

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Tito Casquahina, John Tuckwood, Sheila Tuckwood, Pamela Rackow, Chris James, Henri de Ruiten, Michael de Barra, Liz Lindsey, Mike Neiman, Dave Shannon, Richard Pelling, Colin Wright, Sarah Wingrove

### **0. Welcome & Apologies**

Nice to see a good turn-out in November! No apologies received.

### **1. Minutes of last meeting (25<sup>th</sup> October) and matters arising**

Proposed contact with Nestrans – outstanding (JS)

Proposed contact with AWPR – outstanding (JS).

Proposed contact with Cycling Scotland over Pedal for Scotland – outstanding (GC)

JS intimated a letter she had received from the Clerk to ACC's petitions committee. It will be posted on the website in due course but it was hard to discern what it was actually saying. Kicked into the long grass again?

Kingsford – BC gave a further update following the public meeting in early November. Also an exhibition giving the outcome of the previous consultation had now been held. It appears that the developers consider all the existing transport infrastructure is 'adequate' despite the fact that they would have to close the Westhill cycle path at certain times when the stadium was filling or emptying. It is possible that a planning application will be submitted during December or January.

### **2. Meeting with Cllr Willie Young**

JS, TC and HdR had met with Cllr Young and also Cllr Ross Grant. The main things discussed were: a) Westhill cycle route - no progress. b) Had anything been progressed following TC's previous meeting with Cllr Grant – the short answer appears to be no. c) How can ACF better improve the outcomes for delivery and maintenance of quality cycle infrastructure because what we are doing at present doesn't seem to be getting results? No apparent answer to that either. Cllr Young is keen to have our input over future developments and in particular Berryden corridor. However what is proposed in terms of process doesn't seem to be any different from what happened with Tillydrone /3<sup>rd</sup> Don corridor and that (in our view) is a huge disappointment.

### **3. Tillydrone Avenue / 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing**

HdR and MdB had met with a journalist from the Evening Express and had taken him on a 'tour' to point out the failings of this new route. The article had been published

last week, and it was generally OK even if it didn't include all the positive messages that HdR had been trying to get across.

A critique of the route - written by HdR and MdB - is now on the website and had also got a lot of engagement when posted on our Facebook page. It was noted that ACC are gathering feedback on 3<sup>rd</sup> Don and MdB confirmed that the piece has been submitted.

#### **4. Other ACC proposed projects**

We expect one of the planners will attend the January meeting to receive comments. But in the meantime ..... i) Craigshaw Drive. JS understands that ACC are going back to the drawing board after the initial designs were heavily critiqued by Shell BUG. ii) Parkway – some points of detail about gradients, winterising etc were discussed and these could be revisited in January. lii) Anderson Drive (Bridge of Dee to Ruthrieston Road). The general feeling was that although this route may be *very occasionally* used by cyclists it is not heavily used and should not be a priority for investment –it would be very poor VFM. Most present could imagine very few circumstances where a cyclist would use this route. If the intention was to link in to the Deeside Line it would be better to take a route through Kaimhill such as Kaimhill Rd to Pitmedden Crescent – this is much more useable with the steps behind the Snowsport Centre being the only real obstacle. For the few that do use the section of Anderson Drive, the route is OK as it is – all it really needs is to be designated as shared use.

#### **5. Bridge of Don (Active) Travel Hub**

JS had met with Susan Fraser. They have £10k for a feasibility study and were keen to have our input. There is a further meeting on Friday but JS is unable to attend – JT was to attend instead. There was some discussion of what the impetus for this was and whether the location was the best one? It may be tied to existing or planned infrastructure at Jesmond Drive. It was also noted that there is significant planned housing development to the north of the city and this would create demand as well. MN also pointed out that there are in fact a number of existing off-road routes which can be accessed from here.

#### **5. PoP 2017**

We haven't yet managed to have a de-brief meeting for the 2016 ride however a new sub-group was proposed to take forward ideas for 2017. Volunteers were HdR, MdB, PR and GC.

#### **6. AOBs**

- i) (RP) Junction changes at Stoneywood mean the situation there is getting worse instead of better. Also noted that although AWPR staff had made a good job for a while of keeping the route clean (FB Way) they appeared to have given up and it was now a muddy mess. On the plus side they do seem to have added lighting to the underpass.

- ii) (JS) Colin A had been in touch to point out that ACC are on the verge of bidding to bring the 'Pearl Izumi' Tour Series (professional city centre circuit racing) to Aberdeen, which could happen as early as May next year.
- iii) (JS) there had been contact in relation to Marischal Square and what the status of the remaining 'pedestrian' areas would be. As far as we understand, cycling will be allowed throughout.

## **7. Website redevelopment**

HdR, MdB and PR have been working on a mock-up of a new website and gave a demonstration of how it could look. They had started by considering who the main users of the website actually were. All present seemed to agree that it had potential and that they should continue to develop their ideas and liaise with Carl to ensure that the ideas were compatible with preserving the 'archive' function of the current site, and over how transfer or migration could take place.

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

The next meeting will be Tuesday 31 January, 7.30 in the Townhouse. However, for those that are interested there will be a social gathering on Tuesday 13 December. Time and place to be confirmed (contact JS or GC for details).