

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 23 November 2009 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman, Martin Brain, John Cardy, John Childs, Claudine Conway, David Croxall, Helen Davies, Paul Elliott, Rhian Evans, Colin Fielder, Bill Gannon, Gordon Gibson, Nick Guy, David Judd, Brian Leadbeater, Mike Lewis, David Naylor, Alison Porter, John Roach, Alice Saville, Rob Wachowski, David Whitehead, Geoff Wood, Veronica Wood.

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy.

Minutes of last agm (on 10 November 2008)

Acceptance of these was proposed by Martin Brain and seconded by Geoff Wood. There were no matters arising..

Secretary's Report

David Naylor summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix A. He focussed on the results of the questionnaires (attached as Appendices A1 & A2) and sought approval for a rides programme in 2010 which, based on the findings of the *Rides Questionnaire*, would comprise monthly rides generally starting at 10.00 am on Saturdays and short enough (2-3 hours) to finish in time for lunch in a pub or café. He noted that these rides would be run in collaboration with the CTC as they also recognised a need for them. This proposal was supported (with one exception).

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Veronica Wood and seconded by Claudine Conway.

Chairman's Report

Nick Guy summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix B. He focussed on two issues: an outcome from our recent meetings with the Council and our proposed *Gower Cycling Festival*. The Council have agreed to provide Advanced Stop Lines (ASLs) at appropriate junctions and destination signs on cycle routes. We have offered to assist by indicating where we think both ASLs and signs should be located. You can play your part by letting us know of suitable locations for either or both. (Please send your suggestions to David Naylor giving a precise location, preferably including an OS Grid Ref.) Having outlined the plans for the *Gower Cycling Festival* he sought confirmation that we should go ahead with this. This was obtained with one dissension.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Dave Croxall and seconded by Colin Fielder.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report

Geoff Wood presented his report which is included as Appendix C. He sought approval for a proposal to gift £125 to *Bikeability (Wales)*. This was supported by a show of hands with one dissension.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Martin Brain and seconded by Colin Fielder.

Election of Officers

There being no other nominations Nick Guy, David Naylor and Geoff Wood were confirmed as respectively *Chairman*, *Secretary* and *Treasurer and Membership Secretary*. Proposed by Martin Brain and seconded by Rhian Evans.

AOB

Swansea Cycle Map.

Helen Davies explained how the formal launch of this map (completed and c.25,000 copies printed last Spring) has been delayed because it did not fully meet the requirements of the *Disabled Discrimination Act* (DDA). There were two problems: the lettering was not sufficiently readable and WAG's logo was too small. She had negotiated a solution with WAG which involves the sticking of a larger logo on each map. A formal launch should be possible in the New Year.

This completed the formal business. Over tea and coffee a raffle was held to reward those who had gone to the trouble of completing the questionnaires. There was a double draw: the first for those who had filled in both. Following this the names of those who had filled in just one questionnaire were added to the hat for the second draw. The prizes were a bottle of wine and a box of chocolates. (For the statisticians amongst you this made the probability of winning a prize roughly twice as great for those who filled in both compared with those who filled in just one.) David Judd then gave a talk on:

The Irish Connection

David gave a powerpoint presentation in which he described the excellent cycling potential in Ireland and of the signing for cyclists provided in the SE with which he was involved. Unfortunately these signed cycle routes have had little publicity. He attribute this to a lack of imagination in the Irish government and a failure of them and the other countries concerned to implement the *Celtic Circle* concept. This was a plan to promote cycle and other forms of tourism which would link the 'circle' of Wales, England, Brittany and Ireland.

Notes prepared by David Naylor (Secretary)

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2009 agm

This report covers the period from the previous agm on 10 November 2008.

Highlights of this year have been the involvement of John Grimshaw and the improved provision the Council have and are making for cyclists. John Grimshaw visited us on the 29th and 30th April, during which time he attended a key Council meeting, gave a talk and spent some time on a bike identifying links and helping us identify priorities. Following this visit he accepted our invitation to be a *Wheelrights* patron. He came again on 19th October and gave a seminar to some 40 Council officers to outline what is needed to make highway infrastructure cycle friendly. The former visit is described in our Autumn Newsletter (No. 9) and the latter will be in the Winter issue (No. 10).

A very positive working relationship with the Council has now come about thanks to the support of Reena Owen (Director of Environment) and Chris Vinestock (Director of Highways and Transport.) The latter called a meeting on 16th November with his senior colleagues, Nick Guy and myself to prioritise items on our wish list. (We had submitted this to the Council in July.) The outcome is encouraging in that they have accepted nearly all our suggestions.

A summary of our activities during the past year follows. Our newsletters and the notes of our evening meetings can be viewed/downloaded from the 'Various' page of www.wheelrights.org.uk.

Evening meetings

Our regular bi-monthly meetings took place in the Marina Yacht/Sub-aqua club on the following Monday evenings (attendees in []): 20th January [7], 16th March [14], 18th May [12] and 20th July [14]. These were supplemented by a number of informal meetings in the Railway Inn.

In addition we had two public meetings: John Grimshaw's talk: *Leisure: a route back to cycling* on 29th April [46] and Jane Davidson's: *Promotion of cycling in Wales* on 17th September [31].

Adult Beginners classes

These took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays: 25th April, 13th June, 11th July and 19th September. As in previous years they were well attended and most of the participants ended up pedalling.

Explorer rides

There were 12 rides between May and October. Except for the 16 mile North Gower ride on 15th June all were short rides (around 5 miles). Unlike last year when all were in the evening this year half were at 10.00 on Saturday mornings (except for one on a Sunday).

Turnout was poor with two rides being cancelled due to nobody turning up. As last year they were intended as a follow up to our beginners classes, but hardly any beginners joined them. On 8th August however we had one genuine beginner. Her story is in the Autumn newsletter. Two other rides were relatively well attended: that from Bynea to Penclacwydd on 9th May and the *Open Houses* ride on 13th Sept. The former worked because it was joined (at Bynea) by the longer *Quackers* ride. The handful on our Explorer ride swelled the numbers to around 30. The *Open Houses* ride had an interesting theme and should probably be repeated for that reason.

As these rides are not achieving their objective we have something different in mind for 2010. See the next section.

Questionnaires and 2010 rides

Two questionnaires were sent out to members in October. The first was to obtain specific information to enable us to provide more appropriate rides next year; the second to provide us with general guidance. 15 of both questionnaires were returned. The results are summarised in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively. A resumé of these plus conclusions drawn from them are as follows.

Rides questionnaire.

Two-thirds were returned by "regular" riders, mainly male, with just one from a beginner. Most wanted monthly rides. More than half favoured a mixture of weekday and weekend rides, and of those who wanted one or the other more preferred weekends. More preferred Saturday than Sunday. Most had no preferences for a venue. Regarding a name the voting was 5:3 in favour of *Wheelrights* as against *Explorer*, 5 had no preference and one suggested a six word title.

Since mainly regular riders filled in the questionnaire we conclude that we should not attempt to cater for complete beginners. Based on this and the questionnaire findings we suggest 2-3 hour rides (10-20 miles) once a month starting at 10.00 on Saturdays. What do you think?

General questionnaire.

Nearly all of these were returned by the same people who returned the rides questionnaire. The median age was in the 60s. (We need more younger people!) There was support for all our activities but *Campaigning* and our *Adult Beginners Classes* had priority. Also there was broad support for what we campaigned about. Busy roads, insecure cycle parking, hills and the weather deterred people from cycling. Better cycle routes and more people cycling would help. Suggestions included greater membership participation and cross fertilisation with other groups.

Infrastructure

The following summarises what has happened on the ground in Swansea in the past year.

City Centre.

ASLs were installed on Alexandra Road at the bottom of Mountain Pleasant, at the Junction with Orchard St. and opposite the Railway Station.

A cycle lane has been marked on the shared-use path along the S. side of Alexandra Road. This stops where the path crosses Bellevue and Pleasant St; however it was proposed at the 16th November meeting (see above) to make the cycle lane continuous across these junctions (probably as green strips bordered by 'elephants feet').

The one way (north) Dynevor Place has had a contra flow cycle lane marked on it, ie to allow cyclists to travel south.

Mumbles Road.

A dropped kerb has been added on the S. side of Mumbles Road just west of the Guildhall Rd S. junction to enable cyclists to access the foreshore path there. A new two-stage Toucan has been added just east of the Slip Bridge Abutments. This links St Helen's Road to the foreshore.

Pedestrian lights have been added across the bottom end of Brynmill Lane.

Amazon Roundabout.

Having had no response from NPT Council when I raised the issue of the danger to cyclists at this junction last year and having been approached by two people who had had near misses, I on behalf of Wheelrights and with the help of some of you, returned to the fray this year. I had a site visit with NPT councillor Anthony Taylor on 28th August and since then have made further attempts to get some action. There has been no satisfactory response. If anybody has any suggestions please come forward. For details of the problem and the solution we have proposed see the 'Various' page of www.wheelrights.org.uk.

Fabian Way Corridor.

I attended workshops on behalf of Wheelrights on 4th December last and on 26th February. These were initiated by WAG and organised by their consultants, Arup. Their purpose was to explore how best to develop this corridor. It appears they have in mind extending the existing NCN 4 cul-de-sac near the Swansea-NPT boundary to the east and north. My suggestion for a new cycle route entirely to the south of Fabian Way in addition to a northerly route appeared to be accepted. (See the link to our website given above for details of these routes.)

David Naylor (Wheelrights Secretary)
23 November 2009

APPENDIX A1

Wheelrights rides – Results of questionnaire (Annex 1 to Secretary's report)

15 questionnaires were returned. The number of answers to each question are given **in red**. Not everybody answered every question.

1. What sort of cyclist are you?

Near beginner/returning: **1** occasional: **4** regular: **10**

2. What frequency of rides would you like to see offered?

Weekly: **1** Fortnightly: **3** Monthly: **8**

and how many would you expect to take part in?

< half: **2** about half: **8** > half: **3**

3. Based on 6.30pm weekday starts and 10.00am at weekends which would you prefer?

a) Weekdays only: **2** b) Weekends only: **4** c) A mixture: **8**

If you ticked b) or c) would you prefer Saturday: **5** or Sunday: **4**

If a) or c) which weekday would you prefer? Wed $\frac{1}{2}$; Thur: **1** $\frac{1}{2}$; Fri: **1**; (no pref: **8**)

4. Assuming two meeting points, one to the west of Swansea and the other central or to the east, which would you prefer?

For the westerly venue: Blackpill **3** Either OK **10**
Railway Inn **0**

Somewhere else **No suggestions**

For the other venue: Civic Centre café **1** Either OK **10**
Sail Bridge **1**

Somewhere else **No suggestions**

5. What should the rides be called?

Explorer rides (ie as before) **3** Either OK **5**
Wheelrights rides **5**

Another name **One suggestion: "On your bike – Rides with *Wheelrights*"**

6. Comments (eg to guide us on the type of ride you would prefer.)

Two wanted variety; two wanted rides that took them out of the city and one rides to the east; two wanted short rides (one: 6-8, the other 10-12 miles), one of whom suggested rides should have a theme and that the distance should be stated. (Other sources – not questionnaire – say keep the distance a 'dark secret'!) One wanted varied rides and suggested a 'buddy' system whereby experienced cyclists would help the less competent. One was against the promotion of leisure cycling since he perceived it as encouraging car use since people used the car to transport their bike.

7. Your sex: male **11**; female **4**; name (optional) **None anonymous.**

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)
November 2009

APPENDIX A2

Results of questionnaire to guide *Wheelrights* (Annex 2 to Secretary's report)

15 questionnaires were returned. The number of answers to each question are given **in red, as are the comments**.

1. Sex: M: **11**; F: **4**. Age; in your 20's: **1**; 30's: **0**; 40's: **3**; 50's: **3**; 60's: **4**; 70's: **2**.
2. Your type of cycling. ("M" = Mountain bike; "H" = Hybrid; "R" = Road bike; "O" = Other)
 - Regular – on most days: **5**
 - Regular – at least weekly: **7**
 - Occasional – weekends/holidays: . **2**
 - Bike used: M: **2**; H: **6**; R: **3**; O: **1**
3. Specific cycling activities:
 - Cycle touring: **5**; Club rides: **2**; Audax: **1**; Leisure: **3**
4. Apart from mountain biking how does your cycling divide between on and off road?
 - Mainly on road: **4**; mainly traffic free: **2**; both, depending on journey: **8**
5. *Wheelrights'* activities include the following. The numbers are of those who gave the item priority. (Those rating all items equally important omitted.)
 - a) Campaigning **9**
 - b) Adult beginners classes **7**
 - c) Cycle rides **3**
 - d) Information about cycling events. **2**
 - e) Newsletters **4**
 - f) Website **5**
6. Campaigning issues. The numbers are of those who gave the item priority. (Those rating all items equally important omitted.)
 - a) Improve road and junction design. **8**
 - b) Provide better traffic free routes. **7**
 - c) Reduce traffic speeds. **3**
 - d) Education: cyclists and drivers. **7**
 - e) Signing of cycle routes and links. **4**
 - f) More cycle stands and storage. **5**
 - g) Cycles on trains and station storage. **7**
7. What deters you from cycling and/or what would help you cycle more?
 - Deterrents: **busy roads: 4; Insecure parking: 3; hills: 3; weather: 4; unfit: 2.**
 - Would help: **more/better cycle routes: 2; (secure parking: 3); more cyclists: 1.**
8. Further comments.
 - Greater membership participation needed: 1; cross fertilisation with other groups 1; LA design (only) for motor vehicles 1; keep up the good work: 2.**
9. Your name (optional) **Non anonymous.**

David Naylor (Wheelrights Secretary)
November 2009

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2009 agm

2009 has been a very positive year for cyclists in the Swansea Bay area. *Wheelrights* primary aim of helping to "get people on bikes" has been fulfilled in the following ways:

Firstly: there has been a huge increase in the number of people using bikes as a means of transport, partly as a result of the recession.

Secondly: Swansea Council has developed a more positive attitude towards cycling. Reena Owen and Chris Vinestock are actively consulting with *Wheelrights*; for example they brought forward work on City Centre cycling routes following pressure from *Wheelrights*. The sterling work of David Naylor and Rob Wachowski has helped raise the credibility and influence of *Wheelrights* with the Council.

Thirdly: several City councillors, across a range of political parties, have become champions of cycling.

Fourthly: the new cycle map of Swansea has been produced but unfortunately not yet distributed.

With the increased awareness of the health and economic benefits of cycling reinforced by the forthcoming conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen the challenge for *Wheelrights* is to raise the profile of cycling in 2010. The following is for your consideration.

PROPOSALS FOR 2010

1. Swansea Council

- Continue discussions with them on their *Cycling Action Plan*.
- Support moves to revamp the *Cycle Forum* to make it more inter-departmental and be chaired by a councillor.
- Strengthen *Wheelrights* participation in cycle audits and major developments, eg the European Boulevard plan (for Oystermouth Road).

2. Gower Cycling Festival

- Organise a cycling festival for eight days in September 2010 tentatively including *In Town without my Car Day* which is on 22nd September.
- The aim would be to attract both tourists and local cyclists, and to cater for a range of abilities and interests.
- Exploratory talks with Swansea Council, CTC representatives and Mumbles Tourist Information Centre has produced an encouraging response and ideas about funding, organisation, etc. A Working Group to organise this, starting in January, is proposed.

3. Speakers

Following the National speakers we had this year I propose we invite local guest speakers for 2010. Maybe two such meetings? Some ideas:

- Reena Owen or Chris Vinestock on the Council's cycling plans?
- Somebody from *First Cymru* buses?
- A police representative?

4. Campaigning

Monitor implementation of priorities agreed with the Council (at an important meeting on 16th November). These relate to outstanding infrastructure work identified in our "Wish list" (submitted to the Council last July) and are wide ranging. Specific items include:

- Completion of existing work in the City Centre and on Mumbles Road.
- Completion of the new section of NCN 4 at Loughor.

- Progressing land ownership to enable construction of the missing Gowerton to Kingsbridge link.
- Assist the Council in identifying signalled junctions suitable for Advanced Stop Lines (ASLs).
- Assist the Council with the identification of cycle routes for signing.
- Firm up plans to provide (and sign) links to the Clyne Valley path.

Persevere with David Naylor's initiative to get something done about the dangerous crossing of the Amazon Roundabout by NCN 4.

5. Rides

To provide a programme of rides for 2010 learning lessons from the Explorer Rides of the past two years. This will be based on the findings of the Rides Questionnaire. David Naylor covers this in his report.

I believe the above proposals complement each other, and I present them for consideration by our members.

Nick Guy (Wheelrights Chairman)
23 November 2009

APPENDIX C

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2009 agm

Wheelrights Annual Statement – November 2009

INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
Brought forward	262.12	CTC Affiliation	86.00		
Membership	258.00	Secretarial Expenses	138.86		
Donations	325.00	Leaflets	102.00		
Auction	95.00	Room hire	72.00		
Training	175.00	Xerox/postage	97.04		
Beer/coffee money	14.00	Purchase of 3 bikes	15.00	Bank balance	524.51
CTC Assoc. Mem.	36.00	Hospitality(J Grimshaw)	20.28	Cash	53.01
		Website fee	6.42		
		Bikeability(Laura Bolton)	50.00	TOTAL	577.52
		Balance	577.52		
TOTAL	1,165.12	Total	1165.12		

Membership

We have 149 members on our list, of which 18 have not paid this year's subscription! Also 64 are members through the learn-to-ride bike lessons.

Geoff Wood
Treasurer and Membership Secretary