

Wheelrights

Notes of meeting on 25th February 2015 in the Environment Centre, Swansea

Present: Don Ashman (DA), Alun Evans (AuE), Rhian Evans (RE), Colin Fielder (CF), Simon Forster (SF), Gordon Gibson (GG), Nick Guy (NG), David Judd (DJ), Mike Lewis (ML), Peter Lewis (PL), David Naylor (DN), Hamish Osborne (HO), Kerry Rogers (KR), Richie Saunders (RS), Alice Saville (AS).

Apologies: Phil Brophy (PB), John Cardy (JC), Eifion Francis (EF), Dale Hall (DH), Phil Jones (PJ), Fran Rolfe (FR), John Sayce (JS), Chris Walsh (CW).

The meeting was chaired by NG.

1. **Matters arising** from 14 January meeting.

Gower Cycling Festival. (Item 1a) DN advised that he had modified on-line registration to make it more user-friendly. A few from England had already registered.

2. **Questionnaire responses**

CF identified three issues for us to consider: advertising, bike repair/maintenance classes and maintenance/renewal of bikes for our beginners' classes. These are covered under (a), (b) and (c) respectively as follows.

(a) Advertising. NG proposed that we have stands made to hold leaflets. Ridler Webster could provide 30 for around £500, each of which would have four pockets. An exchange of views followed which morphed into a discussion of the types of flyers/maps which might be displayed. DN felt that this would not be a good use of Wheelrights funds. While it was accepted that such stands could help promote Wheelrights NG was not given a mandate to go ahead, but it was agreed he should do further research. **[Action: NG]**

(b) Bike maintenance. DN noted that in 2012 the CTC had organised a series of classes run by Julian of Schmoos. These had been successful and DN, at a recent CTC member group meeting, raised the possibility of a repeat this year in collaboration with Wheelrights. The CTC thought this a good idea. CF had sounded out Julian who would be happy to respond (without charge). DJ noted that the Environment Centre would be unhappy if oil or dirt despoiled their Centre. We would therefore need to take appropriate precautions. PJ, who coordinated the 2012 classes, has informed DN that he would be happy to do this again. Accordingly we agreed to ask PJ to progress this with Julian with a view to evening classes being held in the Centre this spring. **[Action: PJ]**

(c) Adult Beginners Classes (ABC). The Questionnaire responses have highlighted the importance of these classes. In discussing this we noted that the bikes need to be ready and in good order for the start of each class. This has generally been achieved in the past; however, a problem highlighted by RE, is that last year we were low on helpers. She and Allyson will be away in the early summer and AS has kindly agreed to take over as the ABC contact. DN would, in his next email to the membership, ask potential helpers to let him and AS know so that a rota can be drawn up. Regarding bike maintenance DN would arrange for helpers to meet in the Civic Centre compound at 10.00am on 10 April (Day before first class.) to prepare the bikes. **[Action: DN]**

3. **Bike Week**

This is normally in June. Dates for this year not yet announced, but if they correspond to last it will be from Sat 13th to Sun. 21st. NG advised that Sustrans are planning an NCN 20th anniversary ride probably in June and he suggested that Wheelrights support this. We agreed to hold our summer solstice ride on the solstice, ie Sunday, 21 June. An ABC is scheduled for 13 June. These events may therefore be in Bike Week.

4. **Regional Cycling Conference** (in 2016).

NG noted that Sustrans will be holding a *National* Conference this year and that to complement this he is proposing a *Regional* Conference in Swansea in 2016. There will be a meeting here in the Environment Centre on 17 March to progress this. The conference would target Council officers, Councillors and politicians (AMs & MPs) in the four S. Wales Counties. The theme could be (cycle friendly) urban design, health and cycle training.

Views were exchanged about whether or not to involve walking groups. DJ cautioned against this as from his experience the input of rambler groups could be counter-productive. DN was also cautious as that apart from shared use paths there was little intersection between the needs of cyclists and those of pedestrians. KR and HO noted however that the Active Travel Act (ATA) embraced walking as well as cycling so that their support was needed for promotional purposes; to which GG added that we need them as allies.

5. Routes

In CW's absence NG reminded us about the Routes' rides which meet in the Civic Centre Café at 10.00am on the first Sat. of each month. He noted that in addition to the three top priority routes (See 14 Jan. meeting notes, Item 3.), N. Gower and the link to the Bay Campus were also on the agenda. Links to Pontarddulais are currently in the limelight.

In the ensuing discussions it was noted that the ATA required detail of what's needed on existing routes by September. The Routes Group had decided that Wheelrights should assist the Council with this – a tall order as the 'existing' routes include those shown on the tube map, most of which are below standard. They are currently being signed.

DN updated the meeting on the Bay Campus Link. This is as he reported at the 14 Jan. meeting (Item 3c). The interim route via Baldwin's Bridge should be completed by September. He had nothing further to report on the proposed direct route via Langdon Road. GG strongly recommended that we get cyclists to use this direct route as much and as far as possible (Access at the east end will be limited due to construction work.) to highlight the demand for it.

HO indicated that funding may be available for feasibility studies in Mawr and Gower from the Swansea Rural Development Partnership. NG suggested that this might be used for the Pontarddulais link.

6. AOB

- (a) Sustrans app. NG advised that Sustrans are planning a smart phone app. which will provide information linked to their "Celtic Tales" campaign. It was agreed WR would support this summer campaign which celebrates 20 years of the NCN. **[Action: NG]**.
- (b) City Centre Strategic Framework Consultation. DN had received a link to a 96 page pdf thus titled. He thought that, it being about the City Centre regeneration, we should respond. The deadline is 31 March. KR suggested that the Campaigns Group could take this on. DN will email him the link. (Post meeting: done.) **[Action: KR]**
- (c) Defiance Cycle Ride (6 April). DN advised that 60 had registered so far and suggested that anybody intending to take part should do so soon. The cost is £15 payable on-line by PayPal. Visit www.defiancecycleride.com. If not full you can join on the day for £20.

7. Date of next meeting

To be decided.

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