

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 31st January 2017

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, Richard Pelling, Colin Wright, Kathryn Firth.

Andrew Robb and Jo Duck (AECOM)

0. Welcome & Apologies

No apologies received. Agenda item 2 was postponed. Cameron Baillie from ACC was not attending as the various projects he had been working on had been delayed due to lack of funding.

1. JS introduced Andrew who was attending on behalf of AECOM who are consultants engaged by ACC to investigate transport options for the Wellington Rd corridor from Charleston junction to the QE bridge.

AR explained that this is a multi-modal study and follows from a previous one done in 2013/14 and again during which ACF had been consulted. The exercise is likely to take around 6 months and the report will be available for comment at that time. Meantime we are welcome to seek views from the membership and collate those to submit. There was some discussion of specific junction issues and wider points about the difficulties of the route for cyclists. Gradient is one, but others are to do with the volume and speed of traffic and the fact that there are so many HGVs. The pros and cons of on-road and off-road routes were rehearsed again. AECOM have also had feedback from the BUG at Shell. There were a couple of simple and clear messages: firstly, if you can't give space to cycle infrastructure to create a safe and high quality, direct and near-continuous route, then don't bother to provide anything, because a poor quality route will be a waste of money as it won't be used. Better to look at other options such as perhaps creating a quality cycle route using secondary roads.

TC asked if anyone on the AECOM team actually rides a bike? AR answered that he didn't but he thought one of the team had ridden the route – once. A Shell bike user had also provided them with some helmet-cam footage to review.

Discussion then moved on to the A944 corridor (Westhill – Kingswells – onwards via Lang Stracht to Foresterhill and potentially city centre). AECOM have also been commissioned by ACC to look at this route (muted laughter). Community Links + funding is being sought. The first observation was that Queens Road was a better bet, but the brief is specific to look at the route via Lang Stracht probably to service travel to the hospital. Some of the issues with Prime 4 were rehearsed and we can make available a detailed route study which we have done previously. It was noted that Lang Stracht also has complex issues to do with the number of side road

turnings and the current layout in several places is very poor – so in some ways similar to Wellington Rd. HdR and MN wondered if also like Wellington Rd it wouldn't be better to aim to create a cycle route on secondary roads, such as Eday Rd. There are also places where there are double-width pavements so there may be some scope to reallocate space to cyclists.

Again we can collate comments and submit to AECOM. AR and JD left the meeting at this point.

2. Kingsford (football stadium) development

BC gave a resume. The planning application is live and anyone wishing to object has until 17 Feb. The transport assessment carried out by Fairhurst in support of the development identified lots of travel issues, but not many solutions. It was still potentially highly disruptive to the Westhill cycle path. We will shortly be sending a routine email to the whole membership and word of this will be included. On the bright side the parking arrangements for the development do include several hundred cycle spaces (more muted laughter).

On a related point JT observed that the route near here is currently very muddy due to AWPR works. TC confirmed he has been in touch with them about other points and will mention this too.

3. 2017 Events

Pedal on Parliament is expected to take place on 22 April. The sub-group had met and propose a changed route which would be from the Bridge of Don end of the beach esplanade, onto Beach Boulevard and onward to finish at the Castlegate. It was hoped this would be more 'family friendly'. MdR also noted that it should allow us to ride en masse rather than in broken-up groups as had been the case on the previous route. There is one nasty roundabout (Commerce St) but there was the option to use a pedestrian crossing at this point, or potentially the over-bridge. However we also intend to approach the Police and ask whether some brief traffic management could be provided. It was suggested we find out who in Edinburgh Police Division PoP are in touch with and pass that contact name onto local Police.

Ending at Castlegate also means we have potential to have a platform and speeches if a PA system could be found. HdR confirmed he has been in touch with Kirsty Blackman MP and she has said she will attend.

We have also been approached by a representative from the local Climate Change group asking if we could organise a ride during Climate Week (18 – 25 March). GC had said it was unlikely given the effort we put into PoP. However an informal ride might still be an option and GC had an embryonic idea for a circuit of Aberdeen from Torry to FootDee.

4. AoBs

- i) (MdB) has been in touch with Suzanne Forup at Cycling UK. They had some funding available to produce a 'visualisation' of what a street in Aberdeen could look like with high-quality infrastructure in place. After discussion it was agreed Union St / Union Bridge might be the best option.

- ii) (HdR) Forthcoming meeting with Cllr Flynn. This has come about because a meeting had been arranged with the Walk, Cycle, Vote team but the date had changed and they were now unable to make it. HdR and one or two others to attend.
- iii) (JS) Cycling and the Law event. Taking place on 7th Feb. Free but registration needed via EventBrite.
- iv) AWPR ride. ST confirmed that some discussions are ongoing. The format of any ride is still open to debate, but CTC Grampian are trying to ensure a united proposition is put, along with some of the (racing) clubs.

8. Date of next meeting

28 February 2017. 7.30 at the Townhouse, as usual.