

ACF Meeting Minutes

28th June 2022

Attendees: Gavin Clark (Chair), Rachel Martin, Niel Robb, Katrina Schofield, Daniel Verhamme, Clemens von Schiffer, Fiona McDonald, Laurie Rominger, Francesco Sani.

Introduction

Welcome to Katrina who is joining us for the first time. Katrina works for Sustrans as an embedded officer within NHS Grampian. Her role is to make it easier for staff to travel actively to and from work. Katrina also enjoys cycling from a personal point of view.

We went round the group and everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

Insurance: Gavin is still looking into insurance for events which would allow us to organise events more easily without risk to ACF or office bearers.

Mailing and membership list: Neil has offered to give support and ideas for this because how we run it currently is pretty antiquated.

Bike rack at scout hut (Granville Lane) : Gavin had a look due to limited space thinks a rail fixed to the wall would work best but this is something the building owners would have to do. Rachel suggested Plantlock as a possible alternative.

Sustrans Walking & Cycling Index & Council engagement

This was launched last week. It's referred to as the 'WACI'. The event was held in the Art Gallery in a little room upstairs, with refreshments. Those who had been used as case studies or in the report's photographs had been invited. Several Councillors were also present. It was quite congratulatory, and they

also featured one short video made by a Foot Dee resident who gave an inspirational story about what cycling means for her. Then they opened for questions and it descended into several people in the audience complaining about how dreadful the cycling infrastructure is. Union Street was brought up and Councillors got involved in a bit of a debate. Gavin got to speak up towards the end and he brought attention to the slow pace of change, and that the repeat WACI in two years' time wouldn't show any improvement from all the improvements currently being considered, because they won't be built in that timescale. Two SNP councillors approached Gavin after the meeting (they had both cycled to the meeting) and they were interested in working more closely with us and were both keen to go out for a bike ride with us to look at issues. It's a new administration and they haven't sorted out all the new roles yet but we at least have two new contacts.

Gavin had also been contacted subsequently by Kate Blake (new Labour Cllr for Kingswells & Sheddocksley) - who had also attended the event - to ask about our views on the Union Street options.

Consultations

1. **A92 (Bridge of Don to Bridge of Dee)** – study is open until Friday.
<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/place/a92-s-bridge-of-don-to-bridge-of-dee-multi-modal-t/> There are proposals to improve the route for buses and active travel.

There were only three people in a meeting with the consultant last night – Gavin, Jon Barron, and Jon Baghurst. Some of the proposals were ok but others not so great like shared-use paths. If we're putting in cycle infrastructure we should be aiming for the very best.

They were open about excluding several junctions as these are covered by other corridor studies. One is Bridge of Dee which is one of the worst pinch points.

They discussed signalling all roundabouts on Anderson Drive and creating a pedestrian/cyclist crossing phase. There was a segregated bike path for some of it and another bit that goes parallel to Anderson Drive but this is a detour and doesn't fit with the transport hierarchy. There was also a discussion about reducing Anderson Drive to 30 miles/hour. The plans are at an early stage and it'll go to councillors next. It's slow progress but generally in the right direction.

2. **Westhill corridor**

Also closes on Friday

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/westhill-to-aberdeen-transport-study/>

Gavin says there are three options and we obviously prefer the one that prioritises cycling.

Laurie says she was looking at the Westhill bit and giving the main road to cars forces bicycles to go over a hill which no-one will use. Clemens has responded and says it's not good to switch between different types of cycle infrastructure.

If anyone has any comments on either consultation please email to Gavin before Friday.

Events and activities

Active travel art: The cycling design image was shared with us today so we discussed it. We all love it. Some feedback: Make the leopards sit up a bit more, to give slightly less impression of speed (given the location on a shared-use route)? Give them more of a smile and open their eyes. Also asked whether there will be any text to accompany the image? What would our message be?

Social meet-up

Last time we spoke about having a weekend meetup at a café and incorporating a short ride at the same time. Neil asks how long of a ride? Gavin says last time we all met at Duthie Park and few people went for a ride afterwards. We could start in one place and give people the option just to go to a café – set a time. Gavin says we'll do something this month – he promises. Clemens suggests 9th July.

Any other business

Neil wants to conduct our own census – door-to-door and find out where people are at with cycling. He thinks lots of people want to cycle but for various reasons they can't. Gavin asks if he's looked at Walking and Cycling Index because this is exactly that type of data. People were randomly contacted about their behaviour. The other thing that was done in the past – one of our members conducted a survey and the infographic is on our website:

<https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/2017/03/04/cycling-in-aberdeen-why-arent-the-re-more-of-us/>

Gavin talks about how last time we discussed the September cycling festival and Kiddical Mass. The council invited us to the festival, although this is probably just for a stall. Gavin will use it as an opportunity to ask whether we can organise a ride on the closed road.

Fiona is going to do the next Spotlight on a Cyclist.

Traditionally we don't meet in July due to many of us being on holiday. Thus next meeting will be 30th of August, but with a social meet up at least once in July.