

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of Meeting - 31st August - Townhouse

Present

NF Neil Fraser FF Fiona Fraser CG Carl Gerrard RX Robin X KS Kristen Smith
DW Derek Williams DC Dave Cheseldine DL Dave Lindsey

Apolgies

None Received

1 Minutes and Matters Arising

CAPS / MSP Responses Nichol Steven (Lib Dem, Aberdeen South) has sent on DL's comments to ACC for LN to answer, and forwarded CG's critique on the CAPS to Stewart Stevenson (Transport Minister), we await the responses.

CWSS list CG has failed to make much progress on this, agreed we are not looking for perfection and to send "as is" to ACC Roads Engineers and then seek a meeting.

Ride ACF – the nights are drawing in, we will do in the Spring.

2 Constitutional Matters

Extensive discussion took place on how to "convert" the list to a membership list – key points:

- Minimum requirements to be counted as a member will be an Name and Email Address
- We will use an "opt out" system from the original list, asking people to "confirm" their details or specifically "resign" if they do nothing they stay on mailing list but as we don't have Name can't count as member.
- Communication on this will be key, DW will draft something (**reminder** still awaiting constitution to PDF and put on web...)
- Twitter "membership" is totally independent of the above process.

AGM – noted that our birthday is always in September when the nights are getting dark and the weather deteriorating, proposed to have the AGM in spring when the nights are getting better and more cyclists on the road. Assuming AGM is annual event this then sets us up for coming years. DW reported constitutionally not seen as an issue. We should also seek an "independent" venue for the AGM i.e. not owned by the council even if it costs us. **DO YOU HAVE A VENUE WE COULD USE, GET IN CONTACT?**

3 Council / Roads/Planning Matters

(A) Westhill Cycle Route – we are getting significant complaints about the lack of (promised) signals on the crossing at Kingswells, something we were promised in the original design. DW has attended a meeting with ACC Roads officers. An independent safety audit has been commissioned (done by Highland Council!). Discussed if we should complain to Sue Bruce over council incompetence, etc.

Agreed to wait until Highland review hopefully confirms the obvious, then complain.

Post meeting Note – we need to find someone other than Sue Bruce...

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/internet_homepage/council_news/preferred%20candidate%20selected%20for%20council%20chief%20executive

(B) Nestrans 2011/12 priorities After discussion DW is submitting list:attached in Appendix 1

(C) – ACF comments on development proposals After an intervention we will now be an “official” consultee for major developments in Aberdeen, not just road changes e.g things like Union Square. . All volunteers welcomed to review these as an when they come in CG, FF can help. First job will be Aberdeen FC stadium.

<http://planning.aberdeencity.gov.uk/docs/planningdocuments.asp?appnumber=101299>

(click link, accept conditions, leave browser open and then click link AGAIN)

4 Publicity

We have been contacted by ACC (LN) asking if we want to spent part of the CWSS publicity budget on an “advert” on the council tax calendar that goes out with the bills. Discussed and agreed it was not best use of money and we could do more with the funds – e.g. targeted leafleting, and how about some ACF spoke reflectors?

If there is space available on the year planner – we’d do it for free...

5 Deputy Webmaster Position

Kristen and Robin were welcomed to the meeting, due to other commitments we don’t expect to see at all meetings, but web stuff can be done “at a distance” – web all queries in first instance to Carl. Their first job will be to get the E-cycle-map online.

CG also reported that due to the mailing list growing to some 600+ people we are starting to have difficulties sending such emails (CG’s Internet Service Provider cut him off as a suspected spammer). A new system – that is automated and uses the web site is under testing, CG hopes to launch before Christmas.

6 – Final word on commuter challenge 2010 / developments in Edinburgh

Presentation took place end of July – lots of photos etc. press release done Aberdeen Journals managed to compress this amazing piece of work to 1.5 column inches.

Discussed and agreed we might as well do our own press release unless any partner next time wants to use theirs.

Meanwhile Edinburgh is running a “get a friend cycling” challenge on the back of their summer commuter challenge

<http://www.edinburghcyclechallenge.org.uk/>

7 – ACF’s Birthday in September

We will be 7 years old in September, agreed we will have the curry and meeting like last time – start with curry buffet (King Street) before the meeting, all welcome. More details to follow, mark your Diary

TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Appendix 1 – ACF Suggested Priorities for Nestrans spending 2010/11

Feasibility study to improve cycle connections between city and Dyce along A96 corridor.

This corridor sees a large movement of people every day between the city and Dyce, yet cycle links are absent, apart from some stretches of bus lane. A cycle route would provide a connection to cycle paths at Stoneywood and - via the underpass and local roads – to the airport path.

Cycle/rail integration – feasibility study

The road network around Aberdeen rail station is not conducive to safe and direct cycle access. The Wapping St gyratory is a particular barrier between the city centre and the rail station. Rail integration with sustainable modes is a key objective of national and regional transport strategies. This study would look at shorter and longer term measures. It would help ensure that measures are integrated with future developments in the area.

Develop key links along Anderson Drive corridor:

Aim: to improve connectivity between east-west cycle routes and to provide links to travel destinations:

Council officers have already done preliminary work on this project. There are three initial measures:

Develop route on east side from Haudigan roundabout to Midstocket Road, by connecting existing inset roads with link paths, upgrading footpaths and providing crossing points at junctions.

Shared path from E end of Langstracht to junction at Ashgrove Rd West. This will allow users of the Langstracht cycle route to legally access the junction crossing, providing an alternative route to Woodhill House, ARI and the city centre, avoiding the dual carriageway section of Westburn Rd.

Shared path on W side from Ruthrieston Rd to Asda, providing link from Deeside line.

Implement shared path along north bank of Dee, from retail park at Dee roundabout to RGU.

ACF expected this to be secured via a developer contribution from the new RGU 'supercampus' but this didn't happen. It would be possible to develop connection to this path from Riverside Drive via a new toucan crossing and section of shared path to retail park.

Complete tarmac surfacing of Deeside way between Bielside and Peterculter.

The Deeside Way is developing into a first class amenity but sections of it are still poor especially after rain.

Implement shared path along A96 from Blackburn to connect with airport path.

Extend shared path along Dyce Drive, west of Argyll Rd, to improve cycle access to Kirkhill industrial estate.

Signalised crossing on Westhill cycle route, at Kingswells roundabout.

ACF and Nestrans share the aim that this should be a quality cycle commuting route. ACF agreed to the realignment of the path at this point on the understanding there would be a signalised crossing. This hasn't been provided and the realigned path exposes cyclists to more risk than the original route. ACF has been receiving complaints (passed on to officers) from users of the path. We understand that an independent safety audit has been done. We anticipate this will confirm the need for a toucan crossing at this point.