

# **Aberdeen Cycle Forum**

## **Minutes of meeting**

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Mike Nieman, Ian Mitchell, Henri de Ruiter, Liz Lyndsey, Tito Casquinha, Claire Roberts, Patricia Melo, David Shannon, Michael de Barra

### **0. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Gavin Clark.

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

The 'family' ride on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> on a traffic-free route in the city starting in Duthie Park was better attended this year.

We walk, we cycle, we vote. This is an initiative to try to lobby political parties during their party conferences. It is being coordinated by a group of cycling organisations. Matt Helme is involved in a demonstration ride to coincide with the SNP party conference being held in Aberdeen between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. When ACF has more details they will be circulated. There will be another ride on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, during the Green Party conference in Glasgow.

### **2. Round up / review of 'In town without my car' and Belmont film night**

There was positive feedback for the 'In town without my car' day. Numbers were up on previous years (probably helped by the presence of the water slide attraction) and ACF members who manned our stand were kept busy handing out cycle maps, clips, lights etc. (and chocolates).

There was a full house for the film screening at the Belmont cinema. Unfortunately no one was available to attend from Aberdeen City Council, but there was a representative from Aberdeenshire Council, who took questions from the floor at the end of the showing.

### **3. Frogtober / Nexen events**

The Frogtober is an event to be held at Middleton Park School in Aberdeen on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. The Edinburgh Bike Shop and Grampian Health Board are involved as are the 'getabout' team. Jyll will put out a notice about this.

There was limited enthusiasm for attending the other event at the Prime 4 site, following feedback from last years attendees, but we will send them copies of the Cycle Map for their stand.

#### **4. Nigg Bay**

The Aberdeen City Council web site explaining the proposal can be reached by the link below. This site allows access to supporting documents.

The 6 week public consultation commenced on Wednesday 30 September 2015 and ends on Wednesday 11 November 2015.

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/planning\\_sustainable\\_development/pla\\_devframework\\_nigg\\_bay.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/planning_sustainable_development/pla_devframework_nigg_bay.asp)

ACF should work to ensure that good measures are in place for the alternative National Route 1 that will be required by this development. We should also look closely at the access arrangements for staff in the new facility to permit as many people as possible to cycle there. Aberdeen City Council are already aware that better active travel arrangements are required for the Torry and Kincorth areas of the city.

#### **5. Festive fund**

Ross Thompson had contacted Jyll Skinner to say that it is possible to bid for contributions towards suitable (non-alcoholic) festive celebrations. Jyll is to consider how we might be able to apply for funds for this purpose.

#### **6. Cycleway for Scotland**

David du Feu, from Spokes, Edinburgh had contacted Jyll Skinner asking for ACF's support for better infrastructure for cycling on the AWPR, and for planned upgrades of the A96 and A90. Liz Lindsey suggested that it would be a good idea to contact Gerard Vlaar who had been lobbying the Transport Minister about the AWPR. It seemed unlikely that at this late stage anything could be changed for the AWPR, but it might be possible on the other developments which were apparently at a much earlier stage. It was agreed that we should offer support for better cycling facilities for these two projects.

A general discussion followed on how we can seek to have more influence over problems with cycling in Aberdeen. Henri de Ruyter said he would look some of the issues that been raised previously and would see if we could identify councillors from the relevant area. It was felt getting responses from councillors would be more likely if the ACF members contacting them were from their ward.

## **7. AOBs**

Jyll Skinner introduced Michael de Barra, from Social Sciences in Aberdeen University, who had been in touch with her regarding the cycle count data. Michael said he had graphed the data obtained in previous years up to 2015, but the results were rather inconclusive. Jyll said that a further complicating factor was that the timing of the survey period had changed this year. It would be useful if Michael could look at the data again when we have the results for next year's survey.

Jyll Skinner said that she had just received an email from Louise in Aberdeen City Council regarding the proposed cycle path on Dyce Drive. This indicated that there were difficulties in making the path continuous on one side of the carriageway and asked for our opinion on where a crossing should be placed to take it to the other side. There was discussion about this, but members were concerned that this would be unsatisfactory, leading cyclists to revert to the road rather than cross over. It was agreed that Jyll would ask Louise to meet with some members to discuss the issue. Jyll would contact members who had volunteered to take this forward to check their availability for a meeting.

Ian Mitchell had attended a consultation meeting on the proposed extension to Union Square. The developers' proposals included an extra 1000 parking spaces. Ian said that there were indications that in view of the existing congestion, air pollution issues etc. in Market Street it seemed likely that the council would be reluctant to agree to this. Stagecoach had also apparently raised their concerns about the move.

Ian Mitchell said that he had been speaking to Daisy Narayanan, Deputy Director of Built Environment at Sustrans In Edinburgh. He had suggested that she might like to attend one of our meetings and she indicated that she would be interested in doing this. It was agreed that Jyll Skinner would offer a formal invitation to Ms Narayanan, with a view to discussing how Sustrans might have a higher profile in this area, since at the moment it does seem as though their efforts are heavily Central Belt oriented.

Finally Jyll Skinner indicated that she had been asked to support the continuation of the role of Kathryn MacKay, Cycling Development Officer at Nestrans and she said she had given her strong support on behalf of ACF.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

Next meeting to be Tuesday 27 October, 1930hrs at the Townhouse (Broad St / Queen St entrance).