

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes from meeting

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28th January 2020

Special meeting for award ceremony and Q&A with Councillor Sandra MacDonald.

Q&A with Sandra MacDonald

1. When is the council going to something with Guild St and access to the station.

Until we can do something with Guild St we need to do something with College St and Berryden to get the traffic off Guild St. Huge issue around bus station and congestion affecting buses using bus station. Problems with lights for buses coming out of station. It is coming but will be another couple of years at least. We are going to be doing Guild St once College St and Berryden up and running.

2. Huge number of taxis licensed to operate in Aberdeen. Why can't the council make them all electric over a period of years. Council licences vehicles.

To be honest I think that's the direction everyone is going in general. Taxis are a business and may take an initiative at a different level than the local authority. Do it for buses at the moment (eg Glasgow did it but got money from Scottish govt to do it). Can't just tell taxis they're not allowed on the road. Could start with little things like they're not allowed to idle. An education thing to begin with - there's far too much idling in society in general.

3. When will Aberdeen get an LEZ

Scottish govt have asked us to get an LEZ in place before the end of this year. But it takes a bit of time after a law is put in place to get regulations and guidelines done. There are negotiations and consultations that will take time. This won't happen by the end of this year. Looking at doing buses first. Also going out to consultation this year to have an LEZ. It is moving ahead and is coming. Hopefully in 2021.

4. A bit of a sense of helplessness in how things happen. What are the main barriers to things like segregation for Market St happening?

There's law, funding, consultations, the new south harbour will take a lot of traffic away, but there will still be HGVs on Market st. Sustrans make the decisions about what gets funded and what doesn't and it's often a long process to go through. Different committees have to meet and everyone has to have their say. Ideas have to be developed within the strategic team in the council. The design takes time. There's housing needs, masterplan, regional deals - all things that must be considered. Often a sense of frustration that things take as long as they do to get done.

There are some good schemes and a lot of good things happening.

5. Sustrans had a huge pot of money. Gave heaps to Glasgow and Edinburgh and almost nothing to Aberdeen. What are we doing about that?

Government would say AWPR took a huge amount of funding.

Ian says AWPR is a road project whereas Sustrans is for sustainable transport.

Sustrans is a charity but has a huge amount of power to get the funding to areas in Scotland. Officers have invited Sustrans up and have engaged with them. It comes up all the time both on Nestrans board and at city council about our share of the funding.

Sustrans have a development officer for Aberdeen who is based in Edinburgh. The central belt is where the population is.

6. We talked about lack of funding and obstacles and things like changing people's behaviour. There are ways and routes to cycle in Aberdeen that are safer and it would be nice to have projects linking up some of these routes.

Gavin pointed out that ACF actually came up with qualify cycle corridors a number of years ago and gave it to the council as a proposal, but it was ignored

Something that exists already on the city council website is a map.

7. Who is the person at the council who is the technical officer for cycling.

There isn't one.

## **Grampian Cycle Partnership - Tom Collier (chair) speaks**

Grampian Cycle partnership is just over a year old now. Lots of acronyms and many organisations. A group of people got together and decided we really need a partnership organisation to pull all the different groups together. All the different organisations have their own agendas active travel, sustainability, health but they don't speak together. GCP was set up to get all these organisations to work together towards shared goals. First year became constituted, set up a website - [grampiancyclepartnership.org](http://grampiancyclepartnership.org). We're not here to replace any organisations but also we want to grow our partner numbers, both individuals and organisations. We want to make a difference and help deliver things like city centre masterplan. Got infrastructure projects ideas on the go and an event in June to ride NE250 route.

