrols in other cities to help build our case.**

Bike parking – CG is now in communication with Tesco's Scottish store manager. The Express Store in Mannofield now have 3 new Sheffield stands installed. A study is underway by Tesco to retrofit to the Tesco South store on Wellington road (note neither store is subject to planning consent)

Read More : <http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/index.php?pf=news.php&nid=69>

Wood Group – new HQ on Riverside Drive is designed with 735 parking spaces. It was felt that this was a significant over provision given the centrality of the location and risks undermining attempts to encourage more sustainable commuting options. **Action; DW to write to Cllr Cassie, convener of the Planning Cttee.**

DC highlighted that Cycling Scotland were rolling out their action plan in Perth on Tuesday 7th October – LN intimated that she would be attending on behalf of the council.

The forum was invited to host a stall at Aberdeen College Environmental Sustainability Day on Wednesday 12th November 10am-2pm. Volunteers are requested.

Next Meeting Tuesday 28th October, 19:30, Town House.