

## **Aberdeen Cycle Forum - Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 – Townhouse**

### **18:30 Pre Meeting with Sustainable Urban Fringe (SURF)**

Five met with Stephen Bly from the SURF project. Points we raised included need for good quality multi-user paths along both sides of the Don, with connections; use of Don corridor to provide better cycle links to destinations eg to Science and Technology park; short term need to upgrade existing paths, many of which are narrow, muddy etc.. SURF's role is to identify priority projects to then seek funding – council has no money allocated for work on the ground. SURF will keep us informed of progress. If you want to be added to the circulation list for this, contact DW (info@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk).

### **19:30hrs Main Meeting**

#### **Present:**

Carl Gerrard CG Rhada Kessar RK Markus Linckelmann ML Gerard Vlaar GV  
Kris Howard, KH Derek Williams DW Richard Chard RC Kristen Smith KS  
Adam Paxton AP Lu McClintock LM

#### **Apologies:**

Neil Fraser NF Fiona Fraser FF Dave Cheseldine DC

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

**Commuter Challenge** – CG explained two worked examples of how the scoring works, these can be found online at: [http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/include/bw11/challenge\\_scoring.pdf](http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/include/bw11/challenge_scoring.pdf)

Due to integer number of people registering smaller firms will always have higher scores. This is why we split by category to try and even it out this year. For next year CG will model the outcome using different scoring systems and this years results, perhaps changing the new cyclist weighting.

Discussed the effort some firms put into it – this can be categorised in four broad groupings:

- a) Promote amongst all their staff, generally requires leadership buy in by the organisation even if the campaign is run by a cyclist.
- b) Promote among their existing cyclists, get more on the road in bike week, perhaps some new cyclists by word of mouth
- c) Sign up but do very little, perhaps sending an email or mentioning in a news letter
- d) Sign up and do nothing

We know from employees of some participants who did not know the employer was participating i.e. b, c and d above. This has been a good start to the totally corporate challenge, and we got some excellent press coverage in the P&J. Next year will be do or die – we need more employers, **start early!**

**ACF Leaflet** – DC has the original and has circulated a new and improved version we can use going forward

**CWSS** – The meeting with roads has been postponed three times now due to lack of activity by ACC roads engineers and is now scheduled for Wed 14<sup>th</sup> September. DW,DC,ML and CG will attend. CG has also met with Graeme McKenzie in Culter village and a walkabout identified the locations of 6 new sets of stands.

Further Suggestions are also welcomed and can be submitted at any time online: <http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/index.php?pf=news.php&nid=130> We will do another trawl of the membership next week.

## **2 - Justice Mill Lane**

Our call for volunteers has resulted in approx. 1 dozen people contacting us to help with any mini-campaign. DW has been in contact with Andrew Smith in ACC Road's department who has promised to look again at the possibility of a cycle contraflow. Noted that the roads engineers though a contraflow was two-way cycle flow (rather than one way with the cyclists being with other traffic on the opposite side).

We have two chances to object - (a) at the statutory stage as ACF and (b) at the public stage as both ACF and as individuals. Discussed and agreed we will not object at (a) as we have limited resources and it will be *ACF vs roads*. We can mobilise a lot of people at (b) and have a much greater chance of objecting.

## **3) Code of conduct for shared facilities.**

We don't have the original any more, RC and KS have recreated, improved and circulated a new version. Discussed and agreed it was good, we should add a one line on what to do with horses specifically (apparently they can see behind them). Apparently the British Horse society has some words? When done put on the web.

## **4) Cycle Theft 2011**

CG reported that – following the reports of a number of thefts from the Union Square / south college street car park he had been both in correspondence with U/S and had spoken to Grampian Police's crime prevention officer. Conclusion is cycle theft is up ~30% compared to 2008 levels [also motorcycle theft]. There are a number of reports of bolt cutters in use in the city centre etc.

We have done a joint Press Release with Grampian Police, and updated the security pages on our website:

[www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/security](http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/security)

Press release goes out on Thursday, we will do a member mailing to go along with it – noting the key points.

#### **5) Belmont Street Bike Event Event by Get-About 17<sup>th</sup> September 10:00→16:00hrs**

As ever we are invited to participate, either on the Get-About stand or on our own. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow cyclists etc. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS can you help, contact DW**

#### **6) Any Other Business**

**Boris Bikes for Aberdeen (McCraig Bikes?)** – Nestrans hosted an event for businesses on this last week, it seems to be gathering some momentum, despite our scepticism. DW was contacted by the evening express for a comment on the proposal. Discussed and agreed we should retain the view there are plenty of better things to spend money on.

Post meeting note – this has generated some press coverage, see link (pp5)

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&refresh=Pf5190xXC70b&PBID=693ef754-74b1-4b04-bdac-d4d22fcea0dd&skip=>

This month's prize for stating the obvious goes to Councillor Calum McCraig quoted as *"there may need to be certain improvements in the city centre to make cycling more appealing"*

**7 Date of Next Meeting :** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September