

## ***Wheelrights***

### **Notes of meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 in the Environment Centre, Swansea**

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Phil Burton (PB), Mike Cherry (MC), Claudine Conway (CIC), Alan Cram (AC), Chris Connick (ChC), Helen Davies (HD), Alun Evans (AuE), Rhian Evans (RE), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), Phil Jones (PJ), Mike Lewis (ML), Philip McDonnell (PM), David Naylor (DN), Kerry Rogers (KR), Alice Saville (AS), John Sayce (JS), Rob Wachowski (RW)

Apologies: Allyson Evans (AyE), Colin Fielder (CF), Alan Kreppell (AK), Hamish Osborn (HO).

The meeting was chaired by CIC.

#### **1. Matters arising** from 12 June meeting and not on agenda.

Bikes on Trains. KR & DN have yet to take action re. Arriva trains. **[Action KR, DN].**

Seminar DN had received a reply, dated 30 July, from Chris Vinestock to WR's letter of 2 July to Phil Roberts. This reply indicated that further seminars are planned, that the Council plan changes to improve provision for walkers and cyclists, and that they are working with Planning on a 'Residential Design Guide' which will be based on the principles in *Manual for Streets*. It ended with an appreciation of WR's contribution to developing cycling initiatives within the county and the hope that "our working arrangements can continue to grow ...".

Gower Cycling Festival (GCF). DN noted that it had again been a success and that the numbers were up with a total of about 210. This included both those who registered (some of whom didn't turn up) and who took part. He is preparing a report which will provide facts and figures. This should shortly be available on the GCF web page. **[Action DN]**

JS proposed a 10 minute presentation at a Council meeting. In addition to the GCF this could cover the forthcoming Swansea Cycle Challenge. This was supported. **[Action NG, DN].**

#### **2. Swansea Cycle Challenge (SCC):** 9-29 September.

PM updated us on the arrangements. These are going well. He circulated copies of a table listing a launch on the 9<sup>th</sup>, nine Try-a-bike sessions, two bike rides, and the *Baefest* festival on 28/29<sup>th</sup>. The table lists dates, times, locations and those involved (bike shops and volunteers).

DN advised that the SCC had been on the agenda at a meeting of the CTC the previous evening, at which it was strongly supported. DN has committed to letting CTC members know the date, time and place of Try-a-bike sessions at which further volunteers are needed. PM agreed to provide DN with this information for him to pass on both to CTC and WR members. [Post meeting note: DN has received this from PM.] New volunteers will be asked to email their availability to PM. **[Action DN]**

PM advised that he was still in the process of finding organisations to take part. He had found a number of new ones, but still had to round up some from last year's SCC.

NG offered to assist with the *Baefest* (28/29 Sep.) **[Action NG].**

#### **3. Fabian Way campus** – an update on cycle links.

RW advised that a westerly link to the campus has been designed. From Swansea it would follow NCR 4 to Baldwin's bridge (on the County boundary) under which it would pass to link to the campus. The half mile section of NCR 4 along the north side of Fabian Way would be widened. An at grade crossing of Fabian Way to the east of the campus is planned.

DN raised the need for a south-of-Fabian Way link to the campus from the east and, in response to a comment from GG that we should push for this, advised that we had already had meetings with Geoff Marquis of NPT when we had proposed this link. It's status with NPT is however 'aspirational'; it lacks a firm commitment. [Post meeting note: cllr Nick Davies expressed his support for this link at the last CAP meeting. The next is on 9 Oct. when his advice on how to progress it could be sought.]

#### 4. IEP trains

DN outlined recent developments which involved a follow up to AK's exchanges with Simon Vasey of DfT, reported previously in 'Matters arising' in the notes of 24 April and 12 June meetings, and Item 4 of the 11 March 2013 meeting. This follow up, which took place in the last few days, involved DN emailing Dave Holladay and Roger Geffen of the CTC to seek clarification on the cycle and wheelchair provision planned and to pass on a request from AK to consider a CTC-DfT meeting for the purpose of both finding out what is planned and to try and ensure adequate provision. From the replies DN has learnt that Dave H. has already been in negotiation with the designers (Hitachi) and that Martyn Brunt of Sustrans is involved. Roger G. has put the possibility of a meeting to Martyn. We await developments. HD offered to speak to Ryland Jones to find out about Sustrans involvement. **[Action HD]**

DN reported that AK had been in touch with Edwina Hart (WG Minister of Transport) and needs data on cycle demand to make a case for better provision on the new trains to present to her. Dave H. has offered to help with this.

In an ensuing discussion JS suggested that we involve campaign groups located on this line, specifically Cardiff and Bristol (to which NG added Reading). NG noted that AK had advised against involving others until he had completed his enquiries.

In the context of involving politicians, in particular the shadow Transport Minister Byron Davies (who can be relied on to be an ally), GG advised that we needed to be careful to avoid party politics. He suggested that to achieve this we should be open in our dealings with Edwina Hart, letting her know who else we are involving.

#### 5. Adult Beginners Classes – a proposed change.

DN noted that an increasing number of people who have progressed beyond learning to ride a bike are now interested in our classes. He therefore proposed that we make a point of offering short rides on which further instruction would be given. He has already taken one or two on such rides. We have sufficient instructors to provide this at the same time as our well established beginners class. This was unanimously supported.

The next class being on 21 September, PM suggested that the DVLA bike ride proposed for that day be integrated with a near beginners' ride. This was agreed. **[Action PM]**

AS raised the issue of insurance and wondered if affiliated group CTC members (who didn't have full CTC membership) could be registered as leaders for such rides and thereby benefit from CTC cover. We thought that they could be for rides organised by Wheelrights but were not sure. AS being in this category she agreed to make enquiries of the CTC. (Julie Rand is the appropriate CTC contact.) **[Action AS]**

#### 5. A Swansea "Boris Bikes" scheme.

NG had invited PB to talk about this. PB explained that he was employed by *Renew Wales* and was carrying out a feasibility study of the practicalities of such a scheme. He asked for information or views on this to be emailed to him on [phill@dynamix.coop](mailto:phill@dynamix.coop).

In an exchange of views it was noted that the Cardiff bike hire scheme failed. KR had used their bikes and wondered if there was a report on why it failed. He supported the idea in principle. GG felt that it should target schools, also that doing it on the cheap was not an option. This raised the question as to whether Swansea could afford the necessary outlay.

#### 7. AOB

There was an exchange of views on the Toucan crossing of Fabian Way by the S. Tawe Bridge. We were agreed that the new standard crossing control (a waist-height box at the start of the crossing) was not fit for purpose, but we were stuck with them.

#### 8. Date of next meeting

To be decided. Probably the agm in late October.

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