

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Sheila Tuckwood, John Tuckwood, Ian Mitchell, Tito Casquinha, Claire Roberts, Patricia Melo, Liz Lindsey, Michael de Barra, David Thornley

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

Apologies had been received from Mike Nieman.

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

Nexen – decided we won't attend but will send some cycle maps for them to distribute.

Festive fund – carried forward.

Cycleway for Scotland. JS is in touch with Dave du Feu re best means of approach (this relates to provision of cycle facilities associated with new road-building schemes such as the A96 dualling project). GC declared a potential conflict of interest with his day job and would not take part in any discussions or representations in relation to the A96.

### **2. We walk, we cycle, we vote**

GC gave a quick summary of the event and of the purpose of this campaign so far as he understood. Further details available here:

<http://walkcyclevote.scot/news/>

Sally from "WCV" had also asked if ACF would wish to be included in the list of organisations who have formally endorsed WCV, which includes CTC and Spokes for example. After discussion it was agreed ACF should also endorse this campaign.

### **3. Dyce Drive**

CR reported from a meeting that she, JS and Henri had attended. The proposals which have been put forward are acceptable, but not exemplary.

GC asked about Stoneywood and the changes to the cycle path which had been made as part of the access to the development. JS was waiting news on this from

Louise Napier of ACC. JS would chase her and LL would also follow up with Ruth Wolfe who had been involved for ACF.

#### **4. Grampian Housing Association**

This had been included on the agenda as a result of a query from a member who was frustrated at having nowhere to store a bike. GHA were not being helpful and had threatened to remove by force any bikes left in the stairwell. Similar issues have been raised with us on many occasions in the past. After discussion it was agreed that we should approach GHA with suggestions of solutions, including how housing associations elsewhere deal with the issue, and pointing out that Nestrans funding could be available at 50%.

#### **5. Sustrans visit**

IM had been in touch with the Sustrans Deputy Director of Built Environment and had asked if they would be willing to attend an ACF meeting at a future date. It was agreed that this was a good idea although it may be several months away. We would aim to compile a list of questions so that they were aware of the type of things we were interested in.

#### **6. Cycle Route audits**

IM described the benefits of an audit tool as an objective assessment of cycle routes. It was often felt that ACC design a route or cycle way improvement, ask for our comments but then largely discount them as impractical or too costly. A tool which gave an objective scoring for a route would allow us (and them) to see what the final outcome for any given path represented – was it a “5 star” route, or a “2 star”? There are good examples from Wales and from London.

#### **7. Active Travel Hub**

IM had organised a meeting with Desmond Bradley from Scotrail / Abellio. The Nestrans Cycle Development Officer, Louise Napier had also attended. Graham MacQueen from Sitling Cycle Hub\* (an excellent example of what could be achieved) was also present. \*See <http://www.stirlingcyclehub.org/>

Abellio were considering options to improve cycle facilities at the station. A ‘Cycle park plus’ (high quality bike parking on the concourse) was possible. However if match funding could be sourced, it was possible this could be a more elaborate ‘Active Travel Hub’ which is potentially a staffed facility and opens up all sorts of facilities such as bike hire, repairs etc etc

The target date (under the terms of their franchise bid) for Abellio to deliver something is March 2018 so this may take time but the potential is big.

There was a discussion about various models of ‘hub’ and business models. IM wanted to step back from leading on this due to work commitments but it was agreed

that this could become mainstream ACF interest perhaps with a sub-group of interested members to input.

## **8. AOB**

TC has compiled some examples of bad infrastructure as previously discussed.

JT asked what had happened to our 'core routes'. JS confirmed that they had been sent to ACC (Joanna Murray) but we had had no response. The same was true for MN's audit of signage on the Deeside Way.

TC asked if Ross Grant was being effective as ACC's Cycle Champion. JS agreed that his involvement thus far had been limited.

GC mentioned that since the new-look website was launched we had been slow at putting much new content on. He suggested that we might try to come up with some more interest - opinion pieces, member profiles or whatever, particularly as we are not doing a published newsletter any more. Any offers of items send to [sec@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk](mailto:sec@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk)

We had been copied into an email sent to Ross Grant about development work on Lang Stracht by Bancon and disruption to the cycle route

A provisional date for Pedal on Parliament 2016 had been intimated – 23 April. We would need to start thinking soon about whether we would repeat our 2015 route or if there were other options to consider.