

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 26 November 2013

Attending: Derek Williams (DW) (chair), Euan Innes (EI), Mike Nieman (MN), Sheila Tuckwood (ST), John Tuckwood (JT), Liz Lindsey (LL)

0 Apologies Jyll Skinner (JS), Gavin Clark (GC)

1 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Roundabouts. DW reported some progress: after a year of trying to set up a meeting about roundabouts and safety with ACC officials, this should now take place at the end of January. Ross Thomson will be invited.

Westhill cycle path. Nothing new, although ST and JT reported that the section outside Prime Four had been gritted recently – presumably by them.

Anderson Drive. Evening Express clipping about ACF's response circulated; also a Citizen article about RGU acquiring £200,000 from the Scottish Climate Change Fund for setting up a 'Boris Bikes' scheme.

EP& I Committee. JS, DW, Alison Davis and Ross Thomson recently met with Hugh Murdoch (Head of Assets) and colleague. ACC will trial what can be done on Howes Road. Other cycle paths will be included in the 'area clearance plans' (areas such as pavements and minor roads which are gritted after the main roads have been done). The Deeside Line cannot be done – apparently not sufficient suitable entrance and exit points. A phone number will be supplied which cyclists can use to report problems.

Contact with Police. DW reported that they will probably attend the February ACF meeting.

Quality cycle corridors. Work has been done on the Westhill route, but has not been sent out yet. This should be sent to Joanna Murray before the Nestrans meeting (see item below for date).

CWSS. An ACC officer should be getting in touch with JS to arrange a meeting re our submissions.

Triple Kirks. DW has been emailing and phoning Dandara – both the Aberdeen office and the national one. He has been informed that 'someone will be in touch'!

City Centre. DW had been to the Broad Street plans public consultation, and was encouraged that a question about access put 'pedestrians and cyclists' together. ACF need to follow up on future consultations.

Nestrans budget. Meeting with Joanna Murray (head of Transport Strategy has been set for 15 January). ACF should attend with 'wish list' for Council spend, including on the Westhill cycle route.

2. Cycling Scotland Survey of Local Authorities

This is posted on the ACF Facebook page. In the first survey in 2008 Aberdeen was in the top five, now it has dropped down to being only in the top ten. This indicates a failure of addressing cycling strategy; ACF should raise this issue with Joanna Murray at the January meeting. Aberdeen is highest for all journeys under 5km (77%), and one of the highest for cycling to work (5.9%). Try Cycling is praised as 'good practice'.

3. Co-operation between cycling clubs and organisations

No comments.

4. Ellon Rd/Parkway proposals – an update

DW reported that a consultant brought in by ACC had recommended a segregated path on the south side. ACC wanted the north side and asked him to reconsider. After further assessment, he reported that it would be less suitable. ACC, however, still want the north side. ACF need to actively press for the route on the south side. **Action: DW to send out information; all to send comments to JS to coordinate.**

5. AOBs

(JT) As CTC Grampian right-to-ride officer JT receives relevant ACC plans. All the recent CWSS plans have been about parking restrictions. This seems completely irrelevant to both cycling and walking. **Action: JT to write to Graeme Mackenzie under the auspices of CTC.**

(LL) Cycle racks outside Waterstones have still not been replaced after pavement renovations, and new ones have still not been installed at Hazlehead Park. **Action: JS to enquire about the Union Street racks, LL about the Hazlehead ones.**

(DW) Following the Tesco development on the Lang Stracht, an ASL has now been installed at the Rousay Drive/Lang Stracht junction, but none so far at the Stronsay Drive/Kings Gate junction as promised. **Action: LL to follow up with Doug Ritchie.**

(JT) A drop kerb is required from the cycle path at the junction between the B999 (Potterton road) and Denmore Road, just north of B & Q. This issue could be raised in response to the Ellon Rd plans when they are back.

(DW) Master Plans consultations: Maidencraig – EI has responded. Persley Bridge - requires response. **Action: DW to send out web link to master plan; all to respond; volunteer required to compile the responses.**

(DW) Website. Carl had suggested two alternatives for renewal: Crystal, which we currently use @ £29.99 or Proserve which is only £10.99 but more limited. Unanimous support to continue with what we know and what works well. **Action: Clare to write cheque.**

(MN) Following the recent cyclist's deaths in London, MN asked what safety advice is generally available. DW responded that there is advice on the London Cycling Campaign website, also the ACF website. ST responded that there is advice on the CTC website but this is mostly related to group cycling. **Action: MN to search web for cyclists safety advice.** LL reported that a local cyclist friend, who had also been unable to find much concise safety advice for cyclists, is currently drafting a leaflet, 'Tips for Safer Cycling'. He hopes this will be available for ACF to look at early in the New Year.

8. Date of next meeting.

Proposed as Tuesday 28 January 2014.
