

Notes of the Wheelrights Committee meeting held on 7 July 2023

Present: John Sayce (JS); Caroline Carter (CC); Allyson Evans (AE); ; David Naylor (DN); Dareyoush Rassi (DR); Chris Walsh (CW)

Apologies Nick Guy (NG) - for lateness; David Judd (DJ)

Matters Arising

1. JS reported that he'd met with the Head of Estates at Gower College Swansea. The 2 Cockett Road exits/entrances were discussed and felt to be dangerous and they were being looked into. Also the fact that there was no cycle path linking the college to Singleton park was discussed.
2. The recent Bike Fest at the Environment Centre was discussed, together with the feeder bike rides from different starting points. CC said there were approximately 15 participants (including children) from Uplands (organised in conjunction with Uplands Living Streets -) and that there was a good atmosphere in Pier Street with a number of stalls inside and outside the Centre.
3. JS stated that he was still awaiting a meeting with the relevant Cabinet Member and that he'd raised it with Julie James.
4. JS reported that Persimmon Homes had submitted a planning application for a large scale housing development in Gowerton which had generated considerable opposition locally.
5. It was reported that no further progress had been made on the design for Leaflet Dispensers.
6. JS stated that he'd emailed Jack Palmer (JP) - the Council's Active Travel Coordinator pointing out that the Penllergare Valley Woods route was still not resurfaced and that there was still a barrier in place which was difficult for bikes to get through. On the Council's list of Active Travel schemes this was listed as 'complete'.
7. JS has requested an update from JP on the removal of barriers which Wheelrights had identified as problematic.
8. **Junctions:** the Council has requested a list of problematic junctions from Wheelrights. In Penlgeraer the connection to the old Council offices was felt to be dangerous. DN felt that the Fairwood road junction was dangerous. It was suggested that Wheelrights could research best practice in relation to junction design which facilitated cycle safety. JS wondered if Wheelrights should concentrate on ensuring that future schemes are well designed.
9. Active Travel. CC had attended the recent (Teams) Stakeholders meeting in place of JS. The next meeting is on 30 September. JS reported that Transport for Wales has now taken over responsibility for AT schemes and funding. JS will invite Mark Youngman to attend the next Wheelwright's public meeting in September and the Chief Constable for South Wales to the following meeting.
10. **Future Campaigns:** NG arrived at this point. There was a discussion on which routes Wheelrights should campaign on next. DN suggested Southgate/Pennard. CC suggested the Sketty Cross to the train station route which has been under discussion in the Council for a number of years. JS met with Ben George to discuss this route recently. CC and JS will discuss it with Uplands Living Streets. DR suggested a Swansea to Cardiff route and he undertook to speak to John Britton initially and then contact both the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan cycling groups.

11. **Temporary Road Closures:** JS has asked JP for a meeting to discuss whether the Council can improve the handling of temporary road closures in relation to cycling - in particular provide advance notification and diversion routes - as was done currently for motorists.
12. **Advance Stop lines:** NG will raise with the Council the issue of the lack of a cycle symbol on the advance stop line at Uplands. Steve Yeo in the Council had proved helpful in the past.
13. **BIG CLIMATE LEAP:** JS reported that this was a new 5 year project being run by the Environment Centre to assist local groups to improve their climate footprint.
14. **Website:** NG explained that Sonny who was based at the Environment Centre had agreed to design a new website for £200. Hosting would cost £60p.a. and the domain name would cost £8. Local bike friendly cafes had been approached to pay a monthly fee to be featured on the site. Sonny would set it up and update it for the first year - however someone in Wheelrights would then need to take on this responsibility. The new website would aim to be 'public facing' with the aim of increasing the membership, publicity and profile of Wheelrights. The existing website would continue as a Members' resource. CC would contact DN to discuss improving the search optimisation of the current site. NG would email the membership for their views on the whether a new website should be created and if so what name it should have - Swansea Bay Cycle Campaign and Swansea Cycle City were 2 suggestions.