

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting and AGM

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 25 April 2017

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Henri de Ruyter, Mike Neiman, Tito Casquahina, Ian Dalmeny

0. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Liz Lindsey.

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

JS had been in touch again with Ruth Milne (Nestrans Cycling Development Officer) who had now requested a daytime meeting rather than coming along to one of our regular evening meetings.

2. Pedal on Parliament – de-brief.

The ride had gone OK although there were lessons to be learned about the route (mainly difficulties at junctions). It was clearly less visible that riding down Union St but being able to do the first half of the ride off-road had allowed it to be much more sociable. It was disappointing that only 2 Councillors had turned up (apologies from 2 more). Also disappointing that the turn-out for the ride is broadly the same as last year and we haven't managed to 'grow' at all. It was noted that again the date had clashed with the Loch Ness Etape and also Run Balmoral. Perhaps a Sunday ride would be better next year and if we can get early engagement and a bit more buy-in from the Council, perhaps we could try for a closed-roads ride. This is something we should follow up soon after the May elections.

Also noted that the Tour Series (professional criterium race) is coming to the city centre on 25 May. We might have expected to have been involved by ACC but there has been no contact, although we do know they are in touch with the race clubs.

3. Cycle Count

This is now set for 16-18 May. JS has had no response from ACC on access to the data from automated cycle counters so that we can make a comparison.

4. AoBs

- i) Westhill Cycle Path. Both TC and MN commented on the poor state of the route at the moment with various detours, constant change, a poor surface, narrow and some sections 'like riding in a cage'. TC has a meeting coming up with Bob Dow of the AWPR although in conversation thus far TC had been told that his had been the only complaint. It was

- suggested that we could cover this in an email out to the membership and if people know how to complain to it might generate some more comment.
- ii) ID gave some feedback on the cycle map and asked when an update of it is due to be done?
 - iii) We had had an approach from a group of Brownies looking for some support to do their cycling badge. JS was to take it on.
 - iv) ID was invited to give a resume of his business 'Deez Cycles Peterculter'. It is currently the only cycle hire provider in Aberdeen with the exception of the 'Bike&Go' at the railway station. He can do 1,000 or more hires in a year and does a lot with visitors to the city. Also some longer-term hires. He has aspirations to have some adaptive bikes suitable for all ability riders and is exploring the possibility of setting something up as a social enterprise.

5. AGM

JS gave a resume of the year past and some of the things we have commented on including the Masterplan, consultations from AECOM, Kingsford. Meetings with Nestrans, Sustrans, lobbying with the WCV campaign, and events such as In Town Without my Car and of course Pedal on Parliament. There is so much more that we could do but we are limited by capacity. Our success in engaging with ACC on various fronts is something that we need to revisit after the election. JS intimated that she was willing to continue as Chair if desired for one more year.

GC summarised some of the duties of the secretary. Our membership list remains around 550 although we get increasing numbers of bounced emails. This may be partly due to people having left their jobs, but also we suspect some of our mail may get sent to spam folders, or rejected by email gateways (this seemed to be a particular problem with NHS recently). Keeping the membership email list 'clean' and up to date is therefore becoming more of a challenge. On facebook, people following the page continues to grow and now exceeds 850. We don't make use of Twitter although there is an account set up – we should either use it or close it.

The Treasurer wasn't present but as far as JS and GC were aware there had been little or no spend so club funds would be the same.

GC was also willing to continue as Secretary if desired.

There were no other nominations for Chair or Secretary so both JS and GC will continue in their positions.

Finally, HdR intimated that this would be his final meeting as he is to be returning to the Netherlands in May or June. He has been a very active and productive member of ACF and all wished him well for the future.