



ABERDEEN CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

19:30 hours Tuesday, 24th June 2008

Committee Room 5 at the Town House

1. Welcome, Apologies and Attendance

Apologies

Carl Gerrard.

Present

Derek Williams (Chair), Dave Cheseldine, Louise Napier, Chris Howard, Marcus Linkerman, Fiona Fraser, Neil Fraser, Liz Lindsey, Dave Lindsey, Gail McMillan.

2. Minutes

Previous minutes were accepted although they had not been formally issued on the website. A draft had been issued and circulated but not finalised.

Action: FF to finalise.

3. Bike Week Report

Highland Games

Thanks to Louise and all who staffed the stall at the Highland Games. The event was very successful, there was a lot of interest from those coming into the Eco-City marquee and it resulted in 35 more names for our mailing list.

The draw for the free cycling bag was won by No 9 on the list

Jo*****rne@bp.com

we will be contacting him by e-mail to let him know and send out his prize (**Action: LN**).

We also gave away:

151 - Cycle Maps, 79 - Bike Bells, 52 - Newsletters, 47 - Get Cycling Guides, 37 - Cycling To Work Leaflets, 34 - Getting Started Leaflets, 16 - Bike Passports, 15 - NCN Route 1, 15 cycle helmets (thanks Gerard!)

Commuter Challenge

We have received 55 entries for the commuter challenge this year so far but entry is still open (until the end of the week). This is a disappointing response

in comparison with 2006 when the entries were over 100. There could be several reasons for this, , the advertising was late/last minute and there was less general advertising of the event. This will be reviewed before the challenge is set for next year.

Post Meeting Note – Final Number of entries : 117

Film Night

Excellent turnout, very popular the event was fully booked and a number of people were unable to get in. The capacity of that cinema screen is 65 we may look for one of the larger screens for next year! Belmont manager was contacted following the films and he is keen to help us with our film for next year. Congratulation to Dave and Liz for organising such a successful event. Sponsors: Cycling Scotland agreed to pay the fees for the films but disappointingly did not come to the film showing as promised. NESTRANS will cover the shipping and transportation costs of the film.

Try Cycling and CTC rides

Both TryCycling and the usual CTC rides were publicised for Bike Week. This resulted in a few new faces appearing at the Try Cycling but no change on the CTC rides.

LN mentioned that Cycling Scotland might sponsor a cycle event next year (Contact: Earl Wilkie) if a similar arrangement could be set-up to the rides they organise in Edinburg and Glasgow eg Duthie Park to Ballater out the Deeside line with a bus provided to return cyclists and bikes to Aberdeen at the end. **Action: LN to co-ordinate with CS.**

Press Coverage

There were sort pieces in both the Press and Journal and the Evening Express for Bike week, both articles quoted ACF website. **Action: CG to check if the number of hits on the website increased as a result.**

3. Consultations/Responses/Plans

Berryden Corridor – 4 Pre-Consultation workshops were held to discuss the proposed dualling of the road from the CLAN building, heading north past the retail park to the other side of St Machar Drive where the existing road becomes dual carriageway before the fountain (Woodside junction). Forum members attended 3 out of the 4 sessions.

Cycle facilities will be included with the scheme and a 24 hour bus lane was being considered. The final scheme will have to take cyclists into consideration. Formal consultation will follow.

CWSS (Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets) spending priorities 2008-2010 – DW and CG attended a meeting with Graeme Mackenzie and Doug Ritchie of the Roads Department to discuss the budget and spending priorities for the

period ahead. A list priorities was presented and possible projects which may require 'traffic orders' for next year (eg shared paths, contra flows, ASL, etc). Two Corridors came into focus at the meeting, King Street out to the Exhibition Centre and Union Grove out to the Macaulay Institute. The budget has to be split evenly between the three areas of Aberdeen which is very limiting. Traffic Orders (TRO) will be requested in August for shared paths, contra flows, etc. The CWSS budget will remain in existence for this year and next but it will then end.

We still await progress on installing more cycle parking. Graeme McKenzie agreed to send us the latest schedule of new parking locations.

Cycling Strategy – The National Strategy from the Scottish Government is due to be issued in August, the Local Strategy will follow on from that. . There will be a working group to help develop the strategy. **Action: LN.**

5. NCR Route 1 Update

The Aberdeen section of this route is not good and requires change, particularly the southern entry to the city. To re-direct the route from the south onto the Deeside line requires the co-operation of both the City and the Shire. **Action: ACF to organise a meeting with Linda (Aberdeenshire Council), Louise Napier, ACF and the CTC to discuss and agree possible routes and future action.**

SUSTRANS have provided funding for the northern part of NCR1 for next year. Planning permission is still in process for part of the route, a recent change of ownership of some of the land has delayed matters. This is now designated as a 'core path' which would allow compulsory purchase of land should that be required.

6. Tenants Open Day 26th July

ACF has been invited to take a stall at the Council Tenants Open day in the Music Hall. This event is to give information to new and existing council tenants on services and facilities available in Aberdeen. This event is still worthwhile, so close to the Highland games as it attracts a different range of people. Volunteers for the day: LN, FF, NF, GM, DC, DW.

Post Meeting Note: GM is no longer available due to work constraints

7. Cycling Scotland

The Cycling Scotland Audit report of local authorities has been issued and Aberdeen fared quite well with a 'co-ordinated approach' to cycling. The results are based on completed questionnaires sent back from the local authorities. There are a series of recommendations for Aberdeen and these will be reported back to the council 'continuous improvement' committee

(audit) by Louise. . The working group for the cycle strategy could form the basis for such a steering group to oversee cycling development in the city.

The forum was particularly interested to see a senior level steering group recommended.

The forum was disappointed with the lack of performance and poor co-ordination of Cycling Scotland during Bike Week. Despite sponsoring the Bike week films, Cycling Scotland initially committed to attend the film show and provide promotional information after the show. At short notice, they intimated that they would not attend but would send up some literature, this has never arrived. Cycling Scotland arranged a competition to win a set of family bikes on local radio (Northshound1) without any co-ordination with either the local authority (Louise) or with the forum. Generally communication with Cycling Scotland is difficult as many communications receive no response. The forum would like to write to Cycling Scotland to express their concerns, possibly in association with CTC Grampian. **Action: DL to liaise with CTC.** Perhaps we could invite CS to meet with us?

8. Resurrecting Bike Buddy Scheme

Concerns were raised over the liability and insurance issues with Bike Buddy. **Actions: LN to check if council insurance can be extended to cover the forum for this. DL to check if CTC insurance can be used? Also Council insurance may be extended to cover the trainers which the council sponsored to be trained a couple of years ago?**

It was suggested that the Bike Buddy should be available to arrange inaugural rides to celebrate the opening of the new completed cycle track from West hill into town. NESTRANS have supplied a marketing budget to promote the new route and the bike buddy could be incorporated with this. LN will be arranging leaflets nearer the time. Route is due for completion later this year.

9. AOB

ASL (Advanced StopLines) at the top of Crown Street have not been reinstated following the recent junction and traffic light changes. **Action: LN to speak to Colin Gibb.**

NHS Grampian are setting up a Active Travel Working Group and the forum has been invited to participate.

Bikefit progress - there has been no recent information from Bikefit, hopefully an update will be available at the next meeting **Action DW**

Next Meeting – Tuesday 29th July, 19:30, Town House.

Apologies for next meeting – DL, LL, & ML (2 meetings)

Meeting ends.