

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 27 August 2013**

Attending: Derek Williams (DW) Acting Chair, Gavin Clark (GC), Ian Mitchell (IM), Clare Roberts (CR), Sheila Tuckwood (ST), John Tuckwood (JT), Adam Paxton (AP), Radek Tschirch (RT) , Martin Camianda (MC)

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0 Apologies had been received from Jyll Skinner, Tom Skinner, Laura Fruhen

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

**NB the meeting scheduled for 30 July had been cancelled. The minutes reviewed were therefore those of the meeting held on 25 June.**

Roundabouts – Outstanding. We have been pressing ACC since May to set a date for a meeting.

Newsletter – no update. GC to ask FF about progress. **Action GC**

Meeting with Barney Crockett – Much of the meeting had been taken up with discussion of the Westhill cycle path, and had been followed by the handing over of the petition. There was further discussion of possible options for widening the narrowest section of path by removal of the stone dyke, or whether safety could be improved by installation of a barrier to protect the path from traffic on the dual carriageway. DW to ask JS whether there are minutes or a list of action points that we can follow up if necessary. **Action DW**

3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing. AP asked about the relative merits of on/off road cycle routes and DW confirmed that this had been discussed at great length in the past both in general and with specific regard to this route. Discussion continued on the topic of cyclists priority (or lack of) when crossing side roads.

Media – Our presence on Facebook is picking up with now more than 100 ‘likes’ and one recent post being seen by more than 700 people. GC commented that this increased visibility had resulted in 10 names being added to our membership list in August alone.

**2. Events.** The Freshnlow Pedal for Scotland event will take place on 15 September along the beach esplanade. Although ACC had initially intended to charge an entry fee, the event was now FREE in order to stimulate entries. The short (4m) closed-road event is aimed at families but it was agreed that ACF should

give its full support in publicising the event and encouraging people to take part. Future cycle events in Aberdeen will be more likely if this one is seen to be a success.

'In town without my car' event will be on 22 September on Belmont St & Schoolhill. ACF will have a stand so there was some discussion of what we might display or how to grab the public's attention. DF & JS will be on the stand. GC & IM also if available. Other volunteers welcome.

**3. Ellon Rd / Parkway.** JS has been gathering comments on the proposed improvements but as usual there are compromises involved. CR was concerned that the lack of cycle priority over side road crossing points would mean that the route was of limited appeal and might not be used by anyone except children. It was also noted that it was pointless to direct commuting cyclists via Bridge of Balgownie. There was an issue with a bus stop being an obstacle or physical constraint which the consultant researching the route had not tackled. With several points yet to resolve it was agreed that DF would discuss with JS whether we should ask for an extension to the deadline for our comments. **Action DF**

#### **4. Anderson Drive proposed route**

Five members had met up last Wednesday and had surveyed part of the route from Bridge of Dee to Kingsgate. There had been some discussion about whether a 'poor' route was better than no route and whether compromises should be accepted or we should be pressing for better. Some sections of the route are not suitable without major works which ACC are unlikely to carry out. On the section between Great Western Rd and Cromwell Rd a shared use path using the existing pavement would not (in our view) be safe because of the number of private driveways crossing it, many with little or no visibility for emerging cars. The section to the south (Gt Western Rd to Broomhill Rd) had similar issues. However it seems to be agreed that we should give honest feedback to ACC and encourage some sections to be put in place. Sections such as Broomhill Rd / Deeside Line to Bridge of Dee were relatively straightforward and could be of use even if the whole route (end to end) was impractical. DF proposed the survey of the remainder should go ahead and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September was provisionally suggested.

#### **5. AOBs**

JT asked if a dropped kerb could be put in near Bridge of Don B&Q / Potterton Rd. DF thought this was already on the cards.

DF reported that he was to attend the EP&I Committee meeting on Thursday to make representations on the winter gritting plan. The Guild St lane changes would also be discussed at the same meeting.

GC commented on a number of press reports of recent road traffic incidents involving cyclists and knew of at least 2 other instances in the last couple of weeks of

cyclists being knocked off on roundabouts. It was proposed that we invite the Police to come & talk to a future meeting about matters of road safety. **Action GC**

**6. Date of next meeting.** 24 September

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