

ACF Meeting Minutes

26th April 2022

Attendees: Gavin Clark (chair), Rachel Martin, Torc Torrance, Hanne Bruhn, Daniel Verhamme, Neil Robb, Fiona McDonald, Michelle Short, Francesco Sani, Laurie Rominger, Clemens Von Scheffer, Martin Sharman.

Pre-meeting chat: Introductions and welcome to new faces. Rachel also said we've made progress with the art mural for Deeside Way and have found an artist who is interested - Katie from KMGYeah who may be joining our meeting tonight. We need to have a discussion about what we'd like to see on the wall to feed into design ideas for Katie - to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Gavin: It's the AGM which means our current office holders have to report on the year past and how it has gone. We also have a report from the treasurer who is not here but has passed on the accounts.

Gavin's top 12 things we did - adult cycling lessons, Dr Bike clinic, No Idling campaign (started last February and still ongoing), consultations, inform and educate (newsletters and social media posts - our top Facebook post reached almost 100,000 people), fighting prejudice (Facebook campaign with positive cycling messages), Webinar with Phil Goodwin on transport proposals for Aberdeen, COP 26 (pre-cop rally in Aberdeen and one of our members - Daniel - cycling from Aberdeen to Glasgow), Tour of Britain, Spaces for People (£1.7M of Sustrans funding which perhaps didn't achieve as much as we would have liked). That's my roundup of the year. Our activities and events are still a bit curtailed due to Covid but we're closer to being able to do stuff in person - will we go back to in-person meetings?

One thing we didn't do this year is Pedal on Parliament. The uncertainties around covid and short planning time plus we're struggling a bit for capacity so we decided not to participate. The other quandary is where do we have it in Aberdeen? There aren't really any safe and family-friendly spaces to cycle in Aberdeen. Daniel chimed in to say the PoP has been quite a success in the past -

it was a matter of capacity to organise it and have a route. Gavin continued to say we've done a number of consultations recently, and we continue to be engaged on plans for Union Street. There are lots of other corridor studies that have gone on recently. Our other ideas and campaigns - the no idling which is ongoing and the art project which is upcoming.

Looking ahead to the year to come - more of the same? Maybe some more in-person activities and/or small events. Our first priority should be to try to engage with the new Council administration when they're elected. Other small wins - ride without age is coming to Aberdeen and the new bike hire scheme is coming. We've got the Tour of Britain coming back later this year and we should try and get ourselves insured so we can do small events without having to worry about insurance.

Our membership system needs an upgrade as it's quite dated. There are privacy and data protection issues we need to resolve before we change anything. We're now in the region of 640 people on our membership list and have added around 30 in the past year. Of course we especially need more active members who join meetings and get involved.

Speaking of active members we should say thank you to Nico Silvani who has been very active for a while but has recently left Aberdeen and is now in Norway. He was appointed our digital media person but has stepped down from that. But he may still join meetings from time-to-time and would be very welcome.

In our list of posts the post of Secretary is still vacant. Clare the treasurer sent the accounts - summary details posted at the end of this note. Clare is happy to continue as treasurer. Gavin also thanked Rachel for all the hard work that she puts in to keep the Forum going and inputting to pretty much all of our events and activities.

Rachel said Gavin covered everything except the Make Aberdeen Accessible campaign which we ran last year and also the Spotlight on a Cyclist. Noted that we had sent the output from the MAA campaign to selected Councillors in both City and Shire but had no reply. This would be a good topic to follow up after the elections.

Gavin said let's discuss office holders now. Clare said she's happy to continue as treasurer, and there were no other nominations.

Gavin said he'll go next: is there anyone else who would like to be Chair of the Aberdeen Cycle Forum. Gavin is content to continue but noted that due to work commitments it can be hard to find the time, and if someone felt they could do it better he'd be very willing to stand down. There were no other volunteers or nominations.

Then Rachel as communications and campaigns secretary - would anyone else like this role? No other volunteers or nominations. Rachel said she's happy to continue.

Gavin said we still have the Secretary role free - would anyone like this? Fiona said she's happy to help with some of the secretary duties like minutes but not consultations. One of the biggest jobs of the secretary is maintaining the membership list. Fiona said she could possibly do this, but Gavin noted that the biggest task is modernising it and we need to take a few decisions on how to go about that.

The new elected /re-elected office bearers for 2022/23 are therefore:

Chair - Gavin Clark

Treasurer - Clare Roberts

Secretary - vacant

Communications and Campaigns Secretary - Rachel Martin

Francesco had his hand up - he was at another meeting yesterday and they had a similar discussion about memberships but it has been popular during covid to have an app like What's App to discuss issues more informally. Emailing isn't always very good. Gavin said we currently don't have phone numbers as the only information we have for members is their name and email address.

Neil has his hand up - knows about GDPR compliance and is local but it depends what you do with the data now? . Neil is happy to get more involved which is terrific. He noted that he often doesn't hear about meetings or might

have attended more often - this reinforces that email isn't ideal and messages we send out can often get blocked at the recipient's server or directed to junk. Services like Mail Chimp might help, but can get blocked too and there are other issues to consider. Suggest we convene a sub-meeting at a later date to consider this further, with Neil & Fiona participating.

Minutes from last meeting

Consultations

We did respond to the Scottish government consultation on reducing car kilometres, but haven't responded to one about St Machar Drive or STPR II.

Council elections

We put six questions about active travel to 5 political parties and have had responses from 4 of them so far which we've posted to our website -

<https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/2022/04/26/who-to-vote-for-in-the-upcoming-local-government-elections/>

Newton Hill update

Torc said there's a proposal to transform a horrible and muddy underpass into a usable path for both pedestrians and cyclists to get to and from Camoch Moor. Torc went to the community meeting and is delighted to report that all the councillors in the room thought it was a great idea. There's been more local engagement from an upcoming restaurant called Cammies which has incorporated a carvery with all you can eat and a soft play area for kiddies. The business would like the path which links their business to the nearest big town which is Newton Hill. It was good to see and hear lots of nodding heads around the room and lots of agreement. Torc noted that over £100k has been spent on feasibility studies for an active travel route linking Aberdeen to Stonehaven, without any real result to date. This has only been £12k on feasibility studies and looks like it's going to go ahead.

Consultations

Nothing worthy of our comments currently. We have a meeting again next week about Union Street proposals with council officers.

Events and activities

We don't have a lot going on right now other than our art project and our no idling banner in circulation. One thing that came to Gavin a couple of days ago was a message from an organisation called "Kidical Mass" which is a ride with kids.

Rachel says it sounds like a great idea. Would we do it off-road like on Deeside Way? Neil thinks we should hit the traffic. Fiona says it should be on roads to try to influence people. Maybe the kidical Mass thing is a bit different Gavin says because it's kids and families, it's difficult to think of somewhere safe. The beach was suggested as one option

Francesco says we could start somewhere safe like Deeside Way and if it becomes a regular thing we could move up to roads.

Any other business

Gavin got an email from someone (Katrina) who works for Sustrans but is embedded in the NHS and would like to talk to us about doing something jointly, perhaps with cycling lessons. Michelle works for the NHS and says she's been trying to get bike storage and bike counts. Fiona says Katrina been very proactive and has replaced two vans with eco bikes.

Fiona asked about organising bike parking for the local scout hut. Gavin said he has helped a couple of people before get bike racks and can probably suggest who to ask in the Council. Gavin will email with a suggested point of contact.

Francesco asked if the next meeting could be in-person? Torc says The Aberdeen Astronomical Society runs a hybrid meeting so some members can join via Zoom and others can be there in-person. They usually get 10-15 people in-person and then 15-25 people join online. It requires a proper microphone to work properly.

Art work

Torc: would like to see diversity and inclusivity - a wide variety of bikes, tandems, recumbents, cargo bikes. See more mature citizens enjoying

Fancesco: Realistic person sitting in their car - not slim or young but a more regular person - but rather than holding a steering wheel and sitting in the car seat they're on a bicycle. The message is that everyone can be a cyclist.

Torc says: maybe you're saying I want to break free and cycle.

Fiona: likes the polar bear with the message: "This machine beats climate change". Would like to convey the environmental benefits of cycling. Would like to be inclusive of other active travel things like scooters, walking, dogs ... Maybe also a racing cyclist.

Rachel: would like to include a gull because gulls are underappreciated but they're so clever. Or maybe some other Scottish animals like red squirrels and Scottish wildcats.

Neil: lots of colour. Everyone agrees it needs lots of colour. Fill it so much that your eyes always have something to look at. Every inch is taken up. We really want the infrastructure and the council - could there be a hidden message there - people in Aberdeen are not going to give up their cars but we need the infrastructure as well as we need them both side-by-side. There needs to be a message there. If there was a car involved it could be somewhere next to it. Maybe a car in a small way. In Edinburgh they're finalising plans for George Street in Edinburgh and we could totally have that in Union Street.

Hanne: Glow in the dark paint would be great so it looks completely different in the dark.

Fiona: things that are close to the ground for small children to look at. Neil says he likes this idea because you see different things at different heights.

Torc: one final thing - would be good to have a leopard on a bike (the town leopard)

Michelle: make sure it's safe for people with disabilities to avoid sensory overload eg., for people with autism. Also be sensitive to people with visual impairments.

Fiona: Gull in the front of a cargo bike.

End of meeting introductions

Martin and Clemens joined the meeting late and introduced themselves at the end. Welcome to both of them.

Next meeting will be 31st May

Summary Accounts

Bank balance 1/4/21. 3147.18

Donation. 9.26

Less

Facebook no idling campaign. 369.53

Website host cost. 36.00

Sport aberdeen. Cycle training 320.00

Closing balance. 31/3/22. 2430.91

Sport aberdeen and the idling campaign were fully funded during the previous financial year.