

# **Wheelrights**

## **Notes of meeting on 16 March 2009 in Yacht Club, Swansea Marina**

Present: Laura Bolton (LB), Claudine Conway (CC), Helen Davies (HD), Rhian Evans (RE), Eifion Francis (EF), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), David Naylor (DN), Alison Porter (AP), Lynda Shuker (LS), Rob Wachowski (RW), Geoff Wood (GW), Veronica Wood (VW).  
(Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), David Croxall (DC))

The meeting was chaired by NG.

### **1. Matters arising** from 20 January 09 meeting and not on agenda.

Item 8. HD and DN had attended the second Fabian Way Corridor workshop on 26 February and noted that it was unsatisfactory in that insufficient notice had been given of alternative schemes on which they were expected to make judgements. Also, unlike the first workshop, cycling issues were not discussed.

### **2. Programme (general)**

We decided to swap the 9<sup>th</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> June rides. This will enable the Explorer ride from Bynea to Penclacwydd, now on 9<sup>th</sup> May, to be integrated with a longer ride DJ is organising on that day. DJ's ride will also be to Penclacwydd but will start at the Environment Centre. To give time for the riders on the latter (a name for which has yet to be chosen – suggestions to DJ) to get to Bynea the Explorer ride will start later. (12.00 rather than 10.00am.)

DN to inform Jenny Edwards about this change so that it can be incorporated in the April *Green Light*. [**Action: DN**] (Action taken: 17 March.)

### **3. John Grimshaw visit** (29/30<sup>th</sup> April; talk on 29<sup>th</sup>)

A business meeting with representatives from CCS. Sustrans and *Wheelrights* is planned on at least one of the two days, preferable 29<sup>th</sup>. A ride is proposed for the other day. NG is awaiting a reply from Martin Spencer to arrange a meeting. He in collaboration with RW will firm up these arrangements. (HD and DJ will also be involved.) [**Action: NG, RW**]

DN had prepared a poster about the talk which can be downloaded from the Events page on [www.wheelrights.org.uk](http://www.wheelrights.org.uk). All are asked to make copies and post these in local shops, POs, surgeries, etc. [**Action: All**]

He had also drafted a Press Release for the *Evening Post* to advertise the talk. The draft will require modification and CC agreed to take this over from DN. [**Action: CC**]

NG advised that he might be able to get the talk advertised on Swansea Sound on 26<sup>th</sup> April as a participant in a phone-in. [**Action: NG**]

It was agreed that 'stalls', in the form of table-top space, should be available for organisations to place fliers, etc. In addition to *Wheelrights*: Sustrans, the CTC, CCS (Tourism), Bikeability (Wales), Re-cycle and Swansea Outdoor Group were expected to make use of this facility. With an expected capacity crowd in the Environment Centre upstairs room some of these stalls may have to be located downstairs.

### **4. Explorer rides**

See 2. above re. 9<sup>th</sup> May - 27<sup>th</sup> June swap. Note: both the summary programme and the details of the Explorer rides can be downloaded from the Events page of the website (near the top).

CC had prepared a poster about the adult classes and May rides. for display in bike shops etc. This will need revision to incorporate the above swap. [**Action: CC**]

### **5. Adult Beginners' Classes**

RE advised she would be away for the first class on 25<sup>th</sup> April, so her phone No. should not be a contact for this. VW expects to be available. The training bikes need overhauling and VW suggested we spend some money on this. We might ask Re-cycle to do this.

## 6. Publicity

RW reported that the company promoting Bike Week had agreed to adopt Swansea for publicity prior to Bike Week, and that it was important to involve them. CC agreed to coordinate Bike Week promotion with RW. [Action CC, RW]

## 7. Commuter Challenge

We confirmed that we would go for this and hold it before Bike Week (14-20 June). The Challenge would compare cyclist, car and (hopefully) bus for a given commute. Oystermouth Square to Castle Square was favoured with the possibility of a simultaneous start in the Enterprise zone, also finishing in Castle Square. CC agreed to take this up with the *Evening Post* (contacts: Richard Youle or Peter Slee) and set up the Challenge. It was suggested that the Bike Week promotion company be involved in organising this event. [Action CC, RW]

## 8. Swansea Cycle Map

*CycleCity Guides* had produced a draft map which had been checked by a small working group (which included HD, DN & RW). A revised draft is expected soon. This map incorporates advisory cycle routes suggested by local cyclists (mainly *Wheelrights* members). The map should be complete in April.

## 9. City Centre

Failure of the Council to implement measures raised during the 22 September 2008 City Centre ride was discussed. There should have been a response from the Overview Board but there has not been. DN noted in particular that there is a safety issue where the new Alexandra Road shared use path crosses Pleasant St. and Belle View; also the cycle contra-flow on Dynevor Place needs a cycle lane marking as the contra-flow sign is far from clear. It was decided that NG would write to Reena Owen about the lack of response and DN to Jeff Green about the safety issues. [Action NG, DN]

There was an exchange of views, led by DJ, on how to be more effective in our campaigning and how to deal with the Council's persistent failure over the years to respond to the needs of cyclists. A particular concern has been their failure to consider cyclists when road works are undertaken; most recently on Mumbles Road in the vicinity of Brynmill Lane and St Helens. It was agreed that the letter to Reena Owen should also refer to this lack of consultation. If this was ineffective we would consider going to the press and taking direct action.

## 10. Newsletter

DN would like to include a correspondence column, but despite encouragement nobody had as yet written in. Hopefully somebody will for the next issue. Deadline: end of May.

## 11. AOB

- (a) Training bikes. VW advised that Dan Archer had offered us two bikes: a chopper and a mountain bike. We would be pleased to accept the former and also the other if it is small enough to suit shorter riders.
- (b) 8 seater bike. DJ, having described some horrors associated with this unique machine, advised that it was stored in a Llanelli Coast Park garage and that one of the people who built it in the first place was interested in acquiring it. We had no objection. DN suggested that the recipient be invited to make a donation to *Wheelrights*. [Action DJ]
- (c) Bikeability (Wales). LB needed help with bike maintenance. Anybody willing to help are asked to contact her. (See [www.bikeabilitywales.org.uk](http://www.bikeabilitywales.org.uk) for her contact details.)
- (d) BHF ride (on 5<sup>th</sup> July). DN had received a request (via Sustrans) for marshals. EF had been a 'cycling marshal' on previous rides. We thought that we could help in this way. Volunteers should either contact DN or the BHF organisers direct.
- (e) Finance. GW advised that there was about £330 in the kitty of which about £100 came from the auction at the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 agm. Some have still to pay this year's sub. [Action debtors!]

## 12. Date of next meeting

7.00 for 7.15 pm, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Yacht Club.

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