

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 28th January 2014

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS) Derek Williams (DW), Euan Innes (EI), Mike Nieman (MN), Sheila Tuckwood (ST), John Tuckwood (JT), Liz Lindsey (LL), Gavin Clark (GC), Ian Mitchell (IM), Laura Fruhen (LF), Bob Pringle (BP), Neil Innes (NI)

0 None received.

1 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Roundabouts. A meeting is expected during February. JS and DW will attend, any others available & willing to attend please contact JS..

Westhill cycle path. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) have now formed a Petitions Committee and we have been asked to re-submit via that procedure.

EP& I Committee. / Winterising JS has now been given a phone number that we can use to report problems. It will be publicised to the membership through normal channels.

Quality cycle corridors. We have submitted our ideas for the Westhill route to Joanna Murray and her team. We are expecting some feedback but may have to follow up.

Triple Kirks. No news. DW will chase further.

Ellon Rd / Parkway. Hoping for further talks with the consultant.

Cycle parking. Noted that the stands on Union St (Waterstones) had gone back in. The ones intended for Hazlehead Park (cafe) are expected within a couple of weeks. JS mentioned that ACC still have a stock of 'Sheffield' stands which can be installed quickly and easily (in theory!) if we suggest locations.

2. Gritting / winterising.

Covered above, but a couple of new points were raised. NI asked about clearing leaves particularly on the Deeside line, where accumulations of leaves make the surface very slippery in places. GC suggested using the 'Report It' facility on the ACC website. Flooding on the Formartine / Buchan Way has also been raised. ACF has already raised this with ACC and JS agreed to follow up in due course if there

was no action. [Noted afterwards that some leaves had been swept off the Deeside Line the same day – presumed coincidence only!]

3. Argyll / Dyce Drive & Westhill ASLs

JS had attended a meeting which was discussing proposals for the removal of the roundabout near Westhill which forms the junction between the A944 and the B9119. After canvassing some members, it had been decided not to press for ASLs to be put in on the A944, but we would ask for one eastbound on the B9119. IM asked if drawings were available for these projects, but JS doesn't have them.

At Dyce Drive (airport turn off near Shell garage) this is set to become a 4 way junction in due course but there was also a proposal to extend the existing shared use path out to this point. ACF will be in contact with the Roads department about coordinating the changes along the new road at Dyce Dr./Argyll Place and the future implementation of a dual use path'

4. CWSS & Nestrans meetings

One important thing to note is that funding has been approved for the post of a Cycling Development officer. This is to be advertised as a full time post in April, for 2 years.

JS had a list of projects which were being considered although the available funding didn't seem to go very far on past experience, and with the exception of resurfacing Great Northern Rd shared use path, DW felt it was difficult to identify what had been achieved last year. It was hoped that the new post might improve this situation. IM is to scan the list and it will be made available for comment.

One project expected to be put in place is the positioning of bollards on Ship Row to prevent inappropriate parking. GC expressed doubts about the use of bollards because of the potential hazard & inconvenience they present, not just to cyclists but to pedestrians especially wheelchair users or partially sighted.

JS hoped to see a few other projects in particular progress. Justice Mill Lane and Hardgate contra-flow / shared use path on Great Southern Rd.

5. Marschial Square

From the recent consultation, it was quite hard to know what the objectives for this project are, and what we should be looking for other than cycle access in any 'pedestrianised' area. LF added that we might look for a segregated route through. GC commented that we should perhaps be concerned about the impact on surrounding roads if traffic is displaced there it could make them less attractive.

El then spoke about ACC's Main Issues Report. It includes reference to the sustainable urban mobility plan (SUMP). The MIR is a consultation process and an opportunity for us (and all!) to comment on plans for the city centre ahead of the next development plan. It is available via the Consultations tab on the ACC website, and is open for comment until 24th March. It was agreed that JS would prepare a draft response from ACF which could then be considered at the February meeting.

6. Cycle Safety Leaflet

BP had – on his own initiative – developed this leaflet and outlined his reasons for doing so. It was intended that it would be available via his website (once launched) and could be distributed from bike shops with every new bike. As something of an after-thought and following a suggestion from LL, he had presented it to ACF in the hope that they might endorse it and facilitate wider distribution. He was open to comments over the text but wished to keep the format to the current size (A4 twice folded). DW suggested that comments be gathered and further discussion could be had at the next meeting. MN expressed support in principle but had some doubts over content (roundabouts in particular) and liability issues if ACF were seen to endorse it, although it was noted that there was already some safety tip info on the leaf of ACF's cycle map. GC asked whether CTC or others with a national remit don't produce something similar? Others had looked at this but found that there was something of a gap in terms of a concise & easily read leaflet. MN had done some research in the past, with data from RoSPA and NHS Bristol and was keen that the content should be evidence-led i.e. focus on the most common causes of accidents. LL noted that it was such a wide topic area it would be very challenging to get the content right, depending on who the intended audience was and it was also difficult to get the right balance between positive encouragement and off-putting "horror stories".

7. Co-operation between cycling clubs and organisations

This was c/f from November's meeting. GC had put it on the agenda as a result of some discussion on our Facebook page about the potential for cooperation between the various cycling clubs and organisations with an interest in Aberdeen. Although most of the other clubs had a racing focus, they also had a lot of members who cycled for fitness or to commute. Hence there was at least a chance of sufficient common ground for us explore the idea of cooperation. GC would attempt to contact the reps of some of the larger clubs and ask their views.

8. AOBs

i) LL Bikeability is being taken forward by Adventure Aberdeen, who are aiming to train volunteers. Funding is limited to 1 year.

ii) LL Problem identified at the roundabout at the end of Lang Stracht (Kingswells) where drivers are ignoring or “not seeing” the red light on the Toucan crossing because of the juxtaposition with the part-time traffic lights on the roundabout.

iii) DW noted that it has been some time since we sent a mass email to the membership and thought we should send out something to maintain contact. JS confirmed that she is putting something together which GC will issue shortly.

iv) GC reminded all present that we expect a representative from the Police to be coming to talk to the February meeting. GC had been advised that the Police would not be giving any presentation as such, but would answer questions. Hence it would be helpful if members could submit questions in advance (email to JS or GC) so that we could get a feel for the type of issue. The meeting would start at 7pm instead of the usual 7.30, with normal business after the session from the Police.

Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 25 January 2014, at the earlier start time of 7pm.
