

Aberdeen Cycle Forum
Minutes of meeting, 27 March 2018
Belmont Filmhouse

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Mike Neiman, Liz Lindsey
David Ewen – ACC

0. Welcome & Apologies

JS welcomed David Ewen who had come to give an update on the city centre Masterplan:

To recap, it is a 25 year plan which could leverage £1bn of investment and create 5,000 jobs. Phase 1 (2015-18) has a budget of £30m. Highlights of Phase 1 include the upgrade of Union Terrace Gardens, Broad St, a £1.85m renovation of Provost Skene's House, a deep-clean and de-clutter of Union St, £2.4m on building renovation, events such as 'Aberdeen in Colour'. Studies on 'City Living' and 'City Parking' have been commissioned. There is also a proposal to create pedestrian priority on Justice Mill Land to Windmill Brae.

It has been noted that to deliver the Masterplan, modelling shows that traffic needs to be reduced by at least 20%. Surveys show that 1/3rd of traffic is through traffic, and ¾ of journeys currently are less than 3 miles.

There is a desire to make Aberdeen a 'Cycling City'. Unfortunately members present were sceptical and noted that there are already various plans and strategies which purport to prioritise cycling, and yet in our experience the city centre is still a far from pleasant or safe place to cycle.

Members are encouraged to visit

www.aberdeencycentremasterplan.com

where they can sign up to be notified for announcements or consultations.

JS thanked David for coming along and noted that he was one of very few external speakers who had actually cycled to the meeting (and on a very unpleasant evening weather-wise).

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There has been no meeting since November but JS gave the following updates.

Kingsford: Update from BC: The planning application has been approved by ACC (with conditions). Scottish Government had not called it in. However some of the conditions would require the cooperation of Aberdeenshire Council, and as they had

been objectors it was not clear what would happen next. The 'No Kingsford' campaign group are trying to crowd-fund a judicial review.

LL asked about the Community Empowerment Act and GC explained his understanding of the relevance of this to ACC, but we hadn't progressed it to date.

Venues for meetings: JS is following up one potential offer to use the Anatomy Rooms. LL has also suggested Ma Camerons as a possibility.

2. Pedal on Parliament

Our 4th PoP ride will take place on Sunday 29 April. There will be a start from Hazlehead but we are also putting emphasis on less confident riders being able to join from Albyn Place. Rachel Martin has been attempting to discuss a road closure for Union St with ACC, but as usual they are unresponsive.

3. Annual Cycle Count

Proposed dates of 15, 16, 17 May. JS will be canvassing for volunteers. She had finally got some counter data from ACC in relation to last years count, although it had been hard work. Details would be published shortly.

4. CWSS & 'small gains'

JS had been in touch with Ruth Milne at ACC on a number of topics:

- Motorcycles using cycle stands (George St/ John Lewis). RM advised there was nothing they could do about this as there was no legislation covering the use of cycle parking stands. (Actually, this is a pedestrianised area so they have no right to be there at all, but that would need a complaint to be made to the Police ...)
- Wellington Brae – RM questioning what the issue was.
- Riverside Drive/ Great Southern Rd Toucans. RM questioning what the issue was.
- Hardgate: RM advised that the necessary road orders had been passed so this could be implemented soon (!)
- Cycle parking: our suggestion for new locations were noted and would be installed 'as soon as practical' (Ferryhill library, Torry library, Victoria St jnct with Crombie Rd)

5. AoBs

- i) Dave McGrath joined the meeting from the Aberdeen Climate Action meeting taking place elsewhere in the building. He was advocating a 'Festival of wheels' for the AWPR pre-opening ride, and was particularly keen for roller-bladers to be included. We had previously put him in touch with CTC Grampian who were in touch with AWPR over the idea of a ride.
- ii) Tour Series event (17 May). We had been asked if we wanted to have a stand in UTG for the duration of the event. Agreed that we should and would canvass for volunteers nearer the time.
- iii) John Baghurst (CTC Grampian) had been in touch with JS over access rights on new bridges over the AWPR on Causeymouth.

- iv) Cllr Martin Ford had been in touch regarding the new section of route between Kintore and Thainstone.
- v) MN noted that the Toucan crossing at the foot of the Parkway (near the AECC doesn't work) and hasn't been in operation for months. Can we find out why? JS would ask Jon Barron.
- vi) Clare Roberts had been in touch re access to Seaton Park. Jon Barron had responded.
- vii) JS noted that we - along with many other cycling and environment bodies – had signed a letter to the Transport Minister asking that a premises levy be introduced as part of the forthcoming bill. He had replied to say that it wouldn't be.

6. Date of next meeting

24th April, and it will be the Annual General Meeting. Venue to be confirmed