

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes from meeting on 26th January 2021

Attendees: Gavin Clark (Chair), Liz Lindsey, Nico Silvani, Daniel Verhamme, Rachel Martin, Francesco Sani.

Minutes of the last meeting are on the website. We haven't progressed any further on getting insurance - still to do. We also haven't heard anything further on the cycle school idea.

No Idling Campaign

Campaign launched on 11th January 2021. Has got quite a bit of publicity already. Was in the Press & Journal and The Evening Express. The Aberdeen City Council also shared it with all the schools in Aberdeen. We have also promoted it on Facebook and shared it on Twitter. It closes on 1st March. We need to decide who will judge it. Could ask Gavin Thomson from Friends of the Earth. We could also ask a Councillor (e.g. Education spokesperson) and a young person - a school pupil who is not entering.

Spaces for people

There have been no further benefits using the spaces for people funding. There'll be a review by the council in February. Taxis have apparently been negatively affected by changes because there are fewer spaces to park. There's a consultation out for taxi rank locations.

We were also consulted by the council on Schoolhill. Nigel McDowell emailed Gavin to say because of lockdown they're not progressing further with that at this time.

George Street is still the same problem with cars parked all over cycle lane and bollards down. Nico has emailed the council about the issue last November but has never heard back. This has been a failure.

Consultations - South College St

No live consultations right now but South College Street closed recently and we submitted a response for this. However, the plans are at a late stage of development and so there's unlikely to be much change because they've already decided what to do. Our response is available on our website. Overall the proposed plan is very poor. The council think they need this road to increase capacity to take traffic away from Guild Street.

There was some discussion about whether the council can ignore consultation responses and continue anyway but this is how it has worked for most of the consultation responses we've submitted over the past 20 years.

Many years ago ACF used to put a lot of effort into responding to planning applications. We don't do it so much now because of the workload required and having to trawl through planning applications to see what might be relevant to cycling. Gavin has seen one for a housing proposal on the south side of Aberdeen. Some of the traffic will come out onto the Banchory Devenick Road which does get quite a lot of cycle traffic. Why put a housing development that spills out onto a minor road? The plans also include a cycle audit which didn't say much about existing cycle traffic, and seemed to accept that there would be no cycle parking provided other than in the individual dwellings. We'll check the end date and submit a response if it's still open.

Another planning application open currently is a proposal for another two drive-through restaurants at a site in Altens (junction of Wellington Rd and Craigshaw). Opposite the junction where the Shell building is. Drive-throughs build dependence on cars. People queue in their cars round the block with engines running and maintaining sedentary lifestyles, collecting fast food, then sometimes throwing the litter out the window. It locks in the car culture and generates more short trips by car. The restaurants are McDonalds and Tim Hortons. Discussed whether ACF should submit comments, and agreed that we should if we can find the time.

Seminar - road space traffic capacity

This Thursday Professor Phil Goodwin is coming to talk about traffic capacity and road building. There are 23 registrations so far. We promoted this on our website and to our membership. We've also shared it with the council and Nestrans.

Other campaigns/activities

Cycling lessons planned for March 20th 2021 for climate week NE. We also had the idea for bells. Could have a little event where we stand on Deeside Way and hand out free bells for cyclists. It's tricky finding a good supplier of bells and there might be issues handing them out with covid restrictions. Could we generate publicity by handing them out? We get stickers that people can put in their car window - "Think Bike". There's the sticker on the back of vans that's a parody of don't cycle up the inside but with "Cyclists, you're awesome".

Facebook promoted posts are going well and we'll continue doing this until March using Paths for All funding.

Mind map

Nico has put together a mind map for things relevant to cycling in Aberdeen based on Glasgow one. You can find information about where to buy a bike/hire/repair a bike. There's also services, cycling lessons, women's cycling groups, and cycling campaigns. It can go on the website when it's ready. We could add all the cycling clubs. Nico will share the link so we can provide feedback.

Tube maps - [How to make a 'tube map' cycle network | Cycling UK](#)

Creates a map of cycle paths similar to how the tube map looks. There's a concern there may not be sufficient cycling infrastructure. Would still be good to see what paths there are and the quality. Can also highlight how much is missing. Can also be used to compare with other cities. Can map points of interest in the city like hospitals, schools, businesses.

Tech issues (website, email contacts)

We tested the contact form to make sure emails are going through to Gavin and it's working.

We also discussed updating the tool we use for our mailing list but no decisions were made.

Any other business

Gavin: A contact from Arc Housing Association: they had applied for funding from Cycling Scotland for cycle parking at their tenanted flats. She was asking about what they could do to promote cycling if they got funding. Gavin provided some suggestions for cycle parking designs and locations.

Aberdeenshire green routes - Aberdeenshire Council considering a motion from Cllr Ford to get some greener routes for cycling in the shire like what they have in the Perth and Kinross - quieter roads for cycling. There are three trial routes but they're a bit disappointing. There won't be a new speed limit on the route although this policy is to be reviewed at a future date. Daniel says they look a bit like promotion of leisure cycling in the area rather than linking destinations.

The Walk Cycle Vote (spin-off on pedal on parliament) are changing their name because they're adding wheeling. And they want to be more about living streets and suitability for wheelchairs and disability groups. They are currently preparing a document which details the 'asks' of politicians (or parties) standing in the May elections to the Scottish Parliament. The first ask is a minimum of 10% of transport budget going to active travel increasing to 20% by the end of the parliament. They want cycle groups like ours to sign up for it.

Have been invited to the Cycling By Design group discussion which is tomorrow. Cycling by Design is being updated.

Someone from Greener Kircaldy got in touch.

A96 dualling - proposal to dual the road from Aberdeen to Inverness. Huntly to Aberdeen section just announced their preferred route for that. Daniel had a look at the virtual exhibition on the bit near Inverurie. The transport minister says it benefits active travel but it's not clear how. They're still deciding on the route and haven't designed how it will work yet. It's likely to be years before they come up with designs for us to comment on.

Next meeting will be February 23rd.