

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 29th April 2023

in Ripples Cafe, Foreshore, West Cross..

Present: John Britton (JB), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), Chris Walsh (CW).

Apologies: Allyson Evans (AE), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), Joe Muldoon (JM), John Sayce (JS), Patrick Tribe (PT).

DN chaired the meeting.

1. **Matters arising** from 18 March meeting and not on agenda:

- (a) North Gower (Item 2). JM has the matter in hand and is preparing a poster. **[Action: JM]**
- (b) Barriers (Item 4). The document listing sub-standard barriers is now on the Infrastructure page. DN would email Jack Palmer to draw his attention to this (together with a similar list of sub-standard crossings – to be prepared; see 5. below.) **[Action: DN]**
- (c) Ian Walker's 26 April presentation (Item 6). DN would draft notes to record this. (Post meeting: Thanks to JB for sending DN the link to Ian W.'s paper.) **[Action: DN]**

2. **Gowerton Station.**

We discussed the extension of the Gowerton to Kingsbridge SUP from where it ends on Alder Way to the station N. platform. There is outline planning permission for a housing estate in this area. Clearly the SUP extension needs to be integrated with this development. Cycling is not allowed both on the station platforms and the footbridge linking them. DJ noted that a Park and Ride is being considered. With Network Rail presumably involved the case for a station bypass, which would involve a new bridge across the railway on the old railway bridge abutments, is strengthened. We agreed that we should push for this.

3. **Blackpill.**

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/activetravelblackpill> invites comments relating to active travel provision in Blackpill. Its focus of is on the use of the Toucan and the possibility of new bridges across both Mumbles Road and the Clyne stream. It contains a questionnaire which DN suggested we should submit as individuals. It also provides an email address, which he suggested we should use to provide our feedback. Following discussion we agreed that it should be on the lines that the existing Toucan crossing must be retained but that we have an open mind on a new bridge across Mumbles, subject to retention of the Toucan and the provision of satisfactory access to the Clyne Valley path from the north side of Mumbles Road. Also we support the replacement of the bridge across the Clyne Stream. We feel that the provision of a new bridge across Mumbles Road is not good use of active travel money. (This is the position we took previously; see notes of 8 Oct. and 12 Nov. 2022 Routes Group meetings.) We did not discuss who would send this email but, following our normal practice, this falls on our Secretary or Chair. **[Action: DR/JS]**

4. **Newton-Mumbles link.**

The Council have prepared plans for active travel infrastructure which comprise five sections: 1, 2 & 3 west of (above) Langland Road and 4 & 5 below it. The latter involves designating Dunn's Lane, Gower Place, Chapel St and the lane between Victoria Ave. and Newton Road "quiet streets", thereby providing a lightly trafficked alternative to Newton Road.

We unanimously supported the sections 4 & 5 plans, but had reservations about sections 1, 2 & 3. While accepting the need for cycle access to Underhill Park we felt that the plans need to be reviewed. DR noted that the path accessing the park from Langland corner (S. corner of the park.) was to be a footpath but thought that this could be changed to provide an off-road cycle alternative to Langland Road. CW felt that cycle infrastructure was needed to get people on bikes. DN however felt that the proposed SUP on Southward Lane (south of the park) served no useful purpose; that only minor changes are needed to provide cycle access to the park; and that it would be better to provide a SUP along the N. side of the park adjacent to Newton Road, with the short very steep link to Newton made a quiet street. This would provide a shorter route to Newton than that planned by the Council. He had submitted this as his personal view in the Council's consultation questionnaire (He met the 7 April deadline).

5. Junction Crossings.

It has been suggested that the issue of priority of SUP/cycle track crossings of minor junctions should be a Wheelrights campaigning issue (following up their effective barriers campaign). The blue painted crossing of the access to the Secret Café on the foreshore, and those on the south side of Mayals Road are examples of what is needed. DN noted that similar treatment is needed at the junction of Fairwood Road with Mayals Road; possibly also on the new GAP (currently under construction at its west end); and on various junctions on the Morfa bypass. We would provide a list of the relevant junctions. DN offered to prepare one, similar to that for barriers, which he would put on the Infrastructure page. Members are asked to provide him with junctions for this list: their location and other relevant info. **[Action: DN & all]**

6. Bike Week.

The Environment Centre have something planned for Saturday, 10 June. It is understood that this will involve stalls outside the Centre in Pier Street. Rides to and from Pier St from various outlying districts are proposed. JS would lead one from Uplands. We await information from the Centre. **[Action: JS]**

7. Newsletter.

DN is looking for material for the Summer Newsletter. An article in which users of Mayals Road would provide a 'snapshot' of their experiences of the new cycle infrastructure has been suggested. DN would welcome this. He suggests contributions of, say, 100-150 words. Contributors could include walkers and car drivers as well as cyclists. **[Action: all]**

8. Next meeting.

10.00 am on Saturday 3 June in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor