

ACF Meeting Minutes

30th November 2021

Attendees: Gavin Clark (chair), Rachel Martin, Nicolo Silvani, Peter Leslie (Aecom), Fiona Bebbington (Aecom), Alie Johnston, Daniel Verhamme, Fiona McDonald, Francesco Sani, Torc Torrance.

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

A93 and A947 corridor studies - Aecom guest speaker Peter Leslie

- Not many studies done on this already so started with a blank canvas.
- Abides by Cycling by Design and main steer from council and partners is sustainable transport.
- They cycled the full length from Aberdeen to Banchory as part of the process.
- Looked at the route in its entirety but paid particular attention to issues along the route like AWPR junction.
- They cycled along the A947 as well.
- At the end of December, they plan to publish study objectives and will look at national, regional, and local policies as part of that.
- The initial review will be how to deliver segregation along the route. Segregation meaning kerbed segregation, not painted lines.
- It's not the Deeside Way versus the A93. It's all of it.
- Have to find a balance with public transport.
- In Banchory, some previous schemes have been stopped by local businesses. Parking is very emotive.
- Communal bins are sometimes a problem - where do they go if they're taken off the street?

Peter now asks for input from cycle forum members:

Gavin: it's promising that they've cycled the route themselves

Nico: did the study tour and found it useful.

Daniel: very pleased that it's about the A93 and for segregated lanes on this route. Been cycling it for 10 years now and it's really in a poor state. There are places where Deeside Way is quite close but in others, it's not close.

Fiona: uses Deeside Way regularly with children and also with friends who have a handcycle bike. There are some issues with connecting Deeside Way to A93 and a lot of access points are unsuitable for bikes. Often not wide enough for adapted bikes. Cycling on A93 can be frightening with lots of double-decker buses that drive past quickly. Pinch points at traffic lights are tricky.

Peter says some roads would have to become single lane to create space for segregated cycle paths - e.g. just west of the Anderson Drive junction.

Alie: Usually takes the A947 into town. One problem she has is whenever there's a big queue of cars coming up to traffic lights there's no way to get to the ASL.

Peter says junctions will be separated.

Torc: suggests elevated crossing for Anderson Drive. Down at Garthdee next to Asda there's a very busy pedestrian death run. An overpass for feet and wheels would create a cleaner and easier access for active travel. Dundee has them and they seem to work. Gavin is not sure it's a success in Dundee because they have to travel further to cross the road - why should pedestrians be inconvenienced? Torc says should cars stop for a minute and a half to be granted access to cross a junction? People should have to pay to park everywhere - such as workplace parking (demand management).

Note of previous meeting and matters arising

Gavin replied to council about Hazlehead Avenue and the one-way system and got a reply to say they've dropped those proposals.

Other consultations

- LEZ - the council decided to minimise the extent of the low emission zone and was open to objections up until Sunday. We didn't submit a formal objection because we've probably lost the battle and if we object it may delay the implementation altogether. Daniel says there was also a hugely difficult to object to because there were several very large documents with a map of the proposal and without clear reasons for the change. Gavin also looked at it and saw all the attachments and thought

he could spend his entire weekend objecting because of the long documents.

- Local transport strategy main issues report - we submitted a response to that. We referenced two things from the previous (2016) LTS: people responded and said they had no confidence that the council would actually deliver, and also that we had no segregated cycling infrastructure on which cyclists would feel safe. We pointed out these issues in our response.

Daniel asks about the current A93 and A947 study - have these been in the pipeline for a long time or have these been pushed recently by the Scottish government for more active travel?

Can leave comments here:

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/communities-housing-and-infrastructure/a93-banchory-to-aberdeen-city-centre-transport-stu/>

And put pins on the map here:

<http://www.placecheck.info/app/maps/a93corridor>

And here:

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/place/a947-bucksburn-roundabout-to-parkhill-junction-tra/>

Map pins here:

<https://www.placecheck.info/app/maps/a947corridor>

Campaigns

- No idling schools banner has been in Stonehaven at Arduthie Primary and it has now gone to Newmachar. New request is from a lady in Dyce who is a frustrated grandmother and fed up with the traffic fumes. Newtonhill Primary school wants it after that.
- Make Aberdeen Accessible - Gavin was tasked with sending results to the council(s) (City and 'Shire) - in progress.
- Art - Rachel contacted Grey's School of Art about putting art on Deeside Way and they suggested for a budget £700 as a fee for the student and

£2500 for materials as it would require lots of paint and scaffolding to paint the entire wall. Rachel wondered whether it's necessary to paint the entire wall? Francesco suggested a sculpture. Torc mentioned the sculptor in Stonehaven who made one recently for £2000. We suggested a polar bear in a kilt on a bike with the message on the wall behind: this machine fights climate change. Rachel will apply for the Sustrans grant.

Any other business

Fiona - some positive news from NHS Grampian. They've employed someone new to improve active travel for NHS Grampian and they've done a big survey to ask about their travel which is her start in her new role. Fiona says this is encouraging.

No meeting for December so next meeting will be January 2022.