

Wheelrights Routes Group

Notes of meeting on 5th August 2023

in Ripples Cafe, Foreshore, West Cross..

Present: Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), Dareyoush Rassi (DR), John Sayce (JS).

Apologies: John Britton (JB), Caroline Carter (CC), Allyson Evans (AE), Bill Gannon (BG), Mike Lewis (ML), Patrick Tribe (PT).

DN chaired the meeting. Dennis Dwyer, being late opening his café, treated us all to complimentary coffee and cake. Many thanks, Dennis!

1. **Matters arising** from 8 July meeting and not on agenda:

- (a) Wheelrights general meeting (Item 1b). Tentatively: 7.00pm in Environment Centre on 13 September. JS will check with Mark Youngman. **[Action: JS]**
- (b) Junctions (Items 3 & 5). JS noted that Simon Le Good (at a meeting on 19 July) supported our efforts to clarify the issue of priority at junctions. JS would write to Jack Palmer about two junctions on the north side of Gorseinon Road and one on the south across which the new SUP has not been given priority. He would also raise the need for a safe crossing of the A483 at the eastern end of this SUP. **[Action: JS]**
- (c) Work in progress (Item 4). The Ynysallan Road SUP is now complete, JS noted the need for a safe crossing to Herbert Thomas Way (to access the estate to which it leads) and for the SUP to be extended east to Heol Las. Post meeting: BG advises that a safe crossing to Herbert Thomas Way has been provided. It is to the west of the junction.

2. **20mph default.**

JS has submitted a consultation (on the Campaigns page of Wheelrights website). He noted that Swansea has more exceptions (ie roads which met the criteria to be changed to 20mph but on which the Council wished to retain the existing 30 mph limit) than other LA's. Cycling organisations are thinking about a legal challenge. JS is seeking a meeting with Andrew Stephens, cabinet member with transport responsibilities. Our position is that we will accept an exception provided there is a satisfactory alternative for cyclists and walkers. The problem is that there are a number of trunk roads (such as Carmarthen Road) where there is not this alternative. Could this be used to put pressure on the Council by requiring such roads be made 20mph until this is provided when we could accept them as exceptions? (This possibility was not discussed at the meeting.)

The north Gower 'Marsh' Road was one which we thought should be 20mph but wasn't because it lacked street lighting so was outside the scope of the Act. NG noted that it had a 30mph limit. DN added that there were other urban roads not covered by the Act which should be 20mph.

It was suggested that Richard Youle of the Evening Post be contacted to see if he would write an article making the case for 20mph. JB has drafted an article for the Autumn Newsletter which covers the key points. NG agreed to contact Mr Youle. **[Action: NG]**

3. **New routes.**

We highlighted the following, some of which we have already identified.

Gowerton to Fforestfach [GF]. DN had on 17 July attended a 'drop-in' in Loughor about a proposed solar panel farm in the Llan Valley. Most of it would be on the north side of the proposed route for GF but part straddles it. This route is a public footpath. The developers have agreed with the Council that it would be retained as a corridor. However DN was informed that the Council propose not to make it available to cyclists; apparently at the behest of their H&S people. This being a potential Active Travel route we need to ensure that cyclists can use it. We need to raise this with Jack Palmer. On the 10 August ride? **[Action: DN]**

Link to Clydach under M4. DN suggested that route TI, which runs north from Tirpenry parallel to Clydach Road and has recently been extended to Llanllienwen Road, should be continued north under the M4 to provide a link to Clydach. This was supported. It would replace the existing unsatisfactory footbridge. Safe crossings of Llanllienwen Road and the other slip road would be needed. There was plenty of space for this path under the M4. NG noted that there was a bus lane which could possibly be used by cyclists.

South of Fabian Way. Route SB, linking the University and Bay Campuses has been on our wish list for some time. Route BB continues it east from the Bay Campus to just short of Briton Ferry to join the existing NCR 4 where it emerges from the underpass under Fabian Way. We agreed that we should continue to press for this route and its continuation eastward to Cardiff. As this would be outside our area NG and DR agreed to contact Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Cycle groups to solicit their support for this. A preferred route would be south of the existing NCR 4, on the line of or to south of the A48. **[Action: NG, DR]**

4. Jack Palmer Ride.

This quarterly ride is scheduled for 10 August. DN and DR (together with Leonie Ramont and Paul Thomas of Sustrans) expect to be on it. We are planning to look at possible links between the railway Station and Cwm Road which would avoid the footbridge across New Cut Road. We have already identified a possible link from the existing route [HA} which runs alongside the bus route through Hafod. We hope also to raise with Jack some of the issues covered above. **[Action: DN, DR]**

5. AOB.

NG suggested that we need to campaign for improvement to existing routes.

6. Next meeting.

10.00 am on Saturday 9 September in Ripple's Café.

Notes prepared by
David Naylor