

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 25th March 2014

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Liz Lindsey (LL), Gavin Clark (GC), Euan Innes (EI), Catherine Homes (CH), Paula Novo (PV), Melf Ehlers (ME), Diana Feliciano (DF), Patricia Melo (PM)

0 Apologies Derek Williams, Ian Mitchell, Sheila Tuckwood, John Tuckwood

1 Special item: Q&A with Inspector Ian Kirkwood, Police Scotland

See separate note of Q&A on website

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Roundabouts. No further progress, except that matter is now with Louse Napier to arrange the meeting.

Westhill cycle path. The petitions committee have only been able to verify around 210 'valid' signatures (from people identified as being on the electoral role within Aberdeen City). JS had tried to make the point that the petition relates to a cross-boundary matter (i.e. a path which straddles the city and shire) but the rule remained. LL had already got several more signatures and we have also e-mailed the membership to try and get some more, hopefully reaching the required 250.

Triple Kirks. GC suggested that there was little point escalating the matter to central government given that relationships between them and ACC seemed to be pretty poor anyway. Also it wouldn't put any pressure on Dandara. GC further suggested drafting a press release, and that we send it to Dandara for comment prior to issue.

Cycle parking (suggested locations). JS and GC still to collate.

Cooperation between bike clubs / organisations – outstanding with GC.

Cycle safety leaflet – outstanding with JS.

LOAF rep. – suggested that we canvass the membership via another email.

LDP / main issues report – our response had now been submitted.

3. Transport Scotland Interchange Project

JS had met with a representative from this project which is looking at cycle access to transport hubs (ferry, train and bus station). They are to put us in contact with Sustrans as it was suggested there might be funds available that we could utilise (e.g. for publication of the cycle safety leaflet?)

4. 2014 Cycle count

We need to identify a date for this in May. Last year numbers had been slightly down possibly as a result of some very cold weather but also because the date of the count coincided with University exam week. It was thought that the exams begin on 24th May, so suggested that we go for either the 2nd or 3rd week (i.e. w/c 5th or w/c 12th). As ever we will need volunteers to take part, and in Derek's absence we will also need someone to do the coordination.

5. AOBs

i) PV, ME, DF and PM were interested to know if ACF had ever organised a protest ride or other mass ride to raise the awareness of cycling in Aberdeen. There was a good discussion of the merits and drawbacks of 'critical mass' type rides, and whether they could work in Aberdeen. They had been tried in the past (by others) with limited impact. BeCycle also arrange a monthly ride. ACF has in the past discussed having its own ride along the lines of 'Pedal on Parliament' and this was something that we should consider in more detail. ACF would not want to align itself with spontaneous, unorganised or unauthorised mass rides, but that was not to say that others couldn't take up those ideas if they wished.

It was agreed that ACF should further consider the idea of an organised protest ride for later in the year (would now be too late to do it on 26th April to coincide with Pedal on Parliament). Suggestions for suitable dates (and routes) were welcome.

PV et al would also contact BeCycle to find out if their rides were still happening.

ii) Auchmill Road – we are trying to collate feedback from users of this shared use path, especially in relation to the recent improvements. Please send to the usual email address.

iii) LL reported an improvement had been made to the problem with the visibility of the lights on the Toucan crossing at the far end (i.e. west) of Lang Stracht. The angle of the lights had been adjusted to make them more visible to drivers.

iv) GC pointed out that the car parking spaces off Polmuir Road, at the gates of Duthie Park, had all been re-painted recently including a pedestrian route marked in yellow. Given the number of cyclists using this route to come off the Deeside Way it was disappointing that no specific provision had been made for cyclists. The 'Keep Clear' marking at the base of the off-ramp had been removed and a car parking

space moved closer, making the radius of the turn tighter and more likely to create cycle/pedestrian/ vehicle conflicts at busy times. With hindsight it was also very disappointing that a direct route for pedestrian & cyclists from the Deeside Way into the Park without crossing the car park hadn't been created as part of the Park's major refurbishment. JS would bring the matter to the attention of Graham Mackenzie at ACC.

6. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 29th April. Note that this will be the Annual General Meeting, including the election of office bearers and other such business.
