

ACF Meeting Minutes

28th September 2021

Attendees: Gavin Clark, Rachel Martin, Nicolo Silvani, Hanne Bruhn, Francesco Sani

Minutes from the last meeting have been posted and Rachel to take minutes this month.

Consultations

1. Gavin, Rachel, and Nico had attended a meeting with the Council about Union Street - the centre section (Market St to Bridge St) that has been closed to motor traffic during the pandemic. Other cycling representatives there including Grampian Cycle Partnership (GCP). The consultants were also there - SYSTRA and they showed us some plans. All cycling representatives were concerned about the plans which currently have no provision for cycling infrastructure. The cycling groups were united in criticism of the plans and everyone was in favour of proper segregated cycling infrastructure. They promised to send us a more detailed plan to look at which has just come through today but it doesn't have any further detail than what we already saw. We'll send a reply and will share with GCP before sending.
2. Aberdeen to Laurencekirk corridor -
<https://www.nestrans.org.uk/projects/studies/aberdeen-laurencekirk-mms/>
Lots of demand for a cycle route alongside the A90. All of the communities along the route (e.g. Portlethen, Newtonhill, Muchalls, Chapleton, Stonehaven) are within easy commuting distance of Aberdeen and yet there's no direct cycle provision. Funding for the study is coming from a strategic rail fund. Needs to consider all aspects including spaces for bikes on trains and buses. Gavin cycles in this corridor quite regularly and has to take detours to avoid major and dangerous roads. There's plenty we can say for this. Deadline 18th October.
3. South College Street - traffic orders to do with parking so maybe not a big deal for us.
<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/operations/the-aberdeen-city-council-south-college-street-are/>
They're creating some new parking spaces as a pay and display car park just south of Bank Street. No plans for cycle parking there so we

could include this in a response. Nico suggests this <https://www.cyclehoop.com/product/racks/car-bike-port/> . The parking is very cheap too. On the opposite side of the road, in front of the arches, some of that will become restricted parking - loading bays and maximum 1 hour parking. Footpaths on this side may need physical protection for car parking. Nico asked about when South College Street work was to begin as we thought it was late summer.

4. Hanne is joining a Sustrans meeting on 11th October where they'll explain their National route and how they've put stickers over signs on the parts that they no longer consider fit for purpose. There'll be opportunities in that meeting to suggest new routes in place of old ones. Rachel mentioned Crown Street as not being a good route to connect Deeside Way with the city centre. It's up and down hills and not very attractive. Gavin suggested a route near Dunnottar could be relatively easy to fix where only a short section is missing.
5. Nico shared a LinkedIn survey about spaces for people measures <https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-6848592555001569280-I6Kb/>

Campaigns

The no idling banner has gone off to Stonehaven where it will be at Arduthie Primary School. Have also had a request from Charlie to put it up on the seafront where people sit in cars with vehicle engines running.

Make Aberdeen Accessible campaign is closed to new entries and the map is available on the website. If you click on a pin you get a photo of the barrier - <https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/2021/09/09/on-elite-vs-everyday-cycling-approaching-deadline-for-the-make-aberdeen-accessible-campaign/>

Get a suitable contact from each council and send them a link to the map to show the problems highlighted in their area. If we get no response then we might follow up again after 6-8 weeks. If we still get no action then we might try to get press interest. Hanne went past Countesswells where they've put a deadend sign up except for cycles. Hanne also suggested community councils as one way to put pressure on Councils. Also we need to emphasise that this isn't all the barriers - just a sample submitted to us.

Art work commissioning investigation is underway. We're looking into using a wall under Great Southern Road on Deeside Way. If it's too expensive we may be able to find volunteers and then we only have the paint to buy. We could make it a competition or open it to students from Grey School of Art if it's too expensive to commission an artist. Maintenance classes are still a good idea but we will do one thing at a time. Hanne got a quote for a cycle counter for £5000 - £6000. Could put it on Deeside Way or A944 or wherever leisure and commuter cyclists go. <https://traffictotechnology.co.uk/>

Gavin thought this was a great idea but really something the Council should do. Even if we were to fund it we'd be reliant on them to install it and there could be issues over future maintenance. Perhaps we should suggest it to them for use of e.g CWSS funding (Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets).

Other events & activities

The COP26 in Glasgow is coming up and Friends of the Earth (FoE) and Aberdeen Climate Actions (ACA) are organising a rally for October 23 and we've been invited to speak at it. We've also been approached by Pedal on Parliament (PoP) who are organising a ride in Glasgow and are encouraging feeder rides from all over the country to Glasgow. Will take two days to get to Glasgow from Aberdeen - 160 miles. It's also November so it could be wet and windy. Will also need accommodation in Glasgow. We invited members in the last newsletter and one person emailed back so far and was interested in cycling there so we could see a few people doing it.

Any other business

Francesco was cycling in the Schoolhill area recently and had an incident with an aggressive motorist who did a close pass then went through a red light and blocked him from entering the advanced stop lane for cyclists. He didn't report the motorist to the police but was shaken by the incident.

Gavin suggested getting a cheap camera that can then be used to report to the police. Back camera light

<https://cycliq.com/support/ce601/help/power-issues/> You can also get driver speeds - <https://github.com/BerkshireCar/SpeederBot>

Noted that as part of the Scottish Government SNP-Green Party deal there is a commitment on the Police to set up a one-year trial of a reporting system for "dash cam" footage.

Tour of Britain - was fantastic. It was over quickly. They went really fast. Gavin went to the top of Cairn O'Mount. Nico was at the beach where they stopped. Getabout had stalls which were interesting. The tarmac was perfect for the professional cyclists. Next year the tour starts in Aberdeen so we'll have the first stage. Rachel was not interested and felt that races like these make cycling look like a sport that's just for athletes. It makes it look less accessible for regular people.

Fancy women on bikes campaign for next summer? -

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/09/join-in-the-2021-fancy-womens-bike-ride/>

Nico is leaving Aberdeen in the next few months and heading to Oslo. We'll look into planning a social get together for October or November.

Next meeting

October 26th 2021.