

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Mike Nieman, Ian Mitchell, John Tuckwood, Sheila Tuckwood, Dave Shannon, David Purvis

0. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies had been received from Liz Lindsey and Henri de Ruiter

### **1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.**

Dandara / Stoneywood. No update from Ruth who had been pursuing this. JS also waiting to hear anything from Loiuise Napier at ACC.

Lang Stracht. HdR had had a holding reply from Ross Grant who was waiting to hear back from ACC officials.

New riverside path. JS was waiting to hear back from one of LN's colleagues. Meanwhile it had been pointed out that it was possible to avoid crossing the road by going over the bridge, using the underpass on the south side of the river, and then re-crossing the bridge. Most present thought that this was ludicrous due to the distance involved which would discourage the vast majority from using it even if it was apparent (i.e. signposted).

### **2. Cycle Safety meeting.**

JS had attended along with Liz Lindsey . Following the confusion over arrangements for the meeting last time, the Police had at least been invited this time, but had sent apologies. They were still pursuing the idea of a joint press release for towards the end of the summer when students return.

Electronic sign messages –The suggestions we had made were still subject to the approval of the Community Access Partnership. The freight forum is also being asked to endorse the idea of 'cyclists beware' signs on the back of trucks similar to what are now on most buses. This led to a discussion about driving standards of bus drivers. It was suggested that we re-establish contact with the driver trainer from First Bus who had spoken to a previous meeting and been very helpful.

Collision statistics – Provisional numbers had been discussed but these are not published yet. Biggest cause of collisions recorded as "failure to look properly". IM asked whether we could collect our own data either by putting a form on the website or via Facebook for example.

Hardgate contra-flow – consultation on this proposal promised soon.

Traffic island pinch points – ACC / Police are planning a campaign to reduce the practice of vehicles going the wrong side around traffic islands. We have the opportunity to feed in any sites which we feel are particularly bad for pinch points.

Westburn Road 'CLAN' junction - recognised that there are issues there due to lane layout. Discussion followed about the pros & cons of handlebar or helmet cams and the practice of "naming & shaming" bad driving or making a complaint to the Police backed up by video evidence. There is always the option of making a report or a complaint to Police using the non-emergency number (101).

### **3. Masterplan**

Several members had met again with Russell Henderson from AECOM who had presented plans to us the same day they had been approved by ACC. There were mixed views on how much of a success the Masterplan has been or the probability of much of it ever coming to fruition.

### **4. Active Travel Plan**

The survey is still live and we will send out another email reminder to encourage participation. The ATP will eventually sit under the umbrella Local Transport Strategy, the timetable for which seems to have slipped. ACF has requested a meeting with the officials working on this but none has been offered yet.

### **5. Discussion with Councillors**

JS raised the question of how we engage best with Councillors. Although we have reasonable traction with a handful, it was also felt that we are not even on the radar of the vast majority. Was it possible to engage more of them, or better to concentrate on the handful who we already know are at least a bit interested in what we have to say? If we were going to attempt to engage them more widely, what was a good topic to do that on? Possibly best to wait until closer to the next elections and engage via party leaders.

### **6. European Mobility Week (In town without my car day)**

EMW takes place 16 – 22 September so we anticipate that the ITWMC event will take place on Sunday 19th. We expect to have a stall again and will need about 5 volunteers to take turns.

GC has been in touch with the Scottish Documentary Institute about putting on a performance of "Bikes vs Cars" a feature-length documentary which contrasted the traffic problems of Sao Paolo and Los Angeles, with Copenhagen. It was hoped that a showing could be arranged for the Belmont cinema around this time. Ideally we would have a 'social' event attached and possibly at "Q&A" (with Councillors?) to follow the showing of the film.

## **7. AOBs**

i. (IM) Had done cycle ride leader training which had targeted P7 pupils for schools feeding into Hazlehead and tried to show them safe routes to school.

ii. (IM) – Raised the question of whether Aberdeen could have a project along the lines of Velocity in Inverness. This is something GC has given some thought to in the past and the key seems to be having someone who has the capacity to work up the idea and put together the necessary funding bids (Velocity had mostly been funded by Climate Change funds. This source of funds was now closed but there were likely to be others).

## **8. Date of next meeting**

There will be no July meeting due to the holiday season, so the next meeting will be Tuesday 25 August.