

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum – Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – Townhouse Aberdeen

## Present

CG Carl Gerrard      FF Fiona Fraser      NF Neil Fraser    HB Hamish Booth  
DL Dave Lindsey      LL Liz Lindsey      DW Derek Williams    ML Markus Linkleman  
GM Gail McMillan      DC Dave Cheseldine

## Apologies

RK Rhada Kessar      LP Liz Pirrie

## **1 - Minutes and Matters Arising**

**Local Development Plan** – DW is still working on it, we have until Dec 11<sup>th</sup> DW will circulate when done.

At this point the current CWSS situation was discussed and the need to keep “pressure” on ACC. **ACTION:CG** - Arrange CWSS – meeting with Grahame McKenzie and Doug Richie in the new year

**New Members new Ideas** – This will be sent out in the new year DW working on it, discussed and asked if we should be making more “use” of the media – agreed to end the article with an “advert” to see if anyone wanted the “PR Job”

**Nestrans Short List** – This was submitted, CG confirmed he had discussed with LN the approval process – details are:

Short list including our items now exists, officers will meet again in December to formally “finalise”. This will then go to the Nestrans Board for approval in principle in February (approval in principle as we still don’t know if ACC/Shire councils will provide the funding), This will then get put before ACC Committee in March/April time for approval. The approval of Nestrans funds will also go before the Committee at the same time as well.

**Berryden** - Proposals go to ACC committee in Thursday – DW pointed out that all agenda items, papers and eventually minutes are now publicly available on the web, <http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=140>

Three items of interest to us listed:

- 1 - Berryden – officers ask for outline approval. Design includes a bridge option for foot/cycles
- 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing
- 3 - Small scale plans for cycle improvements.

**2 - City to AECC route** – officers want to do a walk through of the route, anyone interested – contact DW

## **3 - NCR Route 1**

Sustrans visited Aberdeen, LN, DC and DW, plus one sustrans ranger did the walking and came up new route for Torry to Mount Hooley via the suspension bridge

#### **4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing**

ML and DW attended a meeting with Tom Rogers, in summary not as bad as we thought it would be – includes 3m wide cycle path, st machar / tilldrone – crossing near Grandholm village, cyclists will have priority over the side roads – first time ever in Aberdeen.

3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing will be going to a local enquiry – this may yet derail the process.

#### **5 – ACF Awards**

Discussed and agreed we should repeat last years process, optionally with a second category, to make two

- Contribution to Cycling Development in Aberdeen (same as 2009)
- The “*Broken Sprockette*” award (new for 2010)

The *Broken Sprockette* goes to those who have either had a negative effect on cycling, or made a mess of anything they have tried, examples could include:

- Aberdeen Journals Ltd / Editor at Press & Journal / EE
- Reid Exhibitions for their high quality cycle map for Offshore Europe  
<http://www.aspcp.com/ShowOff/RX/OffshoreEurope/files/cycleroute.pdf>
- B&Q's cycle parking

Process to be run by CG – Nominations first 2 weeks in December, CG+DW then select short list. Web based vote over Christmas period with award(s) announced mid January

After last years “marginal” responses agreed we drop the awards if we don't get enough nominations by mid December.

**Post Meeting Note : Minimal Nominations Received, agreed to drop**

#### **6 - Report from the LOAF public meeting**

No real conclusions, as is often the case with such meetings, but cyclists had a strong presence. Major topic of discussion was cyclists and dogs on the N.Deeside Line...

**7 Scottish government Consultation “Active Travel”**– CG and DW have written a response, agreed after submission we should encourage individual submissions via an e-News response.

Post meeting Note – now on the web at:

<http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/?pf=news.php&nid=99>

Get writing!

#### **8 Cycling Scotland Conference Report**

Thanks to DW for getting the two tickets, DW and DL attended – DL will provide a report to be put on the web and circulated to those present before the next meeting. **ACTION:DL**

**Post Meeting Note : Appended to Minutes – Appendix 1**

## 9 AOB

**Cycle map** - LL thought the stocks of maps etc were running low – but was not certain,  
**ACTION** : LL to contact LN to enquire of status and check if restock needed.

### **Police Road Safety Meeting**

Main news was Dough Richie – has done detailed analysis of accidents

- 66% caused by vehicle driver, 25% by cyclist.
- Cluster of accidents at Aueens road / Forest road roundabout
- Disproportionate number of female injuries, hit by trucks and vans – reflects national data.
- Scottish gov't set target 2020 40% reduction in road injuries.

**New International School** – DW has had correspondence that the new junction may potentially create a pinch point when busses are turning into the school. CG reported that GMcK had already investigated earlier reports of this – discussed and agreed we did not have enough evidence to progress further

**Twitter** – CG suggested that by putting ACF on twitter and using it for news alerts we may attract a new demographic currently missed by the web and mailing list. Discussed and agreed to try a pilot **ACTION** : **CG**

**Newsletter** - Discussed and agreed we go for a Late Winter / Early Spring release, following have all promised copy:

- Aberdeen Cycle Trainers (DW)
- Recent Roads Schemes (DW)
- Cycle Parking (DC)
- “Joke Article”, no not the LTS, (DL)
- ACF Awards (CG)
- Skirts and Spokes (LP suggested)
- Schools / Kids (LP suggested)

Send Content and further suggestions to FF [editor@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk](mailto:editor@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk)

A name and shame approach will be used over the coming months for those who promised content but have not delivered it!

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010**  
(one week earlier than “normal”)

## **Appendix 1 – Report of Cycling Scotland Annual Conference (by DL)**

### **A brief summary.**

80 delegates. No senior ACC presence. Only 3 bicycles spotted in the Car Park beforehand: the Great & Good don't cycle!

**Penny Taylor** ( Journalist & Broadcaster, anyone heard or read her?) chaired the meeting ably.

**Keynote address: Fergus Ewing** (Scottish Community Safety Minister); a few words about forthcoming CAPS & safety issues; acknowledged fear factor as a deterrent to cycling take-up. New motor offence: 'Death by careless driving' proposal. Boosting of work bike purchase scheme. Target set: 10% journeys by bike. Disappeared without questions/comments.

**Iain Aitken** (CEO of CS) CS Business Plan & Vision for Future

CS: 5 years old (Sept '08)

Currently reviewing CAPS survey responses. Focussing: active travel (workplace & schools)

Schools: a group set up; surveyed cycling to school (3% takeup overall), A'shire:3.7%, Moray 7.7%, Highland 9.7%.

2010: campaigning for behaviour change for cycling - 'Give me space' theme. Grampian \_not\_ participating.

Workplace: 26 cycle friendly employers registered.

Training: 3-tier National Standard established for schools. Take-up to be registered (currently @ 50%; more needed).

Bike Census methodology to be propagated next year (been there!).

**Ian Maxwell** (SCSP Manager, Scottish Government) Smarter Choices, Smarter Places

Smarter Choices = Behaviour Change + Infrastructure Support. Smarter Places range from Dumfries to Kirkwall;

Dundee, Glasgow East; Barrhead, Kirkintilloch, Arbroath, Bearsden, Dalkeith Stenhousemuir, Larbet. Baseline Monitoring in these places by telephone interviews, household interviews & travel diaries. English towns are also being 'done': e.g. Dartington, Peterborough & Worcester. Some associated investment on Safe Routes (£350K per location (?)). Some 'baseline' measurements of trends being done in other conurbations: Dartington (England). 'Control' towns for baseline comparison:

Glasgow (low car, low bike) & Kirkwall (high car high bike). Polls on car usage reduction: 20% willing & able; 20% willing & unable; 7% able & unwilling; 46% neutral. In general, cyclists polled were more positive about their safety than negative - an optimistic result.

**Neil Gellatly** (Head of Transportation, Dundee Council)

Working with Dundee Health Central promoting Active Travel for benefit of health, the environment, the economy and social inclusion - 3yr project (£2.16m - £1.42m) 'new money' 50/50 council & partners. Looking for a shift in emphasis. 'Reprogramming' engineers : plans to build on success of pedestrianised precinct. Concentrating on particular areas in the city. Analysis of river front dual carriageway done: will be singled (wouldn't comment, when asked, on Abdn plans for dualling of Tillydrone & Berryden corridors). Cycle network condition 'rangers' to be employed. Large opinion survey covering all social & business activity spectrum will be done to establish priorities. Doing an extensive personal travel planning exercise. Plans for short bike hire stations dropped but may be implemented at the uni. Big launch of schemes next May (Danny Mckaskill of

course!)

**Mark Smith** (Cycle Derby/ Derby City council)

Derby: a cycling 'Demonstration' town. Traditional approach of events, local bike club involvement & cycle paths found to be ineffective with current generation. Established a group of 'passionate' trainers with parents collaborating + learning about training & maintenance . Started bike clubs (BMX & road)together with 'bring your parents!'; got space in the curriculum for a cycling element in PE GCSE. Trained 9k children 4.5k took part in 'Scootability'. Getting the 'cool cycling' message across is a big incentive. Has +ve effect on other activities. Message is 'cooperate with the enthusiasts'.

**Tricia Allan** (Cycling England (CE) - City & Towns Programme Manager)

Analysis CE Cyling Demonstration Towns

6 towns involved; investment @ £5/head of popn financed from both CE and LA. Focus on community hubs, schools & major institutions. Smarter choices augmented by facilities. Report to be published on CE website (NEWS subhead). Automatic cycle count was installed and registered a 27% increase. England overall has seen a 14% increase in adult cycling over 3 years. Casualty \_total\_ numbers: 1 town decrease & 3 no increase. Strategy: Identify target cohort (8-14 y.o.), activity hubs & destinations (workplaces); 'joined up' street architecture, signage & maps. £9m spend for 08/09. Message: 'Investment Pays Off'. Pedestrianised City Centre Cycling Ban has been revoked!

**Janet Edgell** (Deputy Director, Scottish Government Transport Division & an Aberdeen Uni. alumnus!

Transport Strategy: analysing evidence from submissions before production of Action Plan. Challenges: Behavioural change; Road strategy; Funding. New 'Cycling by Design' out by April. Monitoring and measuring to establish best practice. Target: cycling rate: 10% by 2020 (200k cycling)

**Erik Jolsgard** (Public Roads Directorate, Trondheim, Norway)

Road + Environmental package begun in 1987. Toll ring around city (popn:200k) raises about £100/head of population/year which has paid for a lot of developments. Calculation: a move to 50/50 car/cycle split would generate a £100 per head of population p.a., which would finance lots of improvements. A bike network is planned around known travel patterns between workplaces and residential areas. Bike lifts (moving ramps) installed on some big hills. Big traffic park created for bike training. In tandem,time car tolls introduced. No marketing of facilities to date. Traffic Stats: 1990:5-6%cycle; 2000(car tolls):18%; 2002:22%(4% winter); current level: 25%. These trends have been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in accident risk.

**Andrew Pankhurst** (CS PR/Marketing) A Holistic Approach to Promoting Cycling & Schools

Emphasised health bonus (36.5k deaths annually due to air pollution, UK wide) Safety fears is the big deterrent (for parents). Combat via cycle friendly space;'Give me cycle space' ads on bikes, street furniture. Surveys: 50% want to cycle to school, & 3%, only, do so; CS will monitor progress following

promotions & measures taken. Establish bike count methodology & promote next year (been there!). In prospect: National Forum/partnership for local Cycle Groups, better comms (inc. via web); Courses for LA's.

Current collaborations: Fife Cycle Charter, Glasgow Cycle Strat., Abdnshire CW Strat.; set up a Web-based news & discussion group. Planned events/activities/facilities.

**Chris Thompson** (Moray Schools Travel Co-ord.) Moray: A Local Success Story for Cycling in Schools

'Urban Freedom' (by bike) campaign using Euro cash. Great pic showing 42 bikes in a single car parking space. Mass bike event: 'Wheely Wonderful Wednesday' (742 wheels, didn't say how many bodies). Primary 7 cycle to school project; resulted in 7 regular cycle commuters. Folding bikes for Bike Route developer, two of which used a tandem (presumably the stoker taking notes on the fly!) Observer comment quote: "Lycra + Folding Bike = Brompton Dressed as a Banana!"

**Sandra Frame** (Culture & Sport Glasgow), Allen Mclean (Glasgow CC. Land & Env. Services): A Cycling Strategy for Glasgow

Coordination is difficult (staffing 'volatility'). Census (in spite of staff probs. they can do it!): 5000 trips in 14hr period. Level interpreted as cycle sporting success by local heroes/heroines. Established: bike park in Pollock country Park; Schools bike loan scheme. Cycling Proficiency schemes in 55% of schools. Though this is regarded by them as a deficiency it is well up on Aberdeen, I think. Planning for 2014 Commonwealth Games (Glasgow) legacy spin-off.

**William Methven** (Sustrans): How Sustrans Support Schools Cycling in Scotland

CAPS target: 10% modal share by 2020. Helping Schools Travel Co-ordinators with short links (1.2 to 1.5 miles - most common length; quite cheap to implement & best VFM). Results will be monitored systematically. Need to address fall off in Primary to Secondary take-up (mostly girls). Some facts/figures: Cycling to work is increasing particularly in <25's where car ownership is decreasing; 16% of rural bus seats are occupied by cyclists with bikes on board or @ destination. Promotion emphasis should be the speed and reliability of travel time. Message to Fergus Ewing (re Road Safety PI):

Boost for cycle training; speed up planning process for speed reduction measures & search for a consensus that can be rapidly implemented.

Sustrans Seminar in Abdn March 2nd: includes some training aspects.

Other talk which I didn't make notes of (lack of paper or possibly interest):

**David Martin** (Physical Activity, Learning & Teaching Scotland): Cycling and the Curriculum for Excellence