

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting, 26 June 2018

### Ma Cameron's

Attending:

Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Clare Roberts, Jon Barron (Nestrans Cycling Development Officer), Bill Stevenson

#### **0. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies received from. Liz Lindsey, John & Sheila Tuckwood.

#### **1. Minutes of last meeting (April) and matters arising**

JB reported on his investigations over the non-functioning Toucan crossing on the Parkway (nr. Exhibition Centre). He had not quite got the bottom of it yet but it seemed to be some disagreement with Transport Scotland over how it had been installed (bearing in mind it is a trunk road). He would follow up.

Stoneywood: JB has had a look at the current layout and signage and all agree it is a confusing picture. He has a site meeting planned with ACC soon.

#### **2. Office bearers, seeking a new Chairperson**

Following the last meeting /AGM an email had gone out to the membership with a plea to get involved. There had been no offers. CR suggested it might be possible to break down some of the roles (such as Secretary) into parts, so that it wasn't so onerous? GC agreed that could be possible but it also might make things more disorganised and he didn't feel the role of Secretary was very demanding in any case: the main duty was to attend most of the meetings, note the minutes, and post them on the website. Although these things could be split, it would mean reliance on several people rather than one. It was also the case to an extent that the office bearer duties were flexible – an individual in the role could do more or less depending on how much time they had. Perhaps setting out role descriptions for the positions of Chair and Secretary would help? GC would look at doing this.

GC is willing to put himself forward as Chair, in the absence of any other candidates. However, as tonight's meeting did not have the required quorum of 6 members, any decision was postponed until next time.

#### **3. Pedal on Parliament, other events**

The PoP event had gone OK although it is disappointing that we haven't managed to grow beyond about 100 attendees. That may be partly down to the fact that it has been on open and busy roads, but that can't be the only explanation. This led to a discussion of engagement with other cycling interests i.e. Cycling UK/ CTC Grampian, and the various race clubs. There had been a previous attempt to pool resources and have more of a 'united front' but this hadn't progressed and there are probably many reasons why.

JB is attempting to schedule a meeting with ACC Events team to discuss how a PoP ride could work for next year.

Two other small events taking place this weekend (organised by others) have been posted on our fb page.

#### **4. Consultations**

GC had sent in a response to the Local Development Plan, but this is pre-Main Issues Report and for a plan that won't be adopted until 2022, so it was very early stages.

We had also been consulted over various TRO measures (Traffic Regulation Orders): mainly parking restrictions and 20mph speed limits in various locations. We hadn't looked at those in great detail but they were likely to be generally beneficial. We had looked more closely at a one-way proposal for Gray St and Salisbury Terrace – two parallel residential streets running between Great Western Road and Broomhill Rd. GC had had input from Tito, Rachel M and Liz. The proposal included a cyclist exemption to the one-way, which we are generally in favour of, but here the issue is the reduced width of available road due to unrestricted parking on both sides. A cycle contra-flow might be dangerous and seemed to be tokenism, when the reason behind the scheme seemed to be preserving (or increasing) traffic flow and retaining all the on-street parking. We also noted that it was suggested the scheme could be paid for from CWSS which we thought was ridiculous. We had submitted an objection and our full response can be seen on the consultations page of the website.

There was some wider discussion of where cycle contra flows would be beneficial and CR suggested Dunbar St and Harriet St. GC also noted that we had proposed one on Hardgate several years ago and ACC still claim to be pursuing that, albeit at snail's pace. It was incredibly frustrating that many of the 'small works' ideas that we have put forward over the years for CWSS don't get taken forward and yet it is proposed to use that same source of funding for a badly thought out one-way scheme.

#### **5. Contact with ACC and Councillors**

i. Beach esplanade. JB believes there is an internal paper circulating within the Council to look at resolving this. Meantime he noted that it is a core path which implies cycling is allowed, although it is confused because the designated core path is on the upper esplanade at the north end, and the lower one at the south end of the beach.

ii. GC had contacted Alan Simpson over the apparent 'gap' in the Deeside Way where it crosses the B979 at Milltimber. AWPR say the missing crossing is to be done 'by others'. We await a response. JB noted that AWPR have given the Council mitigation funds which should cover things like this, in theory.

iii. GC had received an email from Cllr Hutchison in relation to the lane layout on King St (southbound) approaching the junction with W North St. This was in follow up to a meeting he'd had with JS. There was some discussion of how this route works, and CR thought it is OK for confident and experienced cyclists who know to move out early. But for others there was the risk of getting caught in the left turn lane

and on the inside of left turning traffic, which was inherently dangerous. GC would reply to Cllr Hutchison.

iv. JB reported that £183k has been awarded (City) and £210k (Shire) under Community Links. He gave a resume of projects which might advance using this funding. Notably for the city that included the last section of the Parkway route. For the Shire, it included Portlethen to Wellington Rd to be taken to the design stage. Neither AC or ACC had bid for Community Links Plus.

## **6. AOBs**

- i) A new local project officer has been employed by 'Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.
- ii) GC noted there had been a new announcement by Fergus Ewing of Scottish Government making funding available for purchase of electric bikes – this is being administered by the Energy Savings Trust.
- iii) Noted that there was a ministerial re-shuffle on-going and Humza Yousef seemed to have a new role which would in turn mean a new Transport Secretary.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

Often we don't have a July meeting because of holidays, but it was agreed that with the ongoing Chair vacancy it would be preferable to meet in July to try to resolve that. This venue (Ma Cameron's, Snug bar) had worked OK, so it was agreed we would come here again. July meeting date would be last Tuesday, which will be 31<sup>st</sup>. 19:30hrs as usual.