

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 28 May 2013

Attending: Jyll Skinner (JS), Derek Williams (DW), Clare Roberts, Gavin Clark (GC), Radek Tschirch, Tom Skinner, Liz Lindsey (LL), Sheila Tuckwood, John Tuckwood (JT), Caitlin Cottrill (CC), Ian Mitchell (IM), Jeremy Pye, Gerard Vlaar (GV), Tegwen Northam (TN)

0 Apologies had been received from Fiona (FF) & Neil Fraser,

1 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Quality Cycle Corridors

IM has been working on the Westhill route using Bing maps. New volunteers were invited to get involved. Others in preparation besides Westhill are King St, Altens, and University to hospital. It was agreed that there is merit in using a standard format and a sub-group would meet to share the experience. This was provisionally agreed for Weds 5th June. **Action JS, DW, IM & others to meet & progress QCCs.**

Gritting – no further update since last meeting.

Guild St / Market St junction – ACF had now submitted an objection to the formal traffic orders currently being taken forward. This on the grounds that there had been a failure of the consultation process & a lack of any impact assessment for cyclists. The objection had been copied to Cllrs Ross Thomson & Iain Yuill and it has been requested that ACF has the opportunity to present its concerns to Committee.

Prime 4 development (Westhill cycle path) - JS & DW are awaiting the opportunity to take Cllr Ross Thomson on site to show him our concerns first hand. In discussion it was agreed that the current path creates safety concerns. TN mentioned that she had moved to Westhill with the specific intention of using the route to commute into the city. She knew a colleague who had done the same. The path had become busier since the better weather had arrived (!) and there was insufficient room for 2 cyclists to pass safely. There were concerns that an accident could occur and given that the path is immediately adjacent to a busy dual carriageway with no protection, this had the potential to be very serious. It was noted that the new junction being formed would have a Toucan crossing to allow cyclists to cross it. Meantime the results of the recent cycle count on Queens Rd showed almost no change which supported the premise that numbers of cyclists

were static where they might have been expected to rise because of all the new development. ACF has also submitted an objection to the next phase of development (at the site of the veterinary practice) on the grounds that the cycle path was below standard. In further discussion it was agreed that it would be useful to gather support via a petition. This could be done either via the website but it would also be good to get “first hand” signatures from those using the route every day. TN and JT volunteered to stand by the path for a weekday morning (0700 – 0900) and evening (1600-1800) to gather signatures. **Action JS to prepare a form of petition and TN / JT to action on the ground.**

Roundabouts – Outstanding (JS is awaiting a date for a meeting with officials (Louise Napier & Doug Ritchie)).

Dyce Station cycle paths – this had been referred to Joanna Murray who had agreed to look into it.

Newsletter – please submit any articles to FF

2. Review meeting with Cllr Barney Crockett. It is almost 12 months since we met with Cllr Crockett who is leader of the Council, so DW proposed that we should seek a follow up meeting, along with Cllr Thomson if possible. Indeed Cllr Thomson’s appointment as ACC’s Cycling Champion was a direct result of the previous meeting and had been one of ACF’s manifesto points at the local elections of May 2012. Another outcome was that cycling had been added as one of the Council’s strategic priorities, and now was a good time to review if that was working. Westhill / Prime 4 was perhaps a good example of how it wasn’t. **Action: JS to approach Cllr Crockett for another meeting.**

3. Pedal on Parliament. JS reported that the event had been a success with estimates of attendance up on the previous last year. The event organisers estimate was 3 – 4,000.

4. AOBs:

(LL) Hazlehead Park. LL had attended a meeting at which plans for upgrading of the park were discussed. There were lots of ideas, but little money to deliver them. There had been suggestions of a BMX park & cycle training areas. However cycle parking had not really progressed and it seemed that it was not being given much priority. It was suggested that LL could take it up with Louise Napier to see if ACC could deploy some of its ‘stock’ of Sheffield stands. The vicinity of the cafe was felt to be the priority and the contrast was made with Duthie Park where the stands outside the Winter Gardens are very well used.

(IM & CC) IM had attended a meeting of the MUSIC group “Mitigation in Urban Areas: Solutions for Innovative Cities”(Setting the Agenda for Aberdeen’s Energy

Transition) - Six potential pilot projects were identified to support the aims of the MUSIC project - to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. Two of the pilots in which IM had engaged were a) a City / Shire Transport Plan and b) Take Back the Streets. More info is available at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/musicproject.

The next meeting of the latter project group is Wed 19 June (1030 – 1230) and the former Friday 28 June (1000 – 1200). IM is unlikely to be able to attend so another ACF rep would be good. Any volunteers?

(GC) Bikweek was coming up in June (17 – 25th). ACF would not be organising any particular activities although it was agreed that we could direct people to the 'Try Cycling' sessions held in Duthie Park. Although we had contributed to various Bike Week activities in the past, it was disappointing that ACC were not taking the initiative.

(GC) Inverramsey Bridge. An email had been received from a Mr Moir in Buckie proposing a cycle path improvement as part of the Inverramsey Bridge redevelopment. He mentioned that he had already put the idea to the consultation meeting held in Huntly but had had a negative response. It was noted that the consultation period was now closed so there was probably little we could do. The problem seemed to be that the bridge improvement is being taken forward by Transport Scotland, because the A96 is a trunk route. Mr Moir had sensibly proposed a link with the old road but because it is de-trunked it is the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council. GV felt sure that CTC would have had input and that the cycle provision for the new bridge should thus be of a good standard.

(TN) TN mentioned that Atkins are moving from their office in Golden Square and in the new location priority was being given to cycle provision including secure parking, changing & showers and a drying room.

(LL & all) A presentation of a book & gift voucher was made to DW by way of thanks for his 10 year tenure as Chair.
