

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 3rd September 2012 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Nick Bacon (NB), Claudine Conway (CC), Alice Cowell (AC), Colin Fielder (CF), Eifion Francis (EF), Nick Guy (NG), Mike Lewis (ML), Paul Meara (PM), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Don Ashman (DA), Martin Brain (MB), Paul Elliott (PE), Allyson Evans (AE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Phil Jones (PJ), David Judd (DJ)

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. Matters arising from 12 June meeting.

Item 2. Events

Adult Beginners Class. A number of the attendees at the 1 Sep. class are interested in a follow up ride. This to be arranged, possibly on Sat. 29 Sept. **[Action DN]**

The other events had taken place as planned except that the *Summer Solstice* ride was shortened to a trip to *Verdi's* due to rain.

Item 4. Active Travel Bill: consultation

DN advised that our 2 page submission was now on the Campaigns page of our website.

2. Pathfinder presentation

Alice Cowell (of Severn Wye Energy Agency) gave a short powerpoint presentation followed by a question and answer session. She provided feedback on the *Swansea Cycle Challenge* (SCC) and by means of the Q and A session sought information for her Pathfinder project.

She revealed that the number of organisations involved in the SCC exceeded that of Cardiff (Details will be provided in the forthcoming Autumn WR Newsletter.), that in other respects it had been a great success and that this was to WR's credit.

The objectives of her research were to understand:

1. the impact of community based projects,
2. what makes groups flourish, and
3. what external support is needed.

In the exchange with us she sought our views about the SCC before and after the event. We wrote these on sticky notes which she retained for her report which will be put on www.swanseacyclechallenge.org.uk.

3. Gower Cycling Festival

Launch: Neither David Phillips nor Byron Davies will be available to open the Festival. NG was waiting to hear from 'Badger'. Suggested candidates were the Deputy Mayor, cllr June Stanton, or maybe a WR member who cycles a lot – Hamish Osborne was mentioned. [Post meeting: Byron Davies can now attend because his knee operation been postponed,]

Helpers: DN had found the necessary ride leaders and back markers but lacked stewards for some of the rides. Volunteers came forward and he expects to have his list completed shortly. (by the GCF meeting planned for 10 Sep.) **[Action DN]**

Llethryd access. DN gave an update on a problem which arose in early August when he had been informed by the Council that we would be trespassing if we even pushed our bikes across approx. 200m of path at the Llethryd end of the route through Green Cwm. The purported owner of the land would not allow the Council to reveal who (s)he was nor was this person prepared to discuss the matter.

DN had contacted cllr Richard Lewis (in whose Ward the disputed path lies) and Elaine Phillips the lady who lives in Llethryd Lodge, past whose house the north end of the path runs. Both thought that the person who objects to cyclists using the path was Paul Beynon and that he did not own the field through which the path ran. Elaine advised DN that the owner was an Anne Pearson who lives in Hendrefoilan. DN was subsequently able to confirm this and to speak with her (just before this meeting) on the phone. She apparently is joint owner with her brother, David Jones. Paul Beynon is her cousin. DN would email the two of them to ask their permission. [Post meeting: done and they have given us permission to wheel our bikes.]

Meanwhile DN had sought advice from the CTC who had provided him with details of a legal precedent which suggests that while technically a civil offence to wheel a bike on a public footpath a conviction for trespassing would be extremely unlikely. KR commented in similar vein. DN also noted that by pushing the bikes across this section we would not be “cycling” and therefore not contravene the “No cycling” signs at the ends of the section. Failing approval from the owners to allow us to cycle we agreed that we would respect this requirement and push our bikes over this short distance. Rides 2, 4, 7 & 20 are affected.

Fresh Air Miles. DN had received 30 A5 posters from Sustrans for our Fresh Air Mile ride (No. 15). He distributed them to those present for displaying. **[Action All]**

4. Environment Centre Open Day on 8 September.

A WR stall has been booked. NG and DN were however not available on that day to man it. For lack of volunteers it was left that KR would contact Brian Horton of the Env. Centre to see if we could leave display material (principally GCF flyers) even if there is no one to man a stall. DN left a couple of Sustrans leaflet holders with NG. Should anybody become available on that day between 10.00 and 15.00 they should contact KR **[Action KR]**

5. Festival of the Tides. (on 18 August)

WR had won the fancy dress prize for this event. For this we have been given a cup which DJ had delivered to DN who had brought it to the meeting. It was decided that this should be passed around those involved, starting with CF.

6. AOB

None

7. Dates of meetings

Gower Cycle Festival meeting: 5.30 pm on Mon. 10 September in the Railway Inn.

AGM: 7.00pm on Mon. 22 October in the Environment Centre

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