

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of AGM & meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 31st May 2016

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Mike Nieman, Micheal de Barra

Marc Cole, City Centre Director, plus colleague David Ewen,

0. Welcome & Apologies

JS welcomed all and particularly Marc and David. There had been some confusion as to whether they would be attending tonight, hence their visit had not been pre-announced to the membership or included on the prepared agenda. MC apologised for the confusion and added that he would be glad to come back and speak to ACF again in the future.

1. Masterplan

MC gave a little introduction to his background (being involved with implementation of city centre masterplans in several other places including Manchester, St Helens, Bradford & Nottingham) and a resume of what his role here will entail:

The Masterplan was unanimously adopted by Aberdeen City Council in June 2015 and includes 49 project ideas. Some of these will be implemented by the local authority, some in partnership, and some by private developers. Implementation has already started with Marischal Square and the Art Gallery redevelopment being examples.

It is important to remember that the timescale for implementation is 25 years so we shouldn't expect things to change overnight. Nevertheless he would be looking for some quick wins in terms of joining up and improving some cycle/ pedestrian travel routes, and routes passing under Union St were cited as an example.

Communication is important and they need to be careful with 'consultations' and not putting on the table things which aren't really achievable. Projects tended to work better if 'co-produced'. The consultation on Broad St is still open and MC would encourage as many people as possible to make their views known.

MN thought the current consultation on Broad St was a bit sparse but MC felt this was consistent with what he had just said and also the need to present it to the public in layperson terms.

JS asked how the Masterplan tied in with city-wide transport? Reports have recently gone to the Council looking at roads hierarchy and a strategic concept.

What about the City Deal? It was too early to know what this would bring to the table.

Redevelopment of the railway station ? – MC's best guess was that this might take place in 3 – 7 years time. Network Rail have to decide which of their big projects happen in what order but in that sense the Masterplan should be helpful because other redevelopment will be going on which should reassure them.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- i) We await an update on the meeting that HdR and TC had had with the Council and as neither were present this was deferred
- ii) Cycling Scotland community grants. PM and GC had been working on an idea which would revolve around Duthie Park but it had run out of time for submission this year.
- iii) draft Active Travel Plan. Those who heard the presentation at the May meeting should bring their thoughts forward at the July meeting so that they can go to Will Hekelaar ahead of the August deadline for the next steps for the ATAP.
- iv) MN had looked into the matter of the petition which had been launched seeking that ACC ensure the line of the Deeside Way is reinstated with a bridge over the AWPR at Milltimber, as per the original plans. As far as he had been able to see, a bridge is proposed, but it will deposit cyclists & pedestrians (westbound) back on the east side of the B979, which will presumably by then be a busy route on and off the AWPR itself. This didn't seem a great solution.
- v) In passing MN also noted that the Deeside Way appeared to have been swept (at last!) which was possibly due to us haranguing Councillors at Pedal on Parliament.
- vi) PoP de-brief is outstanding.

3. Cycle count

The cycle count had taken place. The results were a mixed bag. At some sites (e.g. Union St) there appeared to be a marked decrease. It was clear that Aberdeen was not enjoying the marked uplift in cycling which is taking place in many other Scottish cities. MdB suggested that we turn the results into a press release, and agreed to draft something. GC would also add the results to the website.

4. Consultations

There are currently 4 consultations on the go and although ACF will submit responses we also encourage members to submit their own responses directly.

Responses would be worked up as follows:

Broad St – MN to draft and send to JS to submit.

Cross-city connections - JS

Bridge of Dee – GC

Prime 4 - consultation on the second phase open until 21 June – MN/JS

5. AOBs

i) We were following up on the invite to speak to Nestrans although they seemed to be backtracking slightly on the offer made at PoP.

ii) MdB highlighted that the route along Tillydrone Avenue which will link with the new bridge appeared to have been constructed in a way that is contrary to *Cycling by Design*. The off-road route is close to the main road so that it presents a hazard at all the side road junctions. JS remembers this point having been specifically covered in a meeting with ACC officials at the design stage and her recollection is that they had undertaken to provide 'tables' to allow the cyclists to cross side roads at the same level while at the same time providing a 'speed bump' to force turning traffic to slow down. She will dig out the notes from previously and approach ACC as necessary.

6. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28 June. Usual time & place.