

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 24th November 2015

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Mike Nieman, Tito Casquinha, David Thornley, Dave Shannon, Hamish Booth, Henry Sim, Matt Helme, Ruth Wolfe, Colin Wright, Richard Pelling

0. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies had been received from. Ian Mitchell, Liz Lindsey

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Festive fund – not pursued.

Stoneywood. - Neither RW or JS had heard anything further about this. RP and MH reiterated their concerns about what has been constructed following the Dandara development. There are 2 new pinch points and this is a very busy road. It was variously described as “lethal” “a death-trap” and “an accident waiting to happen”. Discussion took place as to what else we can do to progress this. It was agreed that we should write again to Dandara, and also to the relevant ward Councillors. JS would also contact the Cycling Development Officer over the possibility of Sustrans support on this.

Response to recent email to membership – only one response had been received in relation to questions for Sustrans, and none in relation to a new sub-group for the ‘hub’ idea.

Land Stracht / Bancon – no update. JS to consider how we can escalate these sorts of incidents which crop up regularly and show a widespread lack of awareness amongst those undertaking such projects.

2. Cycle Safety meetings

The background to these meetings and the rationale for them was rehearsed. They had been reconvened in 2013 following a fatal accident and the intention was that they were to be quarterly three-way meetings between ACF, Aberdeen City Council and the Police. However they had not happened with anything like that frequency, the Police had only attended once or twice, and we find ourselves being the ones who have to constantly press for the meetings to take place. This seems to show that neither of the other parties are giving any priority to this.

MH wondered whether the cycling Action Plan that ACC are working on could be tied in to this?

DS commented that Police officers on bikes were now to be patrolling parts of the city – perhaps they would be more interested in engaging with us?

It was generally agreed that we should continue to try to engage with the Police and this was one way of doing so. It was suggested that we put the issue to Councillor Ross Grant and ask him to intervene with a view to making these meetings happen and make them effective: if this wasn't something for the Council's "Cycle Champion" then it was hard to see what the point of that role was.

3. Westhill Gala

JS had been contacted by Westhill Bike Club. They were looking for someone to help with 'Highway Code' type advice at an event on Saturday. It was suggested we refer this to Nestrans / Cycling Development Officer.

4. A96 Non-motorised users meeting

Following a meeting in March, the next one will take place on 9th December in Inverness. It was unlikely that ACF would be able to send anyone (unless a volunteer was forthcoming?) but in any case the project was at a very early stage and no route alignment had been set.

5. Events 2016

Pedal on Parliament in Edinburgh was taking place on 23 April and our intention was to have a parallel ride to coincide or possibly on Sunday 24th. The route and details were all to be sorted out. An exact repeat of what we had done in 2015 was one possibility, but MH was keen that we come up with a ride that is suitable for children and felt that doing so had the potential to attract much larger numbers. It was agreed that was the case but the difficulty was that would almost certainly mean road closures and that was both difficult to arrange and potentially expensive. It was agreed that we should seek early dialogue with the Events team at ACC to consider again what was possible.

A sub-group would again take this forward, MH, DS, RW, JS and GC were all happy to be involved.

It was also noted that the dates for the 2016 Pedal for Scotland events had been announced and there did not appear to be any ride in Aberdeen. JS to ask ACC Events team about this.

MH suggested that we organise a hustings event in the lead up to the Holyrood elections next year. He will discuss with PoP organisers in Edinburgh over how they had set these up.

8. AOB

DT

- i) currently working at Holburn Cycles and may be taking a share in the business from next year which could lead to longer opening hours.
- ii) Handed out some leaflets relating to a service provided by Cycle Law Scotland whereby crash damage to bikes can be assessed at no cost to the individual.
- iii) Also promoted a free bike registration scheme to deter theft. See www.immobilise.com
- iv) DT passed on some observations about content on the ACF website and on the cycle map, particularly in relation to the enlarged city centre map and the location of bike shops. Also the bike club listings being incomplete.

MH

- i) Now that ACC had accepted the Masterplan, he would like us to be pressing them for details of how it will be implemented, and how it relates to the wider City and Shire transport strategies.
- ii) Cllr Ross Grant, via Twitter, had offered to set up a meeting on this topic so we should be contacting to press on this. Possibly we should aim to meet with Cllr Jenny Laing again. When we had met her last she had suggested that we need to present our case for improvements to cycle infrastructure. The Masterplan does this – so we should be progressing to the next stage of asking how it will be implemented
- iii) Community Links Plus – a new source of funding for local improvements.

TC

- i) presented images he has collected of poor quality infrastructure at various locations around the city. These were passed to JS to use at future liaison meetings with ACC.

HS

- i) asked about the Try Cycling events. After following a link on ACCs website he had been led to believe that these took place at Duthie Park every week. MN pointed out that these rides (run by CTC) take place on a rota so are only on a Duthie Park every third week. MN was to speak to HS after the meeting. JS would let Louise Napier know if the info provided on ACCs website was out of date or misleading.