

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes from meeting on 30th March 2021

Attendees: Gavin Clark (GC, Chair), Rachel Martin (RM), Liz Lindsey (LL), Nico Silvani (NS), Francesco Sani (FS).

Minutes taker: NS

Welcome & introductions

No new members.

Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

- Minutes from previous month not yet completed but will be done shortly and uploaded to website

'Don't be an idler' competition – update

- RM collected banners today from the print firm. Posters shown during the meeting.
- Distribution: those for Aberdeenshire can be posted as nobody in the meeting is able to travel outside of Aberdeen City (due to Covid restrictions).
- RM suggested getting pictures of these schools with the supplied banners and pupils and/or with ACF members if possible; this can be already done for Cults.
- A press release is needed to announce winners and release photos (as above)
- RM: One of the winning entries was not in a printable format, hence it was not printed. Will look into a different option for this.
- Another press release/announcement could be published later in April in regard to ACF having another official/standard 'No idling' banner that can be rotated among schools. GC suggested including ACF logo for this one. Members all happy to use the same firm again for future printing purposes.
- Discussed getting an ACF banner to use for future events (when in-person events are allowed again)

Consultations – South College St

Update by GC: Redetermination Order - SCS Junction Improvements (closed a few days prior) and another related consultation (closing soon). Feedback from ACF is that we oppose both as the overall plan itself is flawed.

Broad discussion on ACC press release of Beach Esplanade and surrounding area redevelopment (including new stadium)

Spaces for People – George St

GC: Reported about issues due to vehicles parking on cycle lane. ACF posted about it on Facebook and got lots of engagement (with 93k reach to date) and a couple of articles in local newspapers. Despite all that attention, NS reported there has been little visible improvement since.

Spaces for People - Others

NS raised how Edinburgh is consulting on turning some SfP infrastructure into permanent infrastructure. Dundee is also putting in more temporary cycle lanes, using bollards and plastic kerb for segregation.

LL: Mandatory cycle lane at the beach boulevard, mainly paint-only but it does feel safer. Issues at bus stops where the footpath extends towards the main lane and cycle lane is bottlenecked into the lane as a consequence.

Campaigns

GC: ACF has signed along other organisations in Scotland to get Police Scotland to implement a third party reporting tool for road accidents. Police Scotland is 1 of 6 remaining police forces in the UK not having a reporting tool.

NS asked whether this could be used to report issues such as those discussed earlier for George Street, GC replied that these might not be priority (compared to accidents) but could be the case.

Election, petition and hustings

With the run up to the Holyrood elections in May, we discussed whether we wanted to do any specific campaigning. We have already agreed with the WWCV group that we would endorse their manifesto and anything we did should be consistent with that. It is relatively easy to piggy-back their messages and promote them to our members and fb. Agreed there was little purpose in running a separate campaign.

Events

Pedal on Parliament

Instead of an event this year POP are promoting a campaign of lighting. There was relatively little enthusiasm or ideas about how we could make it work in a way that would be worthwhile.

Cycling UK Scotland are running a petition and political hustings. Again things that we can easily promote and contribute to without inventing something different. 20th April for hustings

COP 26

RM: Lush got in touch to ask if we have anything planned to coincide with COP26 FS suggested gathering people and holding hands along a street. Option to have their bikes to get the point across even more. It was agreed that there is still plenty of time before COP26 and any other idea should be suggested at future meetings

Report from NESTRANS 'Net Zero' event

Members that attended were left disappointed not all speakers managed to speak, NS shared a link to the presentation by Active Nation Commissioner Lee Craigie, who was not able to present within the event's timing. Q&As were also not answered but an email with answers should be circulated by Nestrans in coming days/weeks.

ACC & Big Issue Bike hire scheme

Members broadly discussed expectations and how the scheme will differ from others in Scotland, as virtually dockless and also e-bikes only. Worries about higher prices

than other schemes, but e-bikes will be good given the terrain/gradients in Aberdeen, and it appealing to people who may not otherwise cycle.

Any other business

- Future meetings and AGM promotion

NS raised the point that there might be more people keen to join ACF meetings but might not be aware of them happening. GC/RM said the link to the meeting was usually shared on Facebook in the past but stopped after issues created by some unwanted people joining on Zoom. RM said registration form could be used in the future, similar to what was done for January's event. An email/reminder to members could also be circulated.

- Membership platform change -> Discussion on how membership list could be hosted in a better way, LL highlighted that ACF could lose members following a change in policy and/or hosting, not necessarily due to people not wanting to agree to new policy but simply because some may not realise that they'd be taken out the list if they don't agree to changes. NS said perhaps losing some members is unavoidable, but the changes could lead to more participation among remaining members. RM and NS keen to discuss this further and explore options.
- Newsletter/updates: GC pointed out he would like to have better newsletters and referred to a recent one from Dundee Cycle Forum. The issue is closely related to how we operate a mailing and/or membership list. RM suggested including links to positive news from the Forum. Quite a few options from past, and future work:
 - Blog post: inviting cyclists in Aberdeen to tell their story, e.g. how did they get into cycling, what kind of cycling do they do etc
 - NS suggested something like 'Cyclists of Aberdeen', Nico and Francesco could write one to start with. The idea can be explored further.
 - Opinion pieces (GC: gave some examples of topics that might be covered)
 - Positive/education information (e.g. links to Cycling Scotland resources, ACF cycling mind map)
 - NS happy to explore this further and report by next meeting/work with others in the meanwhile
 - GC asked for access to the ACF Instagram account so he could make use of it

Date of next meeting and AGM – **Tuesday 27 April at 19:30**

