

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes from meeting on 27th April 2021

**Attendees:** Gavin Clark (Chair), Rachel Martin, Francesco Sani, Nicolò Salvani, Hanne Bruhn, Liz Lindsey, Daniel Verhamme, Emily Stone (Sustrans)

**Minutes taker:** Francesco Sani

Welcome to Hanne, volunteer for Sustrans

AGM Business items

1) Recap of the past year [Gavin Clark]: It has been a strange year, Covid lockdown had forced us to cancel our annual cycle count, PoP ride, and any other events. Instead we put the funding to use laying on a series of organised lessons for (adult) beginners when allowed (using PoP funds) and a Dr Bike event. Lessons had been incredibly popular - all fully booked more or less whenever announced. When Spaces For People money was made available, ACF engaged constructively with ACC as to how this money could be used. Looking back it is really disappointing that the outcomes for cycling were pretty negligible. The beach front cycle path debacle was a new low for Aberdeen, with a rogue decision taken without advice, evidence or consultation. ACC seem to be focused more on road building – Prof. Goodwin’s seminar recommendations were seemingly, but predictably, ignored. Traffic levels seem to have returned to pre-lockdown levels in the city, making the question of how to bring about change ever more urgent. There is some anecdotal evidence of more cycling, especially in the countryside, which is to be welcomed, but that doesn’t address the harms that a car-dominated culture inflicts on our city.

[Rachel Martin] Thanks to Gavin for stepping in as Chair when the previous one stepped down. Good campaigns in the last year, e.g. Facebook ads campaign had increased our reach and bike lessons to attract city people to cycling, and the No Idle campaign with banners given out to schools and one available on loan for free.

Accounts shared from Clare (TREASURER) show a closing balance of £3,147; Liz suggested that it should be made available to members (maybe via a link on the ACF website).

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NOMINATIONS for vacant posts. NONE. All current officials were willing to continue in their roles and were confirmed by all present:

Chair / Convenor	Gavin Clark
Treasurer	Clare Roberts
Campaigns and press secretary	Rachel Martin
Digital Communications	Nico Silvani

Secretary

Vacant

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Emily Stone (BIKElife). Bikelife will happen across 19 cities this year, including Aberdeen, and will hopefully help this city to improve its cycle-friendliness. 80% of Dundonians supported building more cycle lanes, according to the Bikelife report, and it will be interesting to see the report next year for Aberdeen (May 2022) following a survey issued between July and September of this year. 15th-16th June are two days for photos being taken in Aberdeen, to be included in the published report. ACF could provide case studies for this project (ACC have already supplied some through NesTrans and Community Food Initiative NorthEast).

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#### CONSULTATIONS.

a) Wellington Road. Three options presented which can be commented on: a) public transport option; 2) active travel (incl. a segregated cycle path on both sides for the whole length of the road); 3) multi-modal option (bi-directional cycle lane on one side only). CLOSING DATE: 9th May.

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/wellington-road-stag2/>

b) South College Street. Objections previously made to re-determination order (i.e. assigning pavements as roads, etc.) were not accepted. Current consultation is for a Traffic Regulation Order.

c) Traffic Management and Development Proposals (city-wide) are mostly to do with traffic lights, speed restrictions, parking regulations, etc. Mostly likely to be beneficial to cycling although we have not yet scrutinized them in detail.

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS. The No Idle campaign has come to an end and banners have gone to schools. Rachel may send a press release to get some media attention. Further campaigns ideas to be put forward: Rachel suggested revisiting the King Street and Union Street campaigns, given how we got designs made for them.

New campaign ideas:

Accessibility: we had some experience and correspondence from members about barriers placed in paths. Suggested we hold a competition with photos of obstacles to cycling or other active travel access that people could contribute to (and choose a winner to use to contact ACC for improvements) – this could be sent to ACF members through social media. Hanne said that some barriers are illegal and the council may be made to pay if they obstruct public access. Possible title could be “Make Aberdeen Accessible”. Hanne also pointed out a new consultation which had

just emerged on the ACC portal in relation to 're-determination' of a footway in MacAulay Drive: we should check that it does not include new barriers.

Countesswells Road: meant to be closed as part of the housing development in the later stages so at present it is very busy with people from the new houses using it to get into town in their cars. A campaign could be to close the road as an access point now or reducing the speed limit. Agreed in discussion that we should in the first instance approach ACC and suggest measures such as a reduced speed limit until such time as the planned closure takes effect.

CyclingUK: signing the pledge requests sent to MSPs. Various MSPs responded and it seems that various parties have pledged to spend anything up to 10% of the budget on active travel.

New initiatives (Nicolo'). MindMap being completed and also thinking of maps to points of interest in the city (cycling from various points in the city to points of interest). The Civitas Portis app has not been made live yet – this would help with routes for cycling – routes can be highlighted using a variety of methods, e.g. Google Maps screenshots, Commute, etc. Members were encouraged to go out and map a route of their own choice by way of experiment and we could host these on the website as a series in due course.

Any other business:

CYCLE COUNT: not done in May 2020 due to lockdown, would be due again in c. 3 weeks - however due to most people not back to work we may want to do it in September instead.

ELECTRIC BIKE for hire scheme in Aberdeen City Centre... Possibly to be launched in autumn 2021.