

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of meeting

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Liz Lindsey (LL), Ruth Wolfe (RW), Matt Helme (MH), John Tuckwood (JT), Sheila Tuckwood (ST), Ian Mitchell (IM), Tito Casquinha (TC)

**0.** Apologies –none.

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

Corrections - the date of the October meeting had been wrongly stated as 30 October.

Road safety meeting - this will now take place on 4<sup>th</sup> November (JS, LL, CR and ST for ACF) . There has been no agreement yet over the frequency or remit for these meetings but we will try to establish that at the outset and ensure that minutes are taken. Any items for the first meeting to be sent to JS as soon as possible.

### **3. Westhill cycle path**

This has been discussed at the Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee earlier today. After some confusion over the item being withdrawn from the Agenda, there was in fact a discussion, which LL reported. The report to the Committee from officials is available here:

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/s41559/EPI-14-210%20A944%20Lang%20Stracht%20to%20Westhill%20Cycle%20Route.pdf>

In short, the recommendation which was accepted was that improvements to the path should take place funded by 'developer contributions' (otherwise known as planning gain) from the further development at the Prime Four site which has yet to take place. Cllr Ian Yuill had spoken up to ask what the timescale for this was likely to be, and if it hadn't been resolved in 12 months it should be brought back to the Committee. He had also asked whether there was a Plan B?

JT commented that both the design and maintenance standards of other sections of this route are also a problem e.g. the section of the old carriageway just east of the junction with Lang Stracht. This is poorly drained resulting in pools of water which freeze and are never treated, making the path un-rideable.

It was suggested this be raised at the forthcoming road safety meeting. GC also suggested that individuals should report such failings via the fault reporting tool on the ACC website.

#### **4. AcTraP consultation (Active Travel Plan)**

A draft response had been prepared by JS and circulated to a core group. It was difficult to respond to a document like this in a positive way as there was clearly so much more that could be done in favour of cycling. JS asked whether she had got the balance right in terms of being positive or critical? Any further comments to her ASAP as the deadline for submission is 31 October.

MH had prepared his own detailed response and would be submitting it – he felt the plan was inadequate. Generally, we should encourage as many members as possible to submit an individual response as this can only add weight to the points we are making.

JS and GC gave a brief resume of a meeting they had had with the new Cycling Development Officer on Friday. This is part funded by Sustrans and is a Nestrans post for 2 years. Due to not being in post until the start of October there is a sizeable capital budget (£100k) to be spent before the end of the financial year. We should make any suggestions we can come up with, but the question also arose why these funds couldn't be used to resolve the problem with the Westhill path?

#### **6. Meeting with Cllr Laing**

It was suggested that we should aim for a presentation in 2 parts: firstly an inspirational video of what is possible (such as the Green Lane project in New York) followed by a short slide show of the things in Aberdeen which are bad/dangerous and which we have struggled to make any progress with.

Thirdly, we would focus up the points in the 'election manifesto' from the last Council elections, and bringing that up to date.

#### **7. AOBs**

JS is to attend a meeting with Nexen at Prime 4 which is aimed at encouraging more cycling amongst their staff.

LL gave an update on correspondence she had been in with ACC officials over cycle lane provision on Kingsgate. There may be some movement on this soon. She is also pursuing the issue of 'do not overtake' signs for the pinch point at the junction with Stronsay Drive.

MH gave a) a brief update on his dealings with Aberdeenshire Council over bike routes to schools in Inverurie.

b) note that there had been a summit on cycling in Glasgow today (Sustrans, Paths for All etc) so there may be some news on funding coming from that.

c) still working on Space for Cycling and how to get some real traction with Councillors on this.

IM had had some correspondence on the MUSIC project which now seemed to be reaching closedown

IM noted that following a couple of incidents involving employees, Wood Group are proposing to commission a professional cycle safety film.

GC - no response so far to the request for company BUG reps to get in touch.

GC - Deeside Thistle had replied and expressed interest in meeting to discuss 'common ground'. No response from Aberdeen Wheelers. It was presumed that CTC would also be involved if this takes place.

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

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.