

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 23rd February 2016

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Mike Nieman, Tito Casquinha, Patricia Melo, Michael de Barra, Liz Lindsey, John Tuckwood, Sheila Tuckwood, Henri de Rooter, Chris Walker, Liam Barker, Alistair Hunter.

0. Welcome & Apologies

There had been a mix up over room booking for tonight, which meant that the meeting would finish at 2030 rather than 2100 as usual.

1. Minutes of last meeting (Jan) and matters arising

Response on Policing priorities – JS had done this.

Westhill route – JS had contacted Cllr Yuill about this (in particular if/when the matter would go back to Committee as he had requested last year) and was awaiting a reply.

Friends of the Earth petition on air quality – we had promoted this in an email to the membership. HdR is making arrangements for FoE to attend our March meeting (see AoB below).

2. Dissertation report (Chris James)

Chris had been invited to the meeting to give a summary of his undergraduate dissertation on the issues surrounding cycling in Aberdeen. A summary of the results is available via a very accessible 'infographic' which can be seen on our Facebook page or at:

<https://magic.piktochart.com/output/10837764-cycling-in-aberdeen>

Chris gave a quick resume and some discussion followed.

Far more people had completed the survey than had been expected, and there were responses from cyclists and non-cyclists alike. A very high proportion (circa 80%) of respondents thought the safety / maintenance and overall quality of cycling infrastructure in Aberdeen was either poor or very poor. Not one of the 600+ respondents thought it was 'very good'. The single biggest issue - by some margin - which acted as a barrier to taking up cycling was safety. 79% of non-users agreed with the statement "it is too dangerous for me to cycle in Aberdeen".

Chris had also spoken to Louise Napier at ACC and to Nestrans about his provisional results. They had been helpful, and not particularly surprised at the results.

JS thanked Chris for his short presentation and for an excellent piece of work. CJ confirmed that the information is in the public domain and ACF are welcome to make use of it for promotion or campaign purposes.

3. Pedal on Parliament – 23 April

The sub-group had met and after discussing various options had agreed on an exact re-run of last year (i.e. from Hazlehead to Marischal College, date and time to coincide with PoP Edinburgh). MdB and HdR had also met separately to talk about communications and promotion. JS had been trying to contact the events team at ACC, without success. The sub-group would meet again in a couple of weeks to keep things moving.

4. Cycle Safety meeting

JS, LL and Cllr Ross Grant had met with Louise Napier, Vicky Ritson, and Graeme Mackenzie from ACC, plus a representative from the Police.

The proposed cycle safety leaflet is progressing and hope to have it published within the next couple of months. It needs some better quality photos so anyone who is willing to 'pose' please get in touch.

The 'In Town Without My Car' event which ACC have held in the last few years currently has no funding for this year.

Stoneywood – ACC are aware of the problem pinch-points. However their procedures seem unable to resolve it at present.

Dyce Drive – improvements (discussed at previous meeting) are set to go ahead.

Unsafe infrastructure – this had been discussed and in particular the issue of whether bad examples of cycling infrastructure should be taken out. It was thought this could be done under CWSS if we felt it was a priority. TC has contacted Cllr Ross Grant directly about poor / dangerous infrastructure and hoped to meet with him to present evidence that he has collected. A meeting had been scheduled but has now been postponed by Cllr Grant.

The question of joint press releases (Police and ACF) had been discussed again and in principle there was no reason why it can't be done although it was probably up to us to take the initiative. GC suggested that we draft some text on the topic of

advanced stop lines, where we had previously gathered evidence that a high proportion of drivers ignore them (which is illegal).

Electronic message / driver information boards – it was some time since we had put forward our suggested messages aimed at raising awareness of cyclists. They had been used but we are not clear to what extent.

5. AoBs

- i) Donside Village community association are holding a bike check event followed by a led ride on 12 March.
- ii) Aberdeenshire (but not City?) are taking part in the latest Cycling Challenge in March.
- iii) HdR confirmed that FoE are likely to attend our next meeting on 29 March and suggested that we start early (1900) to accommodate this. Also suggested that we canvass the membership in advance for questions to put to FoE about air quality.

6. Date of next meeting

29 March at earlier start time of 1900hrs