

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Euan Innes (EI), Mike Nieman (MN) John Tuckwood (JT), Ian Mitchell (IM), Liz Lindsay (LL), Kris Howard (KH), Marjorie Inglis (MI), Richard Pelling (RP)

---

0 Councillor Jim Kiddie (Torry & Ferryhill ward) joined the meeting to discuss Market St and other links from Torry to the city centre. After a short introduction, Cllr Kiddie offered to facilitate a meeting between ACF and a representative of the Harbour Board over whether there were any options which could take cyclists off Market St. JS welcomed the opportunity and hopes that a meeting can be set up shortly.

GC described some of the other issues cyclists face in travelling to & from Torry including the roundabouts at either end of the Queen Elizabeth bridge, plus some hazards on the northern approach to Wellington Bridge because of inappropriate presence of traffic using a short cut after bollards had been vandalised, plus unrestricted parking. GC had raised this with ACC officials more than once in the last year but had had little response. It was agreed that Cllr Kiddie could pursue this and GC agreed to provide more details by email after the meeting.

JS thanked Cllr Kiddie for attending and he then left the meeting.

### **1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Roundabouts. JT reported that he had had an out of office reply so there was no progress.

LOAF rep. – IM gave a short report from the first meeting he had attended..

Deeside Way audit – MN presented what he has done so far being the section from Duthie Park to Murtle. The route is generally not well marked and it is hard to find the way onto the route at the rear of Duthie Park unless you already know where you are going. The new traffic / pedestrian separation at the Duthie Park (Polmuir Rd) car park made no provision for cyclists at all. One possibility might be paint marking on the road surface as this was less obtrusive than signage and less prone to vandalism. Funding for signage was discussed and it was noted that ACC have £92k from Nestrans/Sustrans to be spent on the Deeside Way. Also Aberdeen Greenspace have in the past provided waymarking so might be able to assist.

---

Mass ride – It was noted that the date for ‘In town without my car day’ was 21 September. The idea of a ‘feeder’ ride was discussed, but we are unclear as to whether ACF can associate itself with the organisation of a ride such as this because of uncertainty over liabilities. JS had tried contacting Pedal on Parliament over what provisions they had made. Given the uncertainty over what number of people might turn up for a ride (20, or 200!) it would be difficult to ask the Police for a road closure for example. Another option would be that the ride takes place without any formal organisation, but in that case ACF would probably not be able to actively promote it. We would aim to decide which of these models to follow by the date of the June meeting.

Tourist route – JS to recce on the weekend of 7/8 June if anyone wants to help out please get in touch.

## **2. Cycle Count results**

Results from the count were good with numbers up at almost all locations. There had been one hiccup over the count on Union St which had been done the following week. As previously, it has been commented that by only starting at 0730 we are missing a lot of commuters. LL had done a test count from 0700-0730 and found more cyclists in that slot than 0730-0800. It was suggested that next year we need to start the count at 0700. However a 2 hr slot might be too much for some in which case we might need to split it and have 2 people to cover each location.

## **3. Police / traffic enforcement**

JS has had a reply from the Police in answer to her question as to when we might expect to see more Police out on bikes. The answer was “within the next few months”. JS will follow up in due course.

GC had been reflecting on the Police Q&A and in particular the fact that they do not actively enforce ASLs because of a lack of resources. ASLs were by far top of the list as to things that members had wanted us to raise with Police. GC proposed that we conduct our own traffic survey of ASL infringement to provide some data to support our case: what is important is not just abuse of the ASLs itself, but any lack of enforcement allows (some) drivers to ignore the rights of cyclists and serves to reinforce the attitude among some drivers that ‘cyclists don’t matter’ If following a survey we can present data that (for example) 40% of drivers infringe ASLs, then this could then be used as leverage with the Police or ACC, and/or in press PR. GC is to produce a survey methodology and seek a few other volunteers to help with the survey.

---

#### **4. Westhill cycle path / Five Mile garage**

JS had met with the proprietor of Five Mile garage but he was mainly concerned about the potential for collisions between cyclists and vehicles entering or leaving his forecourt. There wasn't a lot of common ground except it was agreed that the ideal solution would be for the cycle path being diverted behind the garage *eventually*, related to future development of the business park and the AWPR. There had also been some discussion of the bus stop and its layout.

Meantime JS had contacted ACC that the give way markings for cycles crossing the forecourt were no longer visible and needed to be repainted.

#### **5. AOBs**

(RP) Noted that there are major earthworks underway at Parkhill, presumably related to the AWPR and RP asked what the arrangements were for it crossing the Formartine Buchan Way? Previous diversions & closures had sometimes been unannounced and took little account of the needs of path users. For issues like this in Aberdeenshire (rather than Aberdeen City) it raised the question of how to respond because ACF members/officials didn't currently have capacity to engage with a second local authority.

(RP) Highlighting a couple of concerns about design flaws on the shared use path on Auchmill Rd. Firstly there are bus shelters with very restricted space to pass, exacerbated by the end of the bus shelter not being transparent. Secondly at the junction with Oldmeldrum Rd there was a need for better road markings.

(LL) report on a Bikeability meeting. Generally very positive with Adventure Aberdeen having provided training and ongoing mentoring support to 17 schools plus a further 11 engaged. 50% of schools in Aberdeen were said to have been in favour of taking it up. Also reported that a number of staff from ACC planning department had been allowed to give up half a day to assist with training. Adventure Aberdeen are hopeful of securing funding to continue next year. Fines from bus lane cameras are a possible source of funds.

(JS) noted that the leader of the Council was now Jenny Laing and following on the positive meetings we had had with her predecessor, we should try to set up a meeting.

#### **6. Date of next meeting.**

Proposed as Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, normal start time of 1930hrs

---