

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

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

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Chris James, Henri de Ruiter, Liz Lindsey, Mike Neiman, Kathryn Firth, Denise Longdon-F?

0. Welcome & Apologies

No apologies received.

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

JS had sent in a response on the Kingsford stadium proposal expressing our concern about impacts on the Westhill cycle path.

MN had spoken to staff on site about the muddy state of the route, but there was no noticeable improvement.

Some comments had been gathered on the routes discussed with AECOM. GC has a couple of other emails to send on to JS for onwards transmission

2. NESTRANS Cycling Development Officer

Postponed. We were now expecting that they will attend next month.

3. Route feasibility.

There was some confusion over what we are being asked here. There are a number of similar questions being asked of us (see below) and it isn't clear if they are part of the same exercise, or separate.

4. Consultations

i) Travel around Aberdeen post-AWPR. This was a survey which had been widely circulated by ACC, but all agreed that it is poorly designed and so very difficult to complete. The questions asked seem badly construed and as a result it seems unlikely that they will get much meaningful response. For example, why are the public being asked if to state the advantages or disadvantages of various traffic measures? Surely this is for traffic professionals to know – the public should just be asked if they are in favour of them or not. Such a poor survey could be dangerous if the info gathered was then used to inform future decisions. It was agreed that as well as submitting a response to the survey itself we should contact ACC to express our concern at the way it had been conducted.

ii) Active Travel Task Force

This is a Scottish Government and/or Transport Scotland effort to gather evidence as to what are the barriers to active travel. There is a simple form to complete and it allows up to 1200 words of free text. GC had begun to draft a response and will refine further before passing to JS. However it was also noted that in 2009 we had submitted comments in a similar information-gathering exercise by the Scottish Parliament and looking back it was depressing how little had changed in the interim.

5. Engagement with Aberdeen City Council

HdR gave a brief resume of meetings with Cllr Young and subsequently Cllr Flynn. It was not yet clear whether there would be any positive outcomes as a result. With the forthcoming elections the idea of a 'cycling manifesto' which had been produced jointly with CTC Grampian previously was again discussed. JS would check that it was up to date and that CTC were still happy with it.

JS also proposed the possibility of a hustings event, perhaps in Rosemount Community Centre. After discussion it was agreed that this might be most useful if we held it jointly with similarly-minded groups including FoE and Climate Action. JS to investigate options.

GC raised the topic of the Community Empowerment Act and whether ACF should ask to become a community planning partner. This was now a statutory process with the specific aim of ensuring that community groups (such as ours) are heard by the local authority service providers. JS agreed that we should look into this further.

6. Events

i) Pearl Izumi Series (city centre professional race event). This is believed to be coming to Aberdeen on 18th May. There does not appear to have been any publicity as yet but it may be that the Council is planning other cycle-related events to coincide – perhaps even a 'festival of cycling'!

ii) We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote. Sally and Suzanne from 'WCV' had been in town on Friday for an RGU 'Green cafe' event. It had been well attended. They have asked us to note that the SNP party conference will be in Aberdeen (AECC) on 18 March and can we get a few cyclists along for a 'mini-demonstration' as we did last time.

ii) Pedal on Parliament – 22 April. The intention is still to have the new route along the beach esplanade and up the boulevard to end at Castlegate. There are some issues with the route - the most obvious obstacle being the one busy roundabout. We are attempting to engage with the Police over that although so far it seems they are unable to offer any help unless we apply for a TTRO (temporary traffic roads order).

MN asked if we are certain that the Esplanade is a shared-use path, because it is not marked as such, although it does appear marked on the Cycle Map. JS agreed to check with ACC.

BC also raised the uncertainty over possible future matches and it was agreed that we should move the start time to 1100 to avoid possible clashes with football traffic or with 'ParkRun'.

At Castlegate, we need to establish if we need any kind of permit for what we propose to do, and whether we can get hold of some kind of platform and PA.

4. AoBs

- i) Cycle Law Scotland event had taken place at Aberdeen University. It had been well attended and entertaining but had dealt exclusively with issues of civil claims.
- ii) Both Chris and Kathryn were coming to the end of their CDO intern posts at the end of March. It wasn't clear whether there was going to be any funding to continue these roles. It was hoped that there would be something as both had done a lot of good work.
- iii) Noted that ACC's Active Travel Plan has now been formally adopted. Most who had seen it thought that after such a long wait and tortuous process, it was a bit disappointing.

8. Date of next meeting

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