



## **CYCLING ACTION PROGRESS MEETING**

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

Present: Chris Vinestock (CCS – Transportation, Head of Service)  
Ben George (CCS – Transport Strategy)  
Simon Rees-Jones (CCS – Improvements Group)  
Rob Wachowski (CCS – Walking & Cycling Officer)  
Nick Guy (Wheelrights)  
David Naylor (Wheelrights)  
Fraser Arnot (Sustrans)

1.1 The Cycle Action Progress Group is intended to provide a forum for representatives of City and County of Swansea, Wheelrights and Sustrans to provide an overview and update of cycling initiatives and schemes in Swansea. It was agreed that these meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.

1.2 NG thanked CV for the increased collaborative approach in recent years. It was asked whether Cycle Forum minutes could be circulated to Wheelrights Members in order to better highlight the engagement that exists between Wheelrights, Sustrans and the Council. It was however asked that Cycle Forum minutes be prepared more promptly following meetings and this was agreed.

**RW**

### **2. Process**

2.1 CV expressed a desire to formalise the means by which the cycling groups are consulted, while Wheelrights and Sustrans indicated that they would appreciate a greater involvement during the detailed planning stage. It was therefore agreed that consultations were best to be paired with the design process with separate consultations occurring at feasibility, outlined and detailed design stages where practicable and appropriate. The approach would also be consistent with the way in which the Boulevard project had been consulted upon to date.

2.2 NG queried whether specific 'cycle audits' are undertaken as standard at present. CV agreed that this needed and accordingly the design process is already being reviewed in order to cater for this along with a number of other non-cycling related considerations. It was agreed that a publicly available cycle audit document should be developed as standard. The consultation from the detailed design stage could form a substantive part of this document.

**SRJ**

2.3 FA expressed a desire on behalf of Sustrans that they have the opportunity to feed in their own technical solutions to schemes. CV voiced caution in responding to this proposal because of the risk associated with deviating from design standards. SRJ also commented that while deviation from design standards could be done in certain circumstances with approval from the DfT or Welsh Government this extra layer of approvals added to delivery timescales. It was however agreed that this could be helpful in certain circumstances and the broad premise was welcomed.

### **3. Bridges Reconfiguration**

3.1 NG expressed concern that the Bridges Reconfiguration should be mindful of the link between NCN4 and NCN43 at this point and BG confirmed that this had been well

- catered for with a substantially improved crossing at this point to ensure continuity.
- 3.2 The group accepted that a contraflow on the northern bridge could not be provided because of design constraints.
- 3.3 DN welcomed the substantial improvements to traffic signals planned for the bridges.
- 3.4 SRJ was charged with drawing up more detailed proposals of the link through from Pentreguinea Road to Thomas Street which arose through consultation with the cycling groups. SRJ proposed that finger posts could be installed to direct cyclists; NG asked that destination signing be considered and FA also asked that it be considered that travel time rather than distance be included on the signs. CV expressed reservations with regards to the use of time as it was a measure only applicable to one user group. **SRJ**
- 3.5 SRJ also confirmed that the Bridges plans had been redesigned to include a 5 metre shared use path on the westernmost footpath on New Cut. This would provide an enhanced link to and from the Quay Parade crossing to serve Parc Tawe Link.
- 3.6 An extended discussion was had with regards to an improved cycle path provision on the west path. It was agreed that an enhanced provision would be considered. As these works would be outside the present scope of Bridge works their delivery as part of the scheme would be dependant upon feasibility, programming and available budget. **SRJ**
- 3.7 It was agreed that BG & SRJ would work up a strategic plan for the Bridges project to demonstrate the features which have been provided to benefit cyclists. **BG & SRJ**
- 4. Boulevard**
- 4.1 NG & DN requested a further extension of the shared path route from the Bridges to Wind Street on the north side of the carriageway. It was agreed that the feasibility of such a provision would be considered as part of the next phase of Boulevard works. **BG**
- 4.2 BG was able to confirm that the Welsh European Funding Officer (WEFO) had given their consent to consider the provision of a cycle route between West Way and the western end of the West Civic Centre Car Park. Subject to funding, business case and feasible design it was anticipated that this link may be provided during 2011/12; this would be in addition to the originally planned link through the east car park. This was welcomed by both Sustrans and Wheelrights.
- 4.3 BG agreed to consult further with Wheelrights and Sustrans on the emerging Boulevard plans. It was agreed that the next phase of consultation would be undertaken at detailed design stage. **BG**
- 5. Action Plan Items**
- 5.1 It was agreed that a three year action plan would be drafted to set out Council priorities for cycle expenditure. This would be developed in conjunction with Wheelrights and Sustrans. **RW**
- 5.2 In addition to the plan, CV expressed the desire to meet with Sustrans and Wheelrights on a quarterly basis to monitor the ongoing development of cycle schemes and initiatives. This was agreed by all present.
- 5.3 CV & BG agreed to meet with Cllr Rob Speht to discuss his ongoing involvement with the Cycle Forum, as nominated member representative, and how his expertise can best be utilised by the group. **CV & BG**

- 5.4 The role and possible reinstatement of the Cycle Forum Technical Sub Group was agreed to be discussed at the next Cycle Forum. **RW**
- 5.5 DN indicated that Wheelrights were keen to see the development of the Kingsbridge Cycle Link and this was considered to be a high priority for Wheelrights. DN expressed the view that this should be one of a number of “links” to be included in the Action Plan. It was agreed that Wheelrights would write to the Somerset Trust who represent the views of the Commoners, over which the cycle link would pass, to enquire as to whether formal access could be granted. BG will supply an appropriate address to DN. **NG**  
**BG**
- 5.6 A number of items for inclusion in the Cycle Action Plan were discussed. These included: **RW**
- Cycle Links (to the NCN routes)
  - Advanced Stop Lines: A prioritised list of junctions at which the inclusion of ASLs could be considered.
  - Quiet Road Links: These are quiet roads which could be signed for use by cyclists. NG proposed that the first of these could be in The Sandfields.
  - Signing Audit: Wheelrights have developed a comprehensive cycle signing audit for Swansea. DN agreed to prioritise the list. RW & FA agreed to consider the outcomes of the audit and provide a response as to whether each recommendation had been agreed for delivery or not. **DN**  
**RW**  
**&**  
**FA**
- 6. North Gower Trail**
- 2.1 BG explained that funding from the Rural Development Plan had been secured in order to deliver the North Gower Trail cycle route between Gowerton and Penclawdd. BG will now meet with the local landowners with a view to coming to a common agreement on a way forward. A further update will be given at either Cycle Forum or the next Action Progress Meeting. **BG**
- 7. Seminar**
- 7.1 It was agreed that DN would make preliminary arrangements to invite Alasdair Massie to be the speaker at the next Cycle Seminar for Council Officers. The emphasis of the talk would be towards design issues and Regeneration Officers are also to be invited to the event because of the involvement with the Boulevard scheme. RW would make the final arrangements once DN had obtain general agreements with Mr Massie. **DN**  
**RW**
- 8. AOB**
- 8.1 NG drew attention to the recent ‘Commuter Challenge’ which was covered by the Evening Post during Bike Week. The article brought good emphasis to the role that Cycling can play in Swansea.
- 8.2 It was agreed as a forward item that RW would contact Council departments in March 2012 to ensure a collective approach to Bike Week by the various departments was achieved. **RW**
- 8.3 It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in September 2011. CV will make the necessary arrangements. (Thursdays or Fridays were preferred by NG).