

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 24 September 2013**

Attending: Jyll Skinner (JS) (Chair) Derek Williams (DW), Gavin Clark (GC), Radek Tschirch (RT), Laura Fruhen (LF), Liz Lindsay (LL) Euan Innes (EI), Mike Nieman (MN)

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0 Apologies none received.

### 1 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Noted that in the minutes of the August meeting Derek had mistakenly been referred to throughout as 'DF'.

Roundabouts – Outstanding. Still no date for a meeting. JS to chase once again.

Newsletter – no update.

Westhill cycle path. No progress. Feedback from a few people at Sunday's event was that minor clearing work had been done to remove accumulated soil & debris so the effective width of the path was slightly better in places. MN noted that a thick white dividing line has been painted on the new section (dividing pedestrian & cyclists). Some comments had been received that the white line itself was very slippery. DW also noted that a new post had gone in adjacent to the path which was presumably to mount a cantilevered road sign.

Ellon Rd. We had now received a response to the comments submitted, but no specific mention made about the problematic bus stop. JS noted that the advertising hoarding on the end of the bus stops (Auchmill Rd) was limiting visibility and wondered whether they could be moved. DW thought that the bus shelters are operated under contract so ACC's options may be limited. The next stage report from the consultant is expected in October.

Anderson Drive – DW has sent back comments following the recce done by several members. GC suggested that the document be posted on the website. **Action GC.**

EP& I Committee. DW reported briefly the outcomes in relation to winter gritting and Guild St which have already been posted in our web site 'hot topics' and in an email to members.

Contact with Police - GC has written to invite them to attend a meeting and a reply is awaited.

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City Wardens. JS has just been contacted and it was also noted that the wardens had been at Sunday's event. There are now 4 electric bikes for use by City Wardens, and 10 wardens trained to use them.

**2. Quality Cycle Corridors.** Next steps: The Westhill document had been put out via the website and Facebook. Some comments had come back, so we may need to update or amend. JS to ask IM to look at comments in conjunction with DW. Thereafter the document would be sent to key contacts & decision makers in ACC & Nestrans. **Action JS / IM / DW**

We would also now move on to finalising the King St document which RT has already done a lot of work on.

**3. Events.** The Freshnlow Pedal for Scotland event had been badly affected by weather, but also suffered from a late launch and poor publicity. It was also felt that the route - at the beach – was not ideal. However we understand that the sponsors are committed for 5 years so we hope for an improved event next year. GC suggested that we write to the organisers to encourage them to repeat the event and with suggestions for improvement. **Action GC**

'In town without my car' on 22<sup>nd</sup> September had been a much better event with a great atmosphere. Our stall wasn't terribly visible in the Nestrans tent but nevertheless had good numbers of visitors & generally good feedback about what we do.

**4. CWSS (Cycling, walking & safer streets)**

DW recapped what had been done last year although there didn't seem to be much visible for the budget of £90k. It was agreed DW should write to officials and ask whether everything had been done or whether there was money unspent. **Action DW**

There is a list of outstanding suggestions that we have provided before which are yet to be done, but it was also felt that we should ask around the membership again for new suggestions. Ideas need to be specific & detailed. **Action GC**

**5. Bridge of Dee consultation**

ACC & Jacobs (Consultants) have been undertaking an early-stage consultation on proposals for a new crossing over the Dee. However all options presented seem to presuppose that despite AWPR, traffic volumes are set to increase and a new bridge is needed. Some of the proposals seem outlandish – such as a new link road crossing behind Asda and through the ski centre. Design of some junctions seemed extremely convoluted and totally unsuitable for non-motorised traffic. The consultation itself seems to be loaded because respondents are asked to complete a questionnaire which requires them to select a favoured option, which was

unsatisfactory when (in our view) all the options are unacceptable. We are left questioning what brief had been given to the consultants. It was agreed that DW would prepare & circulate a written response which would not use the questionnaire provided. **Action DW**

6. Triple Kirks development. DW had noted that the development has changed hands from Stewart Milne to Dandara & wondered if this presented an opportunity to again raise the very poor cycle parking provision which had been incorporated in the previous design (access only from the Denburn dual carriageway) RT would draft a letter to Dandara. **Action RT**

## 7. AOBs

(LL) Bikeability results for last year were disappointing in that only 21 out of 48 primary schools had taken part and only 15 of those had managed to deliver level 2 training (broadly equivalent to cycling proficiency). For next year, ACC have opted to have the scheme run by Adventure Aberdeen. They will provide training & mentoring for those schools who are prepared to commit long term and have 2 staff per school trained to deliver it. The intention is that cycling becomes part of the active / outdoor 'P.E.' that schools are required to include.

(DW) Proposed that we try to set up a date for a further meeting with Planners. Suggested agenda to include large projects such as College St & Berryden. JS to contact Cllr Ross Thomson to try and get a date set. **Action JS**

(DW) In the media today Scottish Government are providing a further £20m via Sustrans for improved link routes. However it is up to ACC to bid-in for this, otherwise they will receive nothing. JS to email RT to encourage early engagement with this opportunity. **Action JS**

## 8. Date of next meeting.

Proposed as Tuesday 29 October.

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