

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 25 June 2013**

Attending: Jyll Skinner (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Liz Lindsey (LL), Tegwen Northam (TN), Marjorie Inglis (MI), Laura Fruhen (LF)

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0 Apologies had been received from Derek Williams & Ian Mitchell,

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

#### Quality Cycle Corridors

A meeting had taken place as planned to agree the formatting of these. The first was now passed on Facebook and would be added to Word Press too.

Guild St / Market St junction – ACF has asked to present a delegation to the Committee which takes place on 29 August.

#### Roundabouts – Outstanding

Newsletter – no update. It is still hoped a late summer / autumn edition will go out.

Meeting with Barney Crockett – JS had just had contact back from his office and it was hoped to set a date in mid-July. TN asked about the frequency of these meetings and whether we should be aiming for more than once a year? In discussion it was agreed that more regular might be difficult to achieve and that it could also undermine the purpose of having a Councillor designated as cycle champion.

It was noted that 2 good things seemed to have come out of the meeting with Cllr Crockett last year. First was the fact that we now have a cycle champion. Second was that it appears ACC are taking forward our idea of a city centre cycle event. This had come to light as part of the press release over the new draft Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) but it was slightly disappointing that ACC hadn't let us know that this was in development. It was suggested that GC try asking ACC for more details, if necessary via Cllr Ross Thomson. **Action GC.**

LL gave an update on Hazlehead Park. The 'campaign' to have cycle stands installed near the cafe had been supported by several people including Cllr Thomson & Cllr Martin Grieg. It was now with officials but Louise Napier had indicated support via CWSS.

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2. **3<sup>rd</sup> Don Crossing.** JS presented the map showing detailed design of the new route. At this stage it was highly unlikely that anything could be amended so it was largely for information.

3. **Westhill cycle path / Prime 4 Development & petition.** Following a concerted effort by TN and others, a large number of signatures has been collected (both on paper and e-petition) in a relatively short space of time. There had also been coverage in the Evening Express.

Current estimate is in the region of 650. It was agreed that the impact is likely to reduce with time and it was felt that we should set a cut-off date around the end of July. TN hoped that we could still gather signatures at the Great Inverurie Bike Ride on 14<sup>th</sup> July. We could use the meeting with Cllr Crockett to make him aware and bring the petition to a close around the same time. TN would look into whether we needed permission to collect signatures at the GIBR as this is now an Aberdeenshire Council run event. If permitted – we need some volunteers to help. A meeting is also being arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> July with a couple of individuals who are connected to the development but sympathetic to our cause.

JS had contacted ACC over the question of Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) which had been cited as a reason why the path couldn't be widened. So far as she had been able to establish it is correct that the trees in question are covered by a TPO which had been in place since 2005. However it also seemed that the trees which have already been removed were also protected in the same way. Thus it could be argued that ACC were content to remove protected trees in order to improve a junction serving the development, for the benefit of traffic, but not willing to do so to protect the safety of cyclists.

#### 4. **ACF profile, “media strategy”**

Part of the feedback from the petition was that ACF wasn't as widely recognised as we would like – how can we change this? Our Facebook page has begun to pick up friends (now ~ 40) and it seemed to be the case that we should continue to use this for regular and more minor messages, and do whatever we can to increase the number of people seeing it. We still have the option of putting things up on the website although its slightly more effort and maybe not any more visible than Facebook. It was agreed that we should continue with the current policy of only using email to the full membership list when there is something important which justifies that direct approach.

#### 5. **AOBs**

DW had raised the matter of a new roundabout on Counteswells Road – JS to follow up. **Action JS.**

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LL mentioned the CTC regular campaigning bulletin & wondered whether more ACF members would be interested in seeing it. For example at present there was news of a national petition "Get Britain Cycling" with 60,000+ signatures which it was hoped could reach in 100k resulting in a Parliamentary debate.

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