

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Liz Lindsay (LL), Mike Neiman (MN), Anthony Robertson (AR), Euan Innes (EI)

**0.** Apologies –none.

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

NB There were no minutes from the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July as it had not been quorate. The following were matters arising from the minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Cllr Laing** – has now intimated that she will attend the October meeting. It was agreed that we should publicise this in advance via the usual channels and also that we should canvass the membership for specific points to put to her. Secondly we should look to refresh the ‘manifesto’ which we had produced at the time of the last Council elections. This would be discussed further at the September meeting.

**Roundabouts** – no sign of any improvement in the overgrown vegetation yet.

**Deeside Way audit** – neither MN or JS had heard anything further following from the audit work that MN had done.

**ITWMC (In town without my car).** – this event would take place again on 21 September and Louise Napier had invited us to have a stall. We will need a rota of about 4 volunteers to cover this. GC and LL to co-ordinate this.

The idea of a feeder ride organised has been dropped meantime because of issues of potential liability. However it is also possible that individuals may take the decision to co-ordinate their travel to the event, publicised by social media.

LL and JS gave a short update on their contact with the Nepalese community. They have some funding from a Climate Change programme and want to get into cycling, but many of them do not have the skills or confidence to ride on the road amongst city traffic. We will meet with them again to offer further encouragement.

LL also commented that ‘Aberdeen Forward’ have been considering running a bike maintenance course which may be of interest to that group, or to others.

### **2. Wellington Brae consultation**

A note of our meeting with the consultant will be posted on the website. There was some discussion of whether on or off-road cycle provision is better and whether the

choice was influenced by gradient i.e. on the downhill side, it was easier to keep up with traffic so an off-road cycle route might be preferred for less confident cyclists, and confident cyclists would be happier to ride on the road. However the converse might also be true so it would be worth soliciting views from the membership before we finalise our comments or respond to the draft note of the meeting.

### **3. Haudagain consultation**

We had met with Jacobs (consultants) who are working up options although their favoured solution seems to be a new road to bypass the roundabout. Currently they had proposed a dual-use path for the north side but this would mean cyclists would have to cross 3 separate toucan crossings which would be circuitous and unattractive to many. It could in theory link in with a new cycle route over Anderson Drive but last time we looked at that idea there were so many obstacles that it was impractical and there is no evidence yet that has changed.

#### **Masterplan consultation**

This relates to the city centre and a number of ideas had been discussed;

- ‘avenues’ offering continuous high-quality cycle routes into the city centre
- Nestrans would like to see the Deeside Line route being extended (somehow?!) to give access to the railway station.
- The need for improvements on Market St was recognised and the proposal for a new harbour at Nigg Bay might provide some opportunity in the medium term, but could also have significant impact on Cove Rd and NCN1.
- Need for links from the south side of the Dee (e.g. Kincorth) to be improved, but not clear how. A new footbridge is proposed as part of the housing development at Blairs, but there are understood to be planning difficulties in making connections to this at the north side.
- Don cycleway (Stoneywood, Dyce etc) still on the agenda.

We hope to see a map of these various ideas sometime in September.

### **4. Networking with other clubs**

Since first discussed some time ago, this hadn't progressed. GC had made some tentative enquiries but these hadn't really got anywhere. It was agreed that there was still potential for working together with other clubs and we should make another co-ordinated effort to contact them and suggest a meeting.

## **5. AOBs**

i. GC pointed out that there is to be another 'Fresh n Low' family ride in Aberdeen. This will be on 14 September and will be a 5 mile traffic-free ride starting & ending at Duthie Park and presumably using the Deeside Way. Entry will be free.

This led to discussion of the unsatisfactory pedestrian & cycle access onto the Deeside Way at the Polmuir Rd entrance to Duthie Park. It was a missed opportunity that when the Park was refurbished, no traffic-free access was created between the Deeside Way and the Park itself, the only access being through the car park. Recently new parking and pedestrian demarcation had been painted in the form of yellow lines but there was no provision for cyclists. The new parking lines in the 'over-flow' car park had actually been moved closer to the ramp giving access to the Deeside Way so that the potential for vehicle/pedestrian/cycle conflicts was even worse than previously.

MN also pointed out that at the Riverside Drive side of the Park, cyclists wanting to use the pedestrian crossing to access the cycle path on Riverside Drive had to go against the flow of traffic entering the car park and go out through the gate marked 'no exit'.

Both of these seemed to be (yet more) examples of work which had not been thought through or any consideration given to the needs of cyclists. We should raise this with Cllr Laing at the October meeting.

ii. GC also mentioned the situation of traffic using a 'rat-run' at the foot of Wellington Brae and cutting across what should be a safe pedestrian & cycle route onto Wellington Bridge. Bollards which were in place to prevent this flow of traffic had been vandalised or deliberately disabled. GC had first raised this with ACC about 18 months ago but nothing had been done, despite follow ups and raising it more recently with Cllr Kiddie. It was agreed that we should follow up again with Cllr Kiddie, also with Cllr Thomson, with Graham Mackenzie, and also by writing to the operators of Riverside House as they may be responsible for the bollards.

iii. GC asked if we know if Aberdeen City Council have any policy for the removal of derelict bikes from parking stands? JS will ask Louise Napier.

## **6. Date of next meeting.**

Proposed as Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, normal start time of 1930hrs.