

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of monthly meeting

Tuesday 26th November 2019 at Belmont Filmhouse

Present: Gavin Clark (Chair), Briony Kincaid, Rachel Martin, (Communications and campaigns secretary) Nathan Gore, Laurie Rominger

* **Berryden corridor, ACC proposals**

It's an old scheme the city council have been talking about for years and years (1981). We were consulted back in 2009 and they presented us with a dual carriageway and shared-use path. The Berryden improvement team got in touch with ACF in September asking for a meeting and Gavin and Ben Martin went along to see drawings before they were made public. The plans are much better than they were in 2009. It's segregated for most of it and only shared-use in a couple of places. Also proposing to take out two roundabouts and put in traffic lights. They asked about design details like bollards, height of path (i.e, road level or foot path level), crossing with side roads, bus stops, right turns. They have given it some thought and were asking for our views which is good. Nothing has been finalised yet and we are prepared to speak to them again as design details become clearer. However, it's still increasing traffic capacity into the city centre which we do not support. We didn't ask what capacity it releases on other routes. Could remove traffic from George st, for example. The public consultation closes on 16th December.

Laurie says - plan looks like it's a bike lane on the road. Gavin says they were asking about whether to have the lane at road level or pavement level and also some physical separation. It was intentionally ambiguous.

Briony asks whether they said anything about speed. Gavin asked whether it would be 30 miles per hour and they said it's up to the councillors to decide. We made the point that fast-moving traffic is discouraging for active travel.

* **Best in Cycling Awards**

Picked up quite a bit but we still want to encourage more nominations. The schools category is low in submissions. Who are the judges going to be? We want to have a public vote and also judging. If judges have made a nomination themselves they can abstain. Can have both a public vote and score-based judging. The awards ceremony could be at the January meeting and we can give out certificates. We'll try to hire out the Belmont for this so we have exclusive use.

* **Reclaim the Streets May 2020**

Lottery have said no to funding. We're going to have to crowdfund it. This is live but haven't started publicising it yet. We're not sure how it will go. We could also ask for corporate sponsorship. People are reluctant to give money for road closures.

* **Tour of Britain - September 2020**

The Tour of Britain is a professional week long race that has regularly been in Scotland. Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire put in a bid and were successful so the race will finish here next year. The following year - 2021 - it will start in Aberdeen. We've been told there might be more of a cycling event around it - a weekend or something. Not sure what this will involve or whether we'll be part

of it. Still to see what is planned. Briony asks whether they're going to have events both years. Gavin thinks yes but not sure.

*** ACF membership list and data handling**

We have an outdated method for emailing people. It's on a spreadsheet on home computer. It's backed-up, password protected but still has risks and no longer an efficient way of doing things. Gavin raised the idea of moving to Mailchimp or something similar, which had been brought up before and now could be the right time. Giving someone's email address to a third-party has a risk that they might get hacked. At present, the process for sending our emails to the membership is laborious. We will have to change our data policy if we do this. We'll also have to advise people of this before we do it. Rachel to research to see whether there's anything other than Mailchimp we can use.

*** Any other business**

Gavin showed us the Spokes (Edinburgh cycle campaign) newsletter. They are a great example of what can be achieved and its always worth a read to see what we can learn. For example, in it they discuss their cycle count and how they count cars in addition to bikes. This lets them show the percentage of roads users that are cyclists. At 2 locations and over 10 years, they have shown that cyclists have risen to 15% of all traffic, and private car use has decreased by 28%. We're thinking of doing this at our cycle count next year. Spokes have also looked at the effects of weather on cycling.

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2019/11/wet-cold-cycling-driving/#more-15473>

*** Date of next meeting**

January 28th will be the Awards Ceremony and meeting.