



ABERDEEN CYCLE FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

19:30 hours Tuesday, 29th September 2009

Committee Room 5 at the Town House

0. Pre-Meeting Birthday Party

ACF is 6 years old this month. To celebrate some of our members went for a "Curry Buffet" at Manzil. Starting at 6pm we enjoyed a leisurely meal and good company before moving on to the meeting at 19:30.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Attendance

Apologies

Carl Gerard

Present

Derek Williams (Chair) - DW, Dave Cheseldine - DC, Fiona Fraser - FF, Neil Fraser - NF, Don Kent - DK, Gerard Vlar - GV, Liz Lindsey - LL, Dave Lindsey - DL.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Previous minutes were accepted

VMS Signs – ACF received a query on how frequently the messages on the VMS signs rotate when they are not in use for traffic and roadworks.

ACTION: Monitor and raise the question at the next Road Safety Meeting with Grampian Police and City Council - FF/DW

Green Times – The recent article in the Green times was well received, agreed that we should stay in touch and try to get another feature in the near future – the Green times is published every 3 months or so.

Commuter Challenge 2010 – ACF is supportive of the CTC proposal to run a workplace challenge and this is still under discussion. DK has been approached for NESTRANS funding but as the proposal is very expensive would like to see funding from other agencies, not just NESTRANS. The possibility was discussed that one area could be the focus for the challenge eg 'new' companies out at Westhill and perhaps competition could be encouraged between neighbouring companies.

3. Consultations

Berryden – Plans will go forward to committee at the November council meeting. ACF will have to decide whether to formally object in principle to the

road or if effort would be more effective in trying to influence the cycle facilities at the design stage. Plans will be discussed at the next meeting.

Walk Throughs – ACF has been involved in a number of studies in conjunction with ACCs Planning trainees. These proposals are still at an early stage but they include a dual use study for the pavement along Anderson Drive, a route from the city centre out to the AECC and a path alongside the A96 from the airport roundabout to Blackburn. Routes along Anderson Drive and to the AECC will be put on the website for comment.

ACTION: CG.

4. Aggressive motorist behaviour as a barrier to cycling uptake in Aberdeen.

The letter received from Mr Gatt was discussed at the meeting as it was agreed that it should be raised at the next Road Safety Meeting along with Mr Gatt's suggestion for an online reporting tool. The general consensus was that incidents should be reported to the police who will follow up any report. Comments regarding driver training were also noted.

ACTION: To be raised at the next Road Safety Meeting – FF/DW.

It was noted that there seems to have been a recent increase in the number of prosecutions for road offences and ACF wondered if this was the result of an increase in road casualties or just a general clamp-down.

5. Bicycle Film and Networking evening

Becycle have arranged a film screening in association with Xtreme at their facility at the beach and ACF were invited.

This is due to take place on the evening of Saturday 16th October.

ACTION: DC to forward the information to DL with a view to arranging a stall.

Post Meeting note: Unfortunately we will not have enough volunteers available to man a stall at this event.

6. Commuter Challenge

Update on the results of our Commuter Challenge back in Bike Week. The comments section from the entries has been anonymised and the results reviewed. Overall the response to cycling was positive with almost 100 positive comments as against 70 negative ones. Not surprisingly the “things that would put you off cycling” were Traffic Density and Poor Driver Behaviour.

ACTION: To be discussed at the next Road Safety Meeting – DL.

7. Ride Friday

A trial of Ride Friday took place from the Park and Ride at Kingswells in September and ACF reviewed their involvement. This is promoted by NESTRANS as part of their Park and Choose initiative. The short time between the the date for the ride being decided and the ride itself resulted in

poor publicity and the one member of the public who did come along had no idea the ride was on. We did however have a good turnout from ACF, NESTRANS and the Shire representatives which produced a good grouping. It was agreed that this made a very good trial ride to test out the concept and that with good advertising it might work. Following a review of the Ride Friday numbers from other schemes in the country including London it was decided that we should give it a proper trial and set a series of regular dates. It was agreed that a suitable schedule would be to have one ride every month and that these should start in the spring with publicity scheduled from January onwards. The Ride Fridays will run on the first Friday of every month from April to October and two routes into town will be on offer one via Lang Stracht and Foresterhill and the other utilising the new cycle path to Queens Road, possibly via Hill of Rubislaw. Both routes will be led by qualified cycle leaders.

8. AOB and Date of Next meeting (proposed Tue 27th October)

The condition of the road through Peterculter was raised, this is in a very bad state and presents a danger to cyclists. It was agreed that ACF and CTC should send a joint letter to the appropriate councillors.

ACTION: GV

We were very pleased to see an advance copy of the proposed 'car sticker' being produced by Ythan Cycle Club and think this is an excellent idea and look forward to seeing the printed version.

It was suggested that an agenda item for the next meeting should be to encourage new forum members – New Blood – New Ideas.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 27th October, 19:30, Town House.

Meeting ends.