

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of monthly meeting

Tuesday 29th October 2019 at Belmont Filmhouse

Present: Rachel Martin (Communications and campaigning secretary), Kerr Milne, David Laney, Briony Kincaid, Nathan Gore, Laurie Rominger

Apologies: Gavin Clark (Chair)

* **Bridge of Don to City Centre active travel corridor consultation**

Rachel and Briony both attended a workshop for this at the city council a couple of weeks prior. It was good and attendees came up with lots of good ideas including some the Aberdeen Cycle Forum is already campaigning for like a bike path on King Street. There's also been a public consultation which closed on the 31st October. Rachel met someone from FirstBus at the event and reached out to them to see whether we could work together in some way since both groups want similar things like fewer cars on the roads. They seemed agreeable to the idea but for now we're not sure how it could look or work.

* **College Street/Berryden proposals**

The Aberdeen Cycle Forum responded officially to the Berryden proposal in May 2009. Our response is available here: https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/consultations/20090529_berryden_response.pdf

The position of the Aberdeen Cycle Forum is the same as it was then. We are concerned about the increase in traffic and pollution the extra road capacity will create as well as the impact this will have on active travel and the severing of links between the University of Aberdeen Old Aberdeen campus and the campus at Foresterhill. We've had a fair bit of media publicity in the past month about this but it's unlikely to have an impact on progress. We're not sure what the best next steps should be.

* **Best of Cycling Awards**

We're getting nominations but need to really push it more since there's just over a month to go before nominations close. Rachel to share it more on social media.

* **Reclaim the Streets**

This is an event we're planning for 3rd May 2020. The plan is to close the same streets the city council closed for the Tour Series but make the space available to regular people for cycling, walking, roller-blading etc. It will go from 11am - 2pm on a Sunday and we'll have adult beginner cycling lessons as well as a Dr Bike and bike hire. We've got funding from Cycling UK for the lessons, bikes, and Dr Bike but we still need funding to close the roads. This will cost just over £2,000. An application has been submitted to the lottery funding and they rang Rachel the week before to get more information. They sounded supportive but Rachel got the feeling they felt the council should be waiving the fee. We have asked the council to waive the fee for pedal on parliament a couple of times before but they have always refused. If we can't get this funding then we need to get the money some other way.

We could approach businesses to sponsor us. Brewdog may be interested? It was

pointed out that the council's In Town Without my Car day had lots of stalls with diesel generators which likely negated the benefits of having no cars in the city centre. For Reclaim the Streets we could invite businesses to put tables and chairs out on the pavements/streets.

Could we have a cycling DJ that cycles around playing music?

We should approach bicycle retailers to see whether they want to display electric bikes - Edinburgh Bicycle Cooperative might be interested. Grampian Disability Sports may also be keen - Rachel to contact them.

* **Other business**

1. There's no train to the airport. It's a 45 minute walk from the train station at Dyce to the airport. It would be great if Aberdeen had a link connecting the airport to the train station. There was also a discussion about buses being quite expensive.
2. London has a congestion charge of \$12. We're all in agreement that Aberdeen should also have one.
3. Someone asked whether Aberdeen had any proper cycling infrastructure at all. There's a small section at Tillydrone but until we get some proper infrastructure it's hard to convince councillors of the benefits because people need to see it first.
4. It was suggested that we get people from European cities with good cycling infrastructure to come and talk to the council. This is a good idea but could be expensive.
5. When should we release the Market Street visualisation? Councillors are voting on the SUMP (sustainable urban mobility plan) in November so perhaps we should time it with then?
6. Briony asked people about bike security and whether they'd ever had any thefts or concerns. We talked about having a good lock and not leaving your bike in the city centre all night long. None of us had had any issues.

* **Next meeting**

Tuesday November 26th.