

ACF Meeting Minutes

22nd February 2022

Attendees: Gavin Clark (chair), Rachel Martin, Nicolo Silvani, Daniel Verhamme, Fiona McDonald, Hanne Bruhn, James Love, Laurie Rominger, Francesco Sani, Phil Edgley.

Minutes from the last meeting have been posted and Rachel will take minutes this month. Ian Yuill joined last month and there was a discussion about idling and pedestrianisation of Union Street which was very good. Council elections are in May and we've prepared a list of questions to put to candidates / Party leaders in advance of the election. Gavin has invited other people in the newsletter to members to send questions by email.

Francesco Sani has to leave early but wants to see our draft questions for candidates about active transport. We discussed the draft questions we have so far - 6. The plan is to send to party leaders and post responses to our website.

Daniel said Cycling UK have just started their election campaigning and have released a manifesto. Gavin says the Walk, Cycle, Wheel Vote campaign group has also drafted some questions or 'asks' to candidates. There are benefits to working together and having the same questions but we agree the questions should be direct and ask clear questions. Have the questions ready by end of March to put to politicians.

Consultations

A92 meeting with Jacobs - A long route to cover in the meeting and none of the people from Jacobs were in Aberdeen or very familiar with Aberdeen but nevertheless, they were very receptive to ideas. Daniel felt it was hard to comment because we didn't have any personal experience

of cycling along that route, partly because in its current condition it is a route that almost all cyclists would avoid. The Placecheck portal could capture most of the point details, and Gavin intends to send some more general comments about the route as a whole.

Ellon-Garthdee corridor - The first stage report is complete and went back to Councilors about a week ago who have given it preliminary approval. They report back next in December. Gavin had a quick look at it. They suggested the route go along the beach. A cycle path on King Street, and on Holburn St is subject to there being space which is disappointing. There's no direct action from us required at this point.

STPR2 (strategic transport project review 2) - this is an open consultation until April. We will likely make some general comments about how active travel must be prioritised.

Union Street City Centre Masterplan - we had a meeting with council officers and their designers/architects plus some other cycling representatives. They had three designs all with a wide pedestrian pavement, an activity space (seating, bins, bike racks), and in the middle a two-way cycle lane which would also be for service vehicles at particular times of the day. The three designs were variations of this with different kerb heights and crossing areas (plazas). They're also proposing a cycle lane connection from Union Street down to the station via Trinity St, Carmellite Lane and Hadden St, that looked great in principle. They're also proposing cycle paths along Union Street and had shared diagrams of bus stop islands. They want to start work on closed portion of Union Street next year.

Actions to deliver reduction in car kms - We got a helpful sheet from Gavin Thompson of Friends of the Earth to respond to this.

Pavement and obstructive parking – Gavin wondered if this is worth Aberdeen Cycle Forum to respond to and we all agree. Children cycle on pavements and it also affects cyclists on the road.

St Machar Drive – another new consultation that we haven't looked at yet but will make some comments in due course.

Council and other engagements

Active Travel User Partnership – Gavin was unable to attend the meeting this month but he thinks it was about the same proposals for Union Street. Gavin can attend the evening meetings but not the daytime ones so if anyone else is interested please let us know.

Grampian Cycle Partnership had their AGM recently and Gavin attended. The current chair has stood down because he's left Aberdeen. Jon Barron from Nestrans has taken over as the new chair. They spoke a bit about the forthcoming council elections as they were discussing how they planned to engage with candidates. Gavin made the point that if GCP were now moving into undertaking campaigning activities, we all need to coordinate and ensure that our respective campaign points are consistent.

Campaigns and Events

Rachel has applied to the Sustrans ArtRoots fund and is waiting to hear back.

Our 'No idling' banner has come back to us from Newmachar and is about to go to Dyce.

We met with Raleigh about their cargo bike loan scheme and have reached out to our members to gather interest. They can loan cargo bikes for free to local businesses for a week or two. Daniel said Nestrans have already tried cargo bike loans and thinks it may still be running. City Council have cargo bikes coming in the summer <https://hydrogen-central.com/hydroden-powered-ecargo-bikes-aberdeen-uk-first-pilot/>

Fiona says Grampian Disability Bikes might be interested in the Raleigh Scheme and would fwd contact details.

Gavin was contacted by Active Aberdeen about Cycling without Age as they're looking to bring it to Aberdeen and are looking for cyclists to pilot the bikes.

Any other business

Laurie asked about the new Highway Code and if there's likely to be any communication from Aberdeen Council to educate people. Gavin says it's a central government responsibility and they have been criticised for the lack of education and has heard there's a campaign planned for the spring.

Laurie works near Wellington Road and was disappointed to hear nothing has come from the recent Wellington Road consultation. Gavin noted we have responded to at least 3 consultations on the Wellington Rd corridor, but still nothing has happened. Gavin said at Lochside school he'd gone to have a look at what they've done for active travel - the approach from Wellington Circle is brand new so could easily have had a segregated bike path but instead it's a mish mash of part shared-use pavement and part on-road unprotected cycle lane which seems inexcusable. From the other side, Laurie says

Redmoss Road is very nice and the cycle racks at Lochside school are full. Lots of kids cycle to school but it's almost all boys.

Daniel said last week the Council approved another drive-through on Ellon Road. It's the junction between two active travel corridors. There are already two or three there. The council is prioritising this instead of active travel routes and car kilometre reductions. We sometimes put in objections to these and did recently for a potential drive-through at the beach.

Hanne asked about cyclist profiles and has volunteered to be next.

Nico says Big Issue ebikes are launching next month so we should hopefully have seen them by our next meeting.

Gavin thanked everyone for their attendance and especially nice to see some new faces, which are always welcome whether they drop in occasionally or become regular attendees. Next meeting 29th March 2022