

WHEELRIGHTS MANIFESTO for the www.youarehereswansea.com project

Wheelrights is a local Swansea Bay cycling campaign group which aims to “encourage and assist potential cyclists to take up cycling and use a bike as a means of transport”.

We have a successful history of working closely with the City and County of Swansea to develop cycle routes to, from and within the city centre. We also work with partner cycling organisations including Sustrans, CTC and BikeAbility Wales.

Swansea has a unique location with its city centre being so close to the sweeping Swansea Bay, Marina and the new SA1 developments. This mix makes for exciting possibilities to which we wish to contribute.

Over the past few decades high priority has been given to car transport and highways. This has resulted in several wide roads becoming obstacles for people wishing to walk or cycle in and out of the centre. For example having to cross roads with up to 8 lanes.

Future planning needs to prioritise pedestrians, bus users and cyclists. We support moves to connect the city centre with Swansea Bay, as this is a unique feature of Swansea and could attract more people into the centre. The Swansea Foreshore cyclepath currently has the highest usage of any cycle path in Wales, being well used by locals and visitors alike. Linking the Foreshore path to the City centre and High Street Station should be a priority.

We support others who have highlighted the need for a vibrant mix of residential, retail, café, restaurants, green areas and cultural facilities within the city centre, and believe the following features would enhance and contribute to the success of these:

1. The development of new cycling routes within the centre. These should meet the requirements given in the Welsh Government's new Active Travel Act Design Guidance manual, which require routes to be of high quality and provide connectivity with key locations and other cycling routes.
2. These routes should link communities with the city centre especially those nearby including Sandfields, Uplands, Mount Pleasant, the Hafod and St Thomas. They would be part of or connect to the new city wide network of cycle routes currently being developed and shown on the Council's "Tube Map" www.cycleswanseabay.org.uk.
3. There should be more cycle parking areas within the city centre, including several covered facilities at key points. (eg. the covered cycle parking at Tescos, which appears to be the most used at present.)
4. There should be green areas within the centre, with seating and play areas for young families. The new play area in the south east corner of the Marina, next to National Cycle Route 4 is an example.

Above all we would like to see more planning for people spaces, with design moving beyond traditional highway thinking to provide imaginative and bespoke solutions which suit the local surroundings, buildings and activities.

We believe these measures would enable Swansea to reap the significant health benefits of cycling. They would help address transport poverty, a key Swansea Council priority. They would also attract economic benefits from tourism including active and cycling tourism which is growing in Wales.

The new Active Travel Act provides a renewed impetus for improving the urban realm, and we would be keen to become closely involved with the discussion about the future development of Swansea.

We have amongst our members an Urban Designer, Civil Engineers and a transport specialist as well as a cross section of the local population.

Nick Guy (Wheelrights Chair)

On behalf of Wheelrights www.wheelrights.org.uk