

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of monthly meeting

Tuesday 25th February 2020

Present: Jo Banks, Ian Mitchell, Claire Roberts, Gavin Clark, Fiona McDonald, Anna Bearne, Briony Kincaid, Nathan Gore, Francesco Sani

AWARDS

Recap - last month we announced winners for Best in Cycling Awards and it was our biggest ever meeting with 40 plus attending. It was fun and everyone took it in good spirits. Any feedback or comments? Will we do it again? Jo asked did we do a spotlight on the winners? Gavin says yes it was like the Oscars! It was featured in The Evening Express. Ian says may be too many categories so we could slim down the number next time. Nice for businesses to get the recognition and people who won were clearly chuffed by it. Jo asks was it on Fubar news? No. We'll look into it.

CAMPAIGNS

Market Street postcards - 3rd visualisation we've done (Cycling UK funded the first and Lush funded the 2nd two). One person from CTC got in touch and was a bit confused because there wasn't anywhere specific to put an address when sending to the Council. Ian put a box at his work with a slit in the top and checks back to collect them all. What does the Council do with them all when they get them, and do they keep a count? Gavin will try to find out. Could ask Sandra MacDonald?

Reclaim the streets - Still need to raise another £800. Jo suggests asking Transition Extreme. Email out to membership. Bake sale - need to get permission from the council to sell baked goods to raise money for charity. Aquatics centre had said we can put some promotional signs up there. Ask the University? Ian suggests a raffle or a race night. Jo will approach TX and see whether we can have a donation box there and also publicise the JustGiving page.

How to spend £5000 available from Smarter Choices Smarter Places. To be clear, this is being offered towards the cost of the event but we require to match it, so we can't use it to pay for the actual road closure, but it can go towards other costs or promotion or activities on the day. Some giveaway freebies were a possibility to mark the event and (for example) reward those who took part in the event evaluation. Anything we but should be things that will be useful: not tat that will be discarded. Hiviz vests or seat covers with our logo on it., might be a possibility. Or snap bands with "Reclaim the streets". Bells with logos. Cotton cycling cap. Buffs - £2:50 each Nathan says he has a contact.

Fiona asks is we have a sound system. Gavin mentioned we could invite Charlie with his bike and get a van for him so we can bring the bike with him. Fiona is working on the missing persons policy. Suggested the park runs would be similar and Fiona to ask her contact if they can share the manual.

John Lewis, Trinity Centre, and Chamber of Commerce are all in favour of pedestrianisation so could contact them for support?

Francesco asked if anyone is getting dressed up to cycle around? Could invite clowns or the fellow with the penny farthing who has been at ITWMC in the past.

Gavin talked about volunteers to help with organising the event. Fiona already offered and Briony and Ian put their hands up. Jo is a graphic designer and will create a Reclaim the Streets logo.

Need to advertise the event. Good contacts are UofA and Jo is at RGU. Gavin says we could ask Grampian Cycle Partnership to share the event. They had previously declined to publicise our Awards night on the grounds that we weren't members (we thought we were ...) but that should have been resolved now.

Contact Deliveroo for sponsorship?

CONSULTATIONS

Bridge of Dee West - about connections for active travel in Garthdee area. Drawings are quite small so difficult to see plans. There was a drop-in event but it has passed. We'll probably send a written response.

Refresh of active travel plan - now closed. The questions were about how to encourage more walking and cycling. The format of the on-line consultation was a bit disappointing - the questions seemed to be dwelling on things like "what would encourage you to walk or cycle more". Our feeling is that these answers are pretty obvious and the debate needs to move on.

Civitas Portas - we've been approached by Caroline Hood who is a researcher at RGU. Civitas Portas is an EU-funded project for EU cities that are ports. She's doing a recap - has it worked?; has it made any difference? Gavin said about half a dozen people have volunteered to go to give feedback.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

Fiona mentioned how Spokes had flyers they attached to bikes. Fiona to contact girl guides. Thank a cyclist campaign. Attach signs to bikes and cycle around.

Francesco got a response from London North Eastern Railway - new cycle facilities are terrible. Insufficient space and can't get the bike in there. Francesco emailed them about it and they're apparently going to review it. Required to have reservations.

BBC out of doors did a story with Gavin about visiting the countryside using public transport and folding bikes, also a piece the same day about e-bikes..

Tour of Britain - Gavin got invited to a civic reception about the event for this Thursday. Will be council and people from events.

Suggested that another business we could contact for sponsorship is **McIntosh** Plant- Bert McIntosh is an enthusiast who has the Knockburn Loch facility and has been a longtime supporter of Deeside Thistle.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 31st March