

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 28 November '17**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Mike Neiman, Hamish Booth

Jon Barron - Nestrans

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

### **1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

There were no minutes from the October meeting although GC had written a summary of the Q&A which would be posted on the website shortly.

Looking back to matters arising from the minutes from September:

Kingsford: new supporting documents have been submitted. There is a further consultation open until 12 December for any new comments, ahead of a further pre-determination meeting sometime in January. BC was of the view that there was very little new and probably nothing else for us to comment on.

This led to discussion of the new crossing points being installed on AWPR slip roads which both BC and MN thought were unsatisfactory.

There is also still an issue on Old Skene Rd with a gate being locked across what is a core path. BC has raised this with the Council's access officer. This has been used as a route for years to its hard to know why any controversy has arisen, unless it is related to Kingsford?

Visualisation: Cycling UK have recently been in touch looking to put out a press release. MdB was in touch over this although he has moved to Oxford.

### **2. Reports from various meetings**

JS had met with Cllr Ross Grant as to his continuing role as the Council's 'Cycle Champion'.

Old Meldrum Rd. JS and John Tuckwood had attended a meeting about proposed changes here which includes taking away a slip road to facilitate a new Toucan crossing for the benefit of the school. They were of the view that the current slip road is of little benefit so we weren't concerned if it was removed.

JS had attended a stake-holders workshop on 'Transport Futures'. It all seemed to be predicated on some fairly dubious assumptions about traffic post-AWPR. However JS wasn't convinced that thinking has really moved on from a "how to accommodate more cars" position.

Possible route options to RGU Garthdee. JS had attended a meeting earlier today. The discussion mainly focussed on the choice between an 'on-line' route along Garthdee Rd, or an entirely new route along the side of the river. Participants had been asked to score various options but the exercise seemed to be flawed e.g. JS had had to point out that they were being asked to score the Garthdee Rd option without it being clear whether it was a segregated lane or not (these had earlier been presented as 2 possible sub-options). The conclusion of the meeting seemed to be that more detail would be worked up on the riverside option. It was known that there were a lot of constraints but no one really seemed to know if they were show-stoppers.

### **3. Consultations**

GC reported that AECOM are running a drop-in workshop on Wellington Rd corridor options, tomorrow, at Altens Hotel (4-8pm). If you can't attend, feedback can also be given by viewing the options on-line until 20 December.

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/wellington-road-multi-modal-corridor-study-public/>

Noted too that improvements are being discussed for Craighshaw Rd in Altens. The Council has been taking comments from Shell BUG on that and they are probably best placed.

JS had had a call from Cllr Martin Ford (Aberdeenshire). He was looking for some vocal support for improvements alongside the A96. We have few members from the Shire but JS would fwd the contact to Matt Helme.

[placecheck.info/maps/aberdeencollectivetravel](http://placecheck.info/maps/aberdeencollectivetravel)

JS had a consultation about a small project to be taken forward somewhere east of Ellon Rd. It seemed fairly straightforward.

MN reported that the Toucan crossing the Parkway near the AECC roundabout doesn't seem to work.

### **4. Nestrans Cycling Development Officer**

JB had joined the meeting late but gave a resume of his background in Police road safety and his new role as the CDO. He was keen to work with us and to make use of ACF members' knowledge of what needs fixed and where.

### **4. AoBs**

- i) GC gave a quick update with his understanding of Community Participation Requests under the Community Empowerment Act 2015. It was feasible that we could make a request and it might strengthen our engagement with either the Council or the Police or both, because they would then be under a legal obligation to deal with us. It would be key to decide how to frame a request: it might be very broad (e.g. covering infrastructure and safety across the whole city) or specific (e.g. a single road or route - maybe the A944?). As far as we understand the Council

haven't had any participation requests yet, so both sides would be learning. It might be best to have discussion with them in advance of making a request.

- ii) GC: there is a Transport Scotland consultation on Low Emission Zones, but it is very technical and not area specific. We would aim to submit a response but the deadline was imminent.
- iii) GC mentioned that he was aware that ACC were intending to run a formal consultation over the implementation of a new one-way system for Salisbury Terrace and Forest Avenue (both of which run between Broomhill Rd and Great Western Rd). We had previously pushed for cycle contra-flow to be introduced with any new one-way system so that cyclists weren't disadvantaged. However in these streets there may not be room to do that – because there is parking on both sides (which was the reason the scheme seemed to be proposed in the first place). It seems a bit of muddled thinking and it's surprising that the Council thinks this is a priority for officers to take forward when there are so many other pressing issues. JS mentioned our previous attempts to have one-way sections of Hardgate made contra-flow for cyclists to provide a quieter alternative route to Holburn St. We had got nowhere with that despite promises at various levels over a couple of years.
- iv) GC mentioned that he had recently tried to use the 'Report It' function on the Council's website to report ruptured tarmac (caused by tree roots) on the Deeside Way. He had had an immediate response from Roads & Transportation which said it wasn't their responsibility and they had passed it to another department (but without saying who). He had also tried to follow up via the CHI Enquiries address and had had no reply.
- v) JS noted that PoP Edinburgh have set a provisional date of 28 April 2018.
- vi) HB mentioned that he is a member of the Aberdeen Local Access Forum and is surprised how little cycling comes up.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

There is no December meeting, except that there will be a pre-Xmas social gathering. Probably Tuesday 19 December (TBC). The next business meeting would therefore be Tuesday 30 January 2018.