

ACF Meeting Minutes

31st May 2022

Attendees: Gavin Clark (Chair), Rachel Martin, Hanne Bruhn, Daniel Verhamme, Fiona McDonald, Martin Sharman, Francesco Sani, Nico Silvani.

Introduction - Gavin apologised for the late posting of the Agenda and the fact there had been no newsletter email this month, nor facebook event created for this meeting.

Minutes of last meeting

- Neil Robb had offered to help with upgrading our email list system but Gavin and Neil haven't had a chance to meet yet. It had been a busy time with several requests for meetings related to the various corridor studies and Union St etc
- Gavin to follow up with Fiona about the bike racks she's after and where. Fiona confirmed the location but it's not public property and space is tight.
- Kiddical mass - was discussed last time and Gavin posted it up on Facebook and several people came back with interest. Martin saw the Edinburgh event in the news and it got a lot of good publicity. He agrees it needs to be balanced between being safe to encourage young people but also to have visibility with motorists. Fiona says the European Cycle Federation page have two dates every year for this event - May and September. We could aim for September because it coincides with the council's car free day in town, or with the date of the 'Festival' see below.
- Martin to complete the 'Spotlight' questions

Events and activities

Our grant application for £2500 for art work has been approved, so should go ahead this summer, although we haven't signed the grant agreement yet. Rachel had sent the 'brain dump' from the last meeting to the artist who is giving it some thought. We haven't seen any ideas back yet.

Sustrans Walking & Cycling Index report for Aberdeen

The Aberdeen walking & cycling index is out and provides a good baseline for Aberdeen. This is our first year of having this so now we have something to compare to in future years. It also allows comparison with other cities.

The report focussed on walking quite heavily which obscures the poor cycling numbers somewhat.

Council engagement

Gavin notes that we've had council elections since the last meeting and there's a new administration in place. Gavin took part in a FoE meeting last week and he briefly saw the cooperation agreement between the LibDems and SNP and there's mention of active travel and even cooperating with Aberdeen Cycle Forum. As soon as the dust settles we'll try to set up a meeting with someone to try to develop a good relationship.

Consultations

1. Westhill to Aberdeen (again!) - <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/westhill-to-aberdeen-transport-study/>

This is the public consultation for the A944/A9119 multi-modal transport study. We have contributed to ideas at a previous stage and this appears to be the next iteration. The consultants seemed quite good and what they have come up with looks promising at first glance. We need to encourage as many of our members to respond as possible.

2. A96 corridor review [A96 Corridor Review | Transport Scotland](#)

This is a review of the proposed A96 corridor which was previously planned to be a dual carriageway. They're reviewing the carbon footprint of turning it into a dual carriageway and also looking at bus and active travel options. Overall we feel better public transport provision and the option to take bikes on buses and trains would be a better investment.

3. Union St and Belmont Quarter

The revised plans for Union St had been shared via the Transport User Partnership (ACTUP) but are not public yet. They've had a meeting to discuss the 4 options but we hadn't been able to attend as it was a working hours meeting. It's about how to readmit taxis, buses and service vehicles to the closed section of Union Street. There is also a plan showing the proposed traffic control measures for the Belmont Quarter and we've been invited to respond by 10 June. Gavin will send the map to all attendees by email after the meeting so we can have a look and provide feedback. Gavin says one of the things that stands out to him is currently there's no enforcement of rules - for example, Belmont Street and Back Wynd are supposedly pedestrian only but cars drive down there repeatedly and there seems to be little effective enforcement.

3rd September 'Festival of Cycling' [Launch of new cycling festival in city centre | Aberdeen City Council](#)

This is an event to celebrate cycling on the day before the Tour of Britain departure. We thought it was unfortunate that everyone in the publicity photo

is in lycra (except the two Councillors) and it makes it look like just a race event and isn't very representative of all Aberdeen cyclists. It appeared several race clubs had been invited to the photo opportunity, but we hadn't and we don't believe CTC Grampian were either.

We are interested in getting involved in the Festival and could e.g. plan a Kiddical Mass for the same weekend especially if the Council is closing the roads anyway. Francesco says it's quite odd to have a festival of cycling when there's a race going on as they're quite different things. Fiona says it's a couple of days of events so there may be other activities as well.

We'll reach out to them, via Getabout/Nestrans to see if we can get involved somehow.

LEZ implementation [Low Emission Zone | Aberdeen City Council](#)

LEZ comes into effect today but won't be enforced for another two years.

Any other business

Martin says he's quite keen to get involved in a ride out. Would like to identify a route and do a call out for a flash mob that he can just say on a Saturday morning where and when to meet. Would like to see a code for road users - a way of interacting and an etiquette - like a highway code. Eg., I'm cycling in the middle of the road when I go around a corner for safety. Martin is building a map as a side project with lots of good routes so he's looking for routes if anyone has anyone they want to share. Martin asks how does one ask the council for a drop kerb? Gavin says in previous years the council would ask us periodically for suggestions for small improvements as they have a budget for this (CWSS) but in recent years they haven't asked. If we can get a contact with the new council administration we can potentially feed these kinds of issues to that person.

Gavin noted that last year GCP had produced a 'Good Cycling Guide' which sounds similar to Martin's idea of a 'code' - it is available on their website.

[The Good Cycling Guide \(grampiancyclepartnership.org\)](http://grampiancyclepartnership.org)

Gavin reminded that he had undertaken to look into obtaining insurance to make it easier for us to organise small events or group rides.

Next meeting date is 28th June 2022. Discussed whether this could be an in-person meeting. Generally on-line is working well and getting good attendance, so we will stick with that for now. But agreed that a face to face meet up would be good too. Could just be a short informal ride and a cafe stop, much as per Martin's idea above.