

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 20th July 2009 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina

Present: Martin Brain (MB), David Callaway (DCa), Ruth Callaway (RC), David Croxall (DCr), Rhian Evans (RE), Eifion Francis (EF), Bill Gammon (BG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).
(Apologies: Claudine Conway (CC), Helen Davies (HD))

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 18th May 09 meeting and not on agenda.

Item 5b Roundabouts. BG expressed his concern about the roundabouts on the Neath Road north of the Hafod, in particular Junction 45. A recent narrowing of a lane here has made it especially dangerous for south bound cyclists. He had raised this with Martin Caton (MP) but it appears that nothing can be done, at least in the short term. DN raised the issue of the danger to cyclists at the Amazon Roundabout. (See 11b below.)

2. Explorer Rides

Apart from the ride to Penclacwydd on 9th May, which formed part of the longer "Quackers" ride, there has been a minimal turnout this year. It was agreed that we should do something different next. We would consider what form this should take at our agm (on 23rd November).
[Action: All]

3. A Cycling Festival

NG proposed that we host a Cycling Festival next year. It would take place over a week during the school summer holidays. It would be modelled on the Walking Festival, which this year comprises some 40 walks, mainly in the Gower. The attraction is that it would have the support of tourism and the attendant publicity. They have produced a brochure giving details of the walks and should be able to do the same for a Cycling Festival. MB (who is Secretary of the Swansea and District CTC Group) indicated that the CTC would be interested, so this could be a joint venture. It was agreed that we should go ahead. [Action: NG]

4. Bikes for cycle training

We need more bikes for the Adult Beginners Classes: both small wheeled for the short-legged ladies and bikes with normal sized wheels. RW would approach the Sports Council of Wales for a grant (£1000 was mentioned) for the latter and DN offered to contact Anthony Nicholls of *Re-cycle* to see if they had suitable small wheeled bikes. [Action: RW, DN]

5. Evening Post articles

These descriptions of local rides (200 words plus a photo) having been appearing in Thursday editions. DN has put those that have been published so far plus some that have not on the 'Local rides' page of the website. Where however the 200 word published description has been too short to properly describe the ride he has provided a fuller version (or a link to one) on the web page so that the necessary information can be accessed. He is attempting to include the publication dates on that page and would appreciate being told what these are. (He missed two when on holiday in late May, early June.) Any who know of suitable rides (examples on web page) are asked to send descriptions to DN or CC. [Action: All]

6. Cycle Forum

The 8th July Forum was attended by EF and DN. Of note was that it was attended by rep.s from Planning and Tourism. The Councillor, I. Richards, who should have chaired it didn't turn up and chairing was left to our long-suffering Cycling Officer, RW. Matters discussed included *Wheelrights* Wish List (see 8. below), CCS's Action Plan, Connect2 and the launch of the Cycle Map (see 7. below). An important message conveyed to the Planning rep. was the need to ensure that provision for cyclists is made a planning condition for new development.

7. 17th September

It had been suggested at the Cycle Forum that the new Swansea Cycle Map be launched when Jane Davidson visits on 17th Sept. RW explained that this launch might be delayed as WAG were quibbling that the map did not meet DDA ¹ guidelines despite the fact that 25,000 maps had already been printed for free distribution. DN advised that Reena Owen had offered to publicly commit to cycling to work at least one day per week and that this might be a suitable occasion for her to announce this. (See 9 below for suggested invitees.)

8. *Wheelrights* Wish List

This was tabled at the 8th July Cycle Forum. In recent meetings and in correspondence with Reena Owen (Head of Environment) and Chris Vinestock (Head of Transport) we were encouraged to submit this document as it would assist CCS establish priorities. The labels S, M or L, standing for respectively 'Small/Short term', 'Medium' or 'Large/Long term, have been assigned to each item to indicate our perception of the priorities. This Wish List can be viewed/downloaded (as a pdf file) from the Various page of *Wheelrights* website. Comments on it would be appreciated and should be sent to DN and/or NG [Action: All]

9. Letters to Councillors

NG proposed that he write to appropriate Councillors to solicit their support and invite them to the Jane Davidson talk. He had in mind David Phillips, Cheryl Philpott, Daren Price, and Rob Speht. He would include a copy of our Newsletter. This was supported. It was also suggested he invite Phil Trotter (of First buses) and a train Co. rep. [Action: NG]

10. Newsletter

DN asked that material for the Autumn Issue (No. 9) be sent to him by mid August so that he can issue it at the start of September. The Summer Newsletter (issued on 3rd July) was about a month late due to him being on holiday and the late arrival of promised articles.

11. AOB

- (a) Laura Bolton. Laura died on 30th May. (There is a brief tribute to her in Newsletter No. 8). DJ suggested that we provide something in her memory in the vicinity of *Bikeability's* Dunvant premises such as a bench and/or tree. This was agreed. A collection would be arranged, supplemented as necessary from *Wheelrights'* finances. [Action: DJ]
- (b) Amazon Roundabout. NPT Council had first been notified of the danger of this roundabout to cyclists using NCN 4 in April last year. DN had recently had his attention drawn to this by Rob Amour (Sustrans Ranger) and Ann Lewis (CTC RtR rep.), and both he and HD had contacted NPT to try and arrange a site meeting to see what could be done. David Adlam was identified as the appropriate person to contact and on 29 June HD e-mailed him and others proposing 17 July for a meeting. No reply having been received by 7 July DN e-mailed Glen Watkins with the draft of a letter to the Evening Post highlighting the danger. HD forwarded this to D. Adlam, who replied on the same day that he could not attend a meeting and would pass our comments to the "Road Safety Auditor and designers". It was decided that we should contact the Safety Auditor directly and DN was asked to find out who he or she was. [Action: DN]
- (c) Cycle to work scheme. RC advised that her employer, the University of Wales, was not prepared to implement the Government's cycle to work scheme which would exempt tax on the purchase of a bicycle (equivalent to an approx 40% saving). We considered this unacceptable and advised her to take it up with Mark Durdin, SBST ² Forum's UWS rep. DN, who is also on this Forum would raise it at their next meeting. [Action: RC, DN]

12. Forthcoming meetings

- 6.00pm on Thursday, 17th September: Jane Davidson's talk in the Environment Centre.
7.00 pm on Monday, 23rd November: agm in the Environment Centre.

Notes prepared by David Naylor
(*Wheelrights'* Secretary)

¹ *Disablement Discrimination Act.*

² *Swansea Bay Sustainable Transport*, previously *Swansea Bay Alternative Transport* (SBAT).