

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 24th June 2014

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Ian Mitchell (IM), Liz Lindsay (LL), Richard Pelling (RP), Laura Fruhen (LF), Henri de Ruier (HR), Santosh Gaihre (SH), John-Mark Vinten (JV)

0 Apologies –none.

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Roundabouts. Still no date set for a meeting but JS had raised this with Cllr Ross Thomson at their meeting yesterday (see below).

Wellington Bridge – presumably as a result of Cllr Kiddie’s intervention following our last meeting, the double yellow lines on the northern approach to Wellington Bridge had now been re-painted. The hazard of through traffic crossing the route at the bottom of Wellington Brae was still the same however.

Deeside Way audit – MN’s audit has been passed to Nestrans who are also to be doing their own audit of signage.

Five mile garage road markings – ACC have been alerted to this.

Cllr Jenny Laing – JS has been in touch and Cllr Laing had suggested that she would like to attend a Forum meeting, although a date had yet to be set.

2. Meeting with Cllr Thomson

JS and GC had met with RT yesterday and discussed a number of issues. Although we were overdue to meet anyway, the meeting had in part been prompted by the recent piece in the Evening Express in which RT was quoted as calling for a relaxation of parking restrictions on office developments at Rubislaw Hill. It was not immediately obvious how this was consistent with RT’s role as the Council’s Cycle Champion.

RT explained that there is a specific issue with overflow car parking by commuters from offices at Rubislaw Hill leading to problems for residents within his ward. He cited numerous examples of problems that residents encounter including having their own cars blocked in their driveways by inconsiderate parking. However RT thought that the comments attributed to him in the EE were misleading and a misrepresentation of his position.

ACC is currently considering introducing extending residential parking restrictions to the area which should solve the problem albeit at a cost to residents who will have to pay for a parking permit.

ACC is also in discussion with developers and companies with an interest in the site to see how other means of transport can be encouraged and hence demand for parking reduced.

The imminent AWPR was also discussed briefly & led to a discussion about other Councillors taking an interest in how cycling links would be preserved. In turn this raised the question of whether enough Councillors are aware of ACF? If not, how do we go about changing that?

Also on the topic of the AWPR, there are still concerns about the impact of temporary diversions while work is underway. There is a public exhibition of plans underway now at various venues across the city and it would be good if as many members as possible could go along. RP added that open street mapping can be used to view how the route will look once in place.

3. Event 21 September

The idea of a 'feeder ride' to the 'In town without my car' event was discussed further. JS had contacted the Police about traffic management and had been directed to a contact in the Council. This person had so far not replied to our enquiry. On the topic of liability, JS had also made enquiries of the organisers of Pedal on Parliament. They seemed to be covered by Bike Week's insurance, even although the event is not during Bike Week.

In discussion it was suggested that we contact ACC to see if the feeder ride could be covered by whatever insurance covers the ITWMC event itself. JS to pursue that with Louise Napier. However failing that and given the continuing uncertainty over whether we could be liable in any way for those taking part in a feeder ride, it was probably the case that ACF should not organise or endorse such a ride, but that did not mean that it couldn't happen by individuals acting on their own account and publicised by word of mouth (or social media).

It was clear that the ride should be a 'fun' event and will not be a 'protest'. The idea of a separate protest or demonstration has also been raised, and a suitable opportunity could be when the Westhill petition goes back to the E, P & I Committee, possibly in September.

4. Advanced Stop Lines

As discussed last month, GC had put together a methodology for volunteers to survey vehicle infringement of ASLs. So far GC and LL had done some survey and had found quite different results. LF had also offered to help. It was agreed that it

would be good to get some more volunteers to add weight to the survey. GC will ask for help again in the next e-mail to the membership.

LL reported back on the ASL at Kingsgate / Stronsay Drive. The ASL box on Stronsay Drive is simply too small (circa 2 metres) and will hopefully be enlarged.

On Kingsgate (west bound) no ASL had been installed on the nearside land leading to a very strange layout. LL had contacted ACC officials who said that this arrangement was necessary because of the proximity to the junction with Westholme Avenue. However LL had checked and there was approx 13m of space which seemed adequate for a 4m ASL and still being clear of the junction.

It was noted that this was yet another instance of ACF members having to spend time and energy in an attempt to rectify poor practice because ACC had not consulted on what they were doing and did not follow accepted best practice (such as 'Cycling by Design'). It was also an extra cost to ACC because they would end up re-doing the work and so more costly than if it had just been done properly in the first place.

5. AOBs

HR, SG and JV were all attending their first ACF meeting so were invited to say why they had come.

SG explained that they have started a bike club, associated with the Nepalese community, with the aim of getting new people to cycle. They had bought 15 refurbished bikes and these were available on loan to their members in the Cornhill area. However some people were finding cycling on Aberdeen roads very intimidating and so they were interested to hear whether ACF could do anything to help. LL mentioned CTC's 'Try Cycling' rides. JS and LL are to attend the club's next meeting on 18 July.

HR and JV have experience of cycling in Europe and were astonished at the poor facilities for cycling here.

(RP) brought up CTC's 'Space for Cycling' campaign. It appeared that only 3 out of 43 Councillors in Aberdeen had signed up to support it. They were Cllrs Iain Yuill, Martin Greig and Steve Delaney (all LibDem).

6. Date of next meeting.

Proposed as Tuesday 29th July, normal start time of 1930hrs
