

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 30th August 2016

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Mike Nieman, Liz Lindsey, Bruce Cruickshank, Tito Casquahina , Michael de Barra

0. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: John Tuckwood, Sheila Tuckwood, Henri de Ruiter

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

MN gave a verbal report of his visit to Tillydrone Avenue / 3rd Don Crossing with reps from Sustrans. It is acknowledged that junction design is poor throughout with priority given to cars at every side junction. There is still some work to do on connections at the north end. Overall MN feels it is still a useful addition to the network, albeit that for some commuting or confident cyclists riding on the road may still appeal more, because of the stop/start nature of the cycle path. It had also been noted that some vehicles (delivery vans?) were using it to park.

There has been a report in the P&J of more Sustrans funding coming to Aberdeen and some scouting work had been undertaken at Bridge of Dee.

Noted that there have been some drainage improvements to part of the Westhill route that had previously been prone to icing. We had already had one similar comment about the new Ellon Road cyclepath – water sitting on it due to lack of camber. This also happens on the cycle path on Riverside Drive, so there doesn't appear to be a lot of 'learning' happening.

Kingsford - We have received an invite to a meeting with the developers on 3 October. This had come addressed to BC due to his previous contacts with them. It was agreed that he would attend the meeting to represent ACF. The difficulties with the proposal in terms of location, parking, transport and in particular the potential impacts on the Westhill cycle path were briefly rehearsed for the benefit of those who hadn't previously heard of this (it is still at a pre-planning application stage)

Cycling Development Officer -noted that the post with Nestrans is currently being advertised

2. In Town Without My Car

This event will take place on 25 September. JS and possibly GC will be away but it was agreed that we would have a stall and find sufficient numbers of volunteers

nearer the time. We had had one slightly confusing email from the Police over this and BC offered to speak to the officer concerned (who he knows) to find out what was intended.

3. Consultations

Several on the go at present and JS is slightly overwhelmed and looking for assistance. Agreed that she should share the load perhaps by emailing the smaller group of 'usual suspects' and asking for a lead on each case. There was then a wider discussion about the content and effectiveness of our responses to consultations. Were we always saying the same things, were we being listened to? Also suggested that we should probably prioritise the 'big' stuff and in some cases not respond at all or send a proforma response which might refer to adopted policies, Cycling by Design standards etc

4. Nestrans

JS to attend on 29 September and give a presentation. Agreed that it would be good for someone else to go along and give support. Possibly MdB or HdR.

5. Any other business

- i) Pedal for Scotland 'Wee Jaunt' ride is to take place again. We had had contact about some advance publicity. Noted too that even the promotional emails sent out by Cycling Scotland about other PfS rides didn't mention the Aberdeen one at all.
- ii) Enquiry received about an active travel hub for Bridge of Don.
- iii) Enquiry received about cardiology research – looking for some active young men. Contact alice.mezincescu@abdn.ac.uk
- iv) Pedal on Parliament and Walk Cycle Vote – we may have a visit from the organisers to discuss plans for forthcoming events.
- v) ACC are producing a short print run of the cycle map ahead of ITWMC. No substantive changes.
- vi) MdB mentioned some info he had found on cycle-related hospitalisations. Could we make use of this? Difficult topic to use for publicity as it risked putting people off cycling.
- vii) MdB also made a similar point to that discussed under consultations i.e. are we doing the right things – why is progress in Aberdeen so slow compared with (for example) Edinburgh. Was it that the campaigners were more effective or just that their Council was more willing to listen and take appropriate action?
- viii) MdB also has some suggestions about minor re-design of the webpage to make things easier to find.
- ix) BC asked for info to be sent to him in relation to cycle counts, design standards and our previous position on the Westhill route

7. Date of next meeting

JS and possibly GC will be away during the last week of September so it was agreed that the meeting will be put back by one week and so will take place on 4th October.