

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of AGM & meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Jacqueline Willis, Henri de Ruiter, Dave Shannon, Clare Roberts, Mike Nieman, Ruth Wolfe, Liz Lindsey, Adam Paxton,

### **0. Apologies**

Matt Helme, John Tuckwood, Sheila Tuckwood

### **1. Report from out-going office bearers**

**Chair:** JS gave a quick summary of the year past, including:

**Positives:** we had repeated the annual cycle count and numbers were up. Lots of consultations continue to come to us (such as the Masterplan) and members continue to give very worthwhile input. We continue to press Aberdeen City Council (ACC) in how to make best use of the CWSS (Cycling , walking, safer streets) funds allocated to them.

**Negatives:** The situation with the Westhill cycle path has reached an impasse. While we continue to gain some traction with ACC at a higher or more strategic level, there are few signs of that filtering down to actual delivery of meaningful and high quality improvements. We have contributed to the Masterplan consultation but it is too early to say what will become of that.

**Going forward:** we will know within a few days how successful our PoP ride has been – hopefully it will give us something to build on and it can become an annual event. We hope to produce a policy summary document on the benefits of cycling which can be given to Councillors or others “off the shelf”. We will be contributing to ACC’s Cycling Action Plan as part of their Local Transport Strategy.

**Treasurer:** CR reported that there had been no spend at all during the year, so the opening and closing balances were both £718. There is an outstanding action to get the signatories to the account updated. CR proposed and all present agreed that our banking remains with the Co-op.

**Secretary:** GC reported that during the last 12 months our membership list had increased from 449 to 487. In the same period our following on Facebook following has increased from 224 to 449. There will be some overlap between the 2 but we don’t know how much. We will be launching a new website very shortly which should be easier to maintain and add to, and to link with our Facebook page. Much

work behind the scenes is being done on the website by 'webmaster' Carl Gerrard to whom thanks are due.

## **2. Election on office bearers.**

This section of the meeting was Chaired by LL.

Nominations for the 3 positions (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) were received and seconded for JS, CR and GC respectively. No further nominations were made so all 3 office bearers will continue as before.

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

The only matter not covered in the agenda was the proposal to meet again with Russell Henderson (AECOM) re the Masterplan. JS will try to arrange this.

## **4. Pedal on Parliament.**

The various arrangements were all in hand (including media, contact with bus companies and emergency services, publicity via flyers). HdR had also done an excellent 'guest blog' on the main PoP website.

Cllr Grant was no longer able to attend which was disappointing however we hoped that Cllrs Yuill, Townson and Thomson would be present.

There had also been further with Chief Inspector Main. It was now likely that some officers would attend Hazlehead to observe proceedings. Thanks to Matt for progressing this.

## **5. Annual cycle count / commuter challenge**

Dates for the count were discussed and we eventually settled on 12/13/14 May. Following a lot of previous comments that starting at 0730 is too late, we now propose to start at 0700. There was concern that 2 hrs was a long time to stand /sit at one go. However GC thought that statistically there was no reason why it couldn't be done as 2 x 1 hr slots on different days. We will seek volunteers in due course.

GC pointed out that the 'commuter challenge' had previously been done as part of BikeWeek activities in June so it was agreed we would leave it for now.

## **6. Report from recent meetings with ACC**

There was to have been a road safety meeting. JS had been unable to attend due to illness but CR, LL and GC had gone. Unfortunately ACC had been confused about the purpose of the meeting. The individuals present were not the same as those who had been at the last safety meeting, and had not been briefed. The police had either not been invited or did not attend. There was some discussions about CWSS projects and we made the point about what we understood the purpose of the meeting was. ACC staff agreed to write up a note of the meeting but as yet this has

not been received. Agreed that JS will chase for minutes and for setting a date for the next meeting with ACC and Police.

LL reported back on BikeAbility (schools training). Now being done by Adventure Aberdeen and is proving very successful. There are now almost 50 primary schools participating and more expected to join this year. Funding seems secure, including for a summer school.

Hazlehead (secondary) are hoping to do a "Give me cycle space" ride but need one more trained cycle leader – any volunteers?

## **7. AOBs**

i. (RW) -alterations to cycle path at Stoneywood entrance to a new development by Dandara. Unacceptable and needs to be followed up with ACC.

ii. (HdR) – had been in touch with ACC about a new cycle lane on Ashgrove Road West. Despite the road being plenty wide, a lane which is in places only 1.24m wide had been painted when the absolute minimum specified in 'Cycling by Design' is 1.5m. Response was that this had been a mistake by the line painting squad. Due to cost they did not propose to rectify it now but could do so when the paint wore off, probably in 12 – 18 months.

iii. (GC) - had been contacted by a cyclist who had used the new section of cycle path along Riverside Drive. The individual concerned had been astonished to discover that at the eastward extent of the path where it meets George IV bridge (roundabout beside Duthie Park) there is no safe means to cross. Cyclists (and for that matter pedestrians) hoping to continue to travel east are faced with either having to cross Riverside Drive right beside the roundabout, or trying to cross 4 lanes of traffic on the bridge – which the individual had said he found "almost impossible" to do safely.

ACF had made this exact point when the path improvement on Riverside Drive had been presented to us. We were told that options for improving the crossing would be looked at as a 'later phase' of the work. We don't know when this is likely to be, but if it needs major changes to the roundabout then it might be possible that it would only happen after the AWPR was complete.

iv. (GC) – MH had fwd an invitation to this year's national cycling seminar which he had attended last year. Date is TBC, but either JS or GC would try to attend, or other volunteers were welcome to put their names forward.

v. (AP) - to note that the improvements to the Ellon Road route are progressing.

vi. (RW) – noted the incomplete cycle markings on the shared-use path at the north end of the beach esplanade. This led to a discussion as to whether the whole length of the beach esplanade was shared use? This had come up before - quite some

time ago. From the collective memory of those present, it is thought to be a SUP. Markings were supposed to have been improved using CWSS but (like so many other things we've asked for under CWSS) they have never been done.

Vii (GC) – after having done some guided city tours abroad (Barcelona, Madrid) GC wondered why isn't this being done in Aberdeen? The simple answer is probably that it would not be economically viable, but could it be done as a not for profit social enterprise? For us the benefit would be that it helps to 'normalise' cycling but there were lots of wider benefits such as for the tourism economy of Aberdeen. Working up funding applications etc was time consuming and probably beyond the capacity of ACF at the present time, but it might be something that we could work with a partner on. GC had some ideas and it was agreed that in taking these forward / making approaches he could do so in the name of ACF.

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

Tuesday **26 May 2015**.