

Wheelrights

Notes of AGM on 25 October 2010 in Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Ruth Callaway, Claudine Conway, Colin Fielder, Nick Guy, Phil Jones, David Judd, Alan Kreppel, Mike Lewis, Ian Morris, David Naylor, John Roach, John Sayce, Gabriel Thomas, Rob Wachowski, Geoff Wood, Veronica Wood.

Apologies: Martin Brain, John Cardy, Bill Gannon, Gordon Gibson

The meeting was chaired by Nick Guy.

Minutes of last agm (on 23 November 2009)

Acceptance of these was proposed by Geoff Wood and seconded by Colin Fielder. Matters arising were covered by the Secretary and Chairman's reports.

Secretary's Report

David Naylor summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix A. In addition he referred to the successful Gower Cycling Festival and noted that he planned to prepare a report on it for the website. He noted that preparing for the GCF had taken up a lot of Wheelrights resources and hoped that next year a successful festival can be achieved with less effort.

He highlighted the failure of the Wheelrights rides to attract riders. He suggested that the way forward was to provide a follow up to our successful Adult Beginners Classes in the form of short rides. (See report.) There was a brief exchange about this and it was agreed that the follow up issue should be a priority for next year.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by John Roach and seconded by Veronica Wood.

Chairman's Report

Nick Guy summarised key points in his report which is included as Appendix B. He focussed on campaigning: highlighting the need to encourage cycle commuting – a theme for Bike Week – and the need for proper provision for cyclists in the Swansea Boulevard.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Geoff Wood and seconded by Colin Fielder.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Report

Geoff Wood presented his report which is included as Appendix C. In response to the advice that 34 of 83 members had not paid this year's subscription David Judd felt that it was not fair on those who had paid and recommended firm action. (At least one paid up at the meeting.)

Acceptance of this report was proposed by David Judd and seconded by Claudine Conway.

Election of Officers

There being no other nominations for *Chairman* and *Secretary* Nick Guy and David Naylor were confirmed in these respective roles. Geoff Wood however wished to resign as *Treasurer and Membership Secretary* and proposed Colin Fielder as his replacement. This was seconded by Claudine Conway. Colin agreed to take this on.

AOB

Finances.. It was agreed that the Cooperative Bank should continue as Wheelrights' bank.

David Judd then gave a powerpoint presentation entitled:

Cycle from London to Swansea? It seemed like a good idea ...!

Following this tea and coffee was served and a video featuring the launch of the Gower Cycling Festival and a ride which followed it was shown. This had been prepared by Graham Rutt and a short section from it was shown at the *Sustainable Swansea* awards ceremony on 18th October at which David Naylor was presented with a Certificate for being a finalist for the *Champion Award*.

Notes prepared by David Naylor (Secretary)

APPENDIX A

Secretary's report for *Wheelrights* 2010 agm

This report covers the period from the previous agm on 23 November 2009.

The year has been dominated by the *Gower Cycling Festival* which took place from 18 to 25 September. This was a first for *Wheelrights* and thanks to hard work by the *Wheelrights* members involved and excellent weather was a success. Details of it, including an evaluation which provides notes to help us organise the event again next year, can be found on the Festival web page on our website; alternatively the page can be accessed from www.gowercyclingfestival.org.

Our other activities are summarised under the headings below.

Evening meetings

These took place in the Environment Centre on the following evenings (attendees in []): 18th January [17], 15th March [13] and 10th May [8]. Notes of these meetings are provided on the 'Various' page of our website: www.wheelrights.org.uk/various.htm.

These were followed by an open meeting, also in the Environment Centre, on 24th June (attended by 19) in which CCS's Head of Transportation, Chris Vinestock, answered questions sent to him before the meeting about cycle provision in Swansea.

The preparations for the *Gower Cycling Festival* involved meetings in the Railway Inn on 15th & 22nd February, 8th April, 6th May, 8th June, 12th July, 26th August, 14th September and 5th October. The 15th March Environment Centre meeting (above) focussed on the Festival. The final meeting on 5th October was the evaluation referred to above. A Working Group of 12 had been set up to organise the Festival and attendance at these meetings mostly comprised its members. In addition other people who helped with the Festival attended the last two meetings.

That there were so many *Gower Cycling Festival* meetings testifies to the effort we put into it. Less should be needed for the next one.

Adult Beginners classes

Five took place from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Civic Centre East car park on the following Saturdays: 20th April, 12th June, 24th July, 21st August and 25th September. As in previous years they were well attended and most of the participants ended up pedalling.

An initiative of mine was to take those who could pedal and control their bikes on short excursions along the foreshore path (east from the car park where it is wider). The handful I took valued this extension to the class and I feel that this is a necessary follow up which should be extended next year. Support from others is however needed.

Wheelrights rides

12 rides, most of them for two hours on Saturday mornings, have been scheduled from March to November. Two of them doubled as *Gower Cycling Festival* rides. With the exception of these two the rides have been poorly attended. To avoid the leader turning up to find no one at the start (as has happened more than once) we are advising intending participants to first contact the leader.

Due to the poor support for these rides and the *Explorer* rides in the preceding two years it seems to me that we should not repeat them next year. Instead we should focus on supporting various rides provided by others, eg the Environment Centre, and also develop the follow up to our Adult Beginners Classes referred to above with a view to providing bespoke rides on an *ad hoc* basis once a handful of interested participants have been identified.

An example of the sort of ride we can support was the 30th August ride to the *Waun Wyllt* on NCN 47 to meet Rosie Swale Pope, the lady from Tenby, famous for her run round the world between 2003 and 2007. There is a report on this successful ride in our Autumn Newsletter (No. 13). Another is the forthcoming Fairtrade ride on 1st November. See the Events page of the website.

Signing Audit

In September of this year I and several other Sustrans Rangers started work on an audit of the signs on NCNs 4 and 43. This was a Sustrans initiative which fitted in with the intentions of both *Wheelrights* and CCS. It involves photographing most of the existing signs and coming up with recommendations for permanent signing, mainly fingerpost destination signs. Input from members is being sought. This work should be completed in November.

Infrastructure

At a meeting with Chris Vinestock on 16 November, 2009, attended by Nick Guy, myself and four CCS officers, items from *Wheelrights* 'wish list' were short listed. These included issues relating to the Alexandra Road shared use path, cycle provision in the Oystermouth Road Boulevard development, the dangerous crossing on NCN 4 by the Sidings' Bridge, the proposed missing link between Gowerton and Kingsbidge (Gowerton) and completion of the new alignment of NCN 4 east of Loughor Bridge. All these items remain issues for 2011.

Despite CCS being cooperative and positive at our meetings with them little has happened on the ground in the past year. In particular some outstanding work on the Alexandra Road shared use path has not been carried out. (See my report for last years agm.)

Some small things which have been done include the cutting back in late summer of the bush which obscured sight of an approaching bus at the dangerous Siding's Bridge crossing (But the warning markings/signs on the path approaches recommended by CCS's Safety Officer in 2008 have yet to be implemented.), making safe a dangerous hole on NCN 43 by the Beaufort Bridge and evidence of glass clearing – eg on the new Landore cycle path – for which I assume CCS are responsible.. They also regularly sweep sand off the foreshore path west of the Civic Centre.

Amazon Roundabout.

A small gesture from NPT here. On 21st April I attended a site meeting with David Adlam of NPT CC and Rhys Mander, a site engineer. At this I was informed they would provide an alternative NCN 4 route to bypass the westerly three of the five dangerous crossings leaving just the two to and from Jersey Marine. This bypass was opened this summer. It reduces the danger to eastbound cyclists who use it; however it is longer and is not signed. Warning signs at the crossings have not been provided although my understanding was that they would be. Also NPT were not prepared to alter the traffic signals on two of the crossings to make them visible to eastbound cyclists. (They felt bound by guidelines intended for pedestrians and here completely inappropriate for cyclists.) For details of the Amazon roundabout problem and the solution we have proposed see the 'Various' page of www.wheelrights.org.uk.

Newsletter.

These have continued to appear quarterly. They complement this report by providing more detail of *Wheelrights* activities. As Editor I try to get as much material as I can from others in particular from *Wheelrights* members. I am grateful for what I have received but would appreciate more – I nearly always have space,

Website.

The number of hits has been gradually increasing. A counter was installed in January 2008 and in that year the hits averaged about 3/day. In 2009 they increased to between 4 and 5, and this year the average has been between 5 and 6. These hits relate to those who access the home page of our website and do not include links direct to other pages; in particular to the Gower Cycling Festival page. We have been informed that there were 41 visits to this page via CCS Tourism's web site (www.swanseabay.com) alone, with an unknown number from other links.

David Naylor (*Wheelrights* Secretary)
October 2010

APPENDIX B

Chairman's report for *Wheelrights* 2010 agm

The work and achievements of *Wheelrights* during 2009 have been amply covered by our Secretary's report.

I would just add that 2010 has seen a significant increase in the credibility and influence of *Wheelrights*, especially with the City and County of Swansea (CCS). An illustration of the greater recognition we have had (and of cycling as a means of transport) has been David Naylor being short listed for a Sustainability Swansea individual award. He was one of three finalists but did not get the award.

PROPOSALS FOR 2011

1. Actions to promote cycling

- a) Bike Week: to organise coordinated events on the theme *commuting by bike* (with CCS, CTC, Sustrans, etc.)
- b) Gower Cycling Festival: to repeat this and build on the success of our first Festival.
- c) Maps: to ensure cycle routes are included in future A-Z and CCS leisure/tourist maps. Also to assist in the distribution of the new Swansea Cycling Map.
- d) Adult Beginners' Classes: to continue these and develop them to provide follow up. (Our Secretary in his report suggests how this might be achieved.)
- e) Rides: to review this. (See Secretary's report.)
- f) Patrons: to nominate more public figures as patrons, including combined Colin Charvis.

2. Negotiations with Council

- a) Action plan: to continue working with CCS to prioritise items from our wish list and thereby help them develop a realistic *Action plan*.
- b) Cycle routes: to work with CCS to improve the quality and extent of cycle paths in the City, including the cycle provision in the Boulevard development.
- c) Signing: to work with CCS to improve the signing of cycle routes; in particular the provision of destination finger post signs (with distances) and the signing of links to the NCN. The signing audit currently underway and described in our Secretary's report makes a start on this.

3. Campaigning

We should concentrate on a public campaign around one or two specific issues. An example for consideration is the proposed upgrade of the footpath on the north side of Mumbles Road to link St Helens with the University and Singleton Park. In this case the strong lobbying of some disability groups against shared use needs to be challenged.

Nick Guy (*Wheelrights* Chair)
October 2010

APPENDIX C

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

| INCOME | EXPENDITURE | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Brought forward | 577.52 | CTC Affiliation | 86 |
| Membership | 166.00 | Room hire | 90 |
| Training | 220.00 | Bikeability | 125 |
| CTC Assoc Mem | 36.00 | Xerox/postage | 15.96 |
| | | Affiliation to Env. Centre | 34 |
| | | Festival | 169.15 |
| | | Bank balance | 583.41 |
| | | Cheque not cashed | 104.00 |
| | | Balance | 479.41 |
| | | TOTAL | 479.41 |
| TOTAL | 999.52 | TOTAL | 999.52 |

| GOWER CYCLING FESTIVAL | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Sponsorship | 455.00 | Brochure | 650 |
| Tickets sales | 286.40 | Flyers/pos | 95 |
| Raffle | 53.00 | Banner | 37 |
| Shirt sales | 340 | Expenses | 21.55 |
| | | Shirts | 500 |
| Wheelrights | 169.15 | | |
| TOTAL | 1,303.55 | TOTAL | 1303.55 |

Membership

We have 83 members on our list, of which 34 have not paid this year's subscription!

Geoff Wood (*Wheelrights* Treasurer and Membership Secretary)
October 2010