

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting & AGM , 24 April 2018

Anatomy Rooms

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Bruce Cruickshank, Mike Neiman, Liz Lindsey, Jon Barron (Nestrans Cycling Development Officer)

0. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Claire Roberts. Tonight's venue had been secured thanks to an offer from one of our members – Jim Ewen. It may be available for us to use on a more regular basis, but charges would apply. There have been a couple of other venue suggestions, but most would charge similar rates. One free possibility is in Ma Camerons, which might suffice for regular meetings but probably isn't suitable for when we have a guest or speaker. There seems little chance of overturning the decision on our use of the Town House although PoP would be an opportunity to lobby any Councillors who turn up.

1. Minutes of last meeting (March) and matters arising

Mostly covered in the agenda below.

2. Pedal on Parliament

Pedal on Parliament – responses received from Kirsty Blackman MP, but few from Councillors. Rachel Martin is to do the set up at Town House with PA etc. Signage and First Aiders still to be sorted but GC will take care of these. We have an invite to go on BBC Radio 'Out for the weekend' live on Friday afternoon. Either Rachel or Jyll would take this up.

3. Annual Cycle Count

Proposed dates of 15, 16, 17 May. JS will canvass again from volunteers to help.

4. AOBs

- i) We also have invites to the Tour Series event and to a series of events being run by NESCol called 'Live for Life'. It is likely we will do the former but not the latter, due to capacity.
- ii) There had been recent publicity about the beach esplanade following a pedestrian – cyclist conflict. We believe it is a shared use path, as this is the answer we've had from the Council before. It is also shown as such on the published Cycle Map. However there are no signs or markings. Equally, there is no 'end of route' sign where the markings stop at the Bridge of Don end. JB agreed to follow up with ACC to try and get a definitive answer.
- iii) Kingsford: The application has now been determined but it is not known that the matters on which Aberdeenshire Council objected have been resolved. But perhaps it does mean that a solution has been found to the sub-standard section of path alongside Prime 4?

- iv) Rachel Martin has spoken to the relevant Committee meeting regarding her petition for a segregated bike path on Union St. It had gone well, with officials being asked to look into options. This may tie in with the 'roads hierarchy' review which is to be done for the city centre post-AWPR.
- v) MN again mentioned the non-functioning Toucan crossing on the Parkway near the AECC. JB has been investigating the reasons for this but noted that because it is a trunk road, Transport Scotland are involved which adds complexity. GC mentioned Stoneywood as another example of things which are clearly wrong for a significant period of time but even when we point out that it is wrong and a significant danger, nothing gets done. JB would look into this too.

5. AGM business

1. Apologies had been received from CR but she had confirmed that our bank balance was £675.50. It was assumed she would be willing to continue in the role of Treasurer.
2. GC gave a resume of the role of Secretary. It was noted that the GDPR may have some implications for how we hold membership data, but after a discussion with Carl (webmaster) it was felt we were low risk. We may look again at security and use of an email service rather than just using Gmail as currently. Membership was still in the region of 550-600. Facebook page 'likes' was now approaching 1,000.
3. JS was standing down as Chair and reflected on her tenure. Noted that the membership is going in the right direction but it is a decreasing band of core volunteers who do the work of the Forum. Engagement with ACC seems to be more difficult now since a change of personnel. There have been some gains but there is a lot more to be done if Aberdeen is ever to become a 'cycling city' as the Council claim. Various pieces of infrastructure that we've lobbied the Council about repeatedly never seem to get done. It's hard to know if they are deliberately ignoring us or whether it is just the result of a lack of resources within the Council.

From those present there were no volunteers to take the role of Chair. It was agreed that we would leave the position at least until the next monthly meeting to see if a volunteer could be found.

6. Date of next meeting

Provisionally 29 May. However GC would be away then so it may be preferable to move the date. Venue also to be confirmed.