

ACF Meeting Minutes

30th August 2022

Attendees: Gavin Clark (Chair), Rachel Martin, Daniel Verhamme, Clemens von Schiffer, Fiona McDonald, Laurie Rominger, Michelle Shortt, Hanne Bruhn.

Introduction

Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

The minutes are on the website as of today.

City Centre

- Gavin was just at a meeting about the city centre and beach masterplan. They're talking about meeting monthly and there's quite a bit of overlap with the transport user partnership. The visualisations they produced for the merchant quarter are quite concerning because there's no provision for cycling infrastructure - he brought it up in the meeting and they responded to say they're intending to incorporate cycle lanes wherever they can but they're short of space. They say they have to make room for buses so Gavin reminded them of the transport hierarchy that puts pedestrians first, then cyclists.
- The other thing we saw through the transport user partnership are plans for east and west sections of Union Street and it all revolves around the difficulty of fitting everything in. They've come up with a poor solution to put a two-way cycleway in the very middle of the street. The councillors appear to have picked an option that's not on the shortlist because it scored badly. In the paper we saw for Union Street they tested options and one of them was "public acceptability". Gavin learnt there'll be public consultation on these things in September and October so we have a chance to feed in then.

Engagement with councillors and/or ACC

We haven't had much engagement with the new administration. This is on Gavin's to-do list - he's been waiting for the holidays to finish. One councillor has been in touch - Kate Blake

(Labour). There's a paper going to the resources and infrastructure committee tomorrow which includes the winter gritting plan and she'd picked up on the fact there's almost no gritting of cycle paths. Gavin gave her a quick reply and will try to email in more detail. Kate is not on the committee but will have a word with one of her colleagues. Hanne saw the email too. Why is there no prioritisation of cycle routes and why haven't they engaged with active travel groups.

Hanne went for a bike ride with Kate Blake - she says it was awful (!); took her on a commute on a gloriously sunny day and she got to see the terrible surface and horrible junctions. Hanne pointed out the problems in winter. Kate is an ibike volunteer and wants to help us. She's a Councillor for the Kingswells, Sheddocksley and Summerhill area.

Ian Yuill has engaged with us a bit in the past. He may be too busy now to be a good point of contact.

Gavin is thinking of setting up a ride with a couple of councillors - and will approach those who were present at the WACI launch. A few in the group are interested in joining this.

Consultations & 'corridor studies' update

There are no live consultations at the moment which is a first for a long time. For corridor studies update the A93 North Deeside Road and A947 Dyce are back at the second stage after having received feedback from different groups. We sent in comments on the A93 one but not the A947. Daniel went to a couple of public meetings including one at Banchory which he cycled to. It was very quiet as people likely couldn't find the venue which was a bit hidden behind a church.

Tour of Britain and other events

Tour of Britain is this weekend in the city centre. We're not involved. We were asked if we wanted a stall but instead we wanted to ride on closed roads. They say there will be the opportunity for the public to ride on closed roads so we could share it with our members and encourage people to come along.

It doesn't say on the Getabout website when the public can cycle the circuit. Gavin will contact the organisers to find out.

There are a couple of theatre-related cycling events coming up which we've shared on our Facebook page. There are also some charity rides which we've shared on our page. These are nice rides if you want to have a nice day out in the country.

Neil Robb was in touch with Gavin recently about a fundraising thing he's doing for Red Cross - ride x number of miles in September to raise money for Red Cross. He asked if we could promote it and we're happy to do so.

Deeside Way arts project

The funders have approved the updated design and the council are happy with it so the work is booked in for the week starting September 25th.

Insurance

If we want to run events we need insurance so if there are any issues the office holders of the forum aren't liable. We can become an affiliate of Cycling UK for around £200/year and are covered with theirs however after reading the terms it looks like it's not going to work for what we need. For example, for rides, there's a requirement that everyone pre-register. It was mainly organised for rides. The broker that provides this insurance for Cycling UK do also offer other forms of cycling insurance to bike shops and hire shops etc. There's a phone number - we can ring them up - fill out a proposal and get a quote.

Fiona suggested asking other cycling groups if they have insurance and where they get it from.

Any other business

- Critical mass ride suggested by Martin Sharman. Lots of interest from the group. Clemens says he already knows 5 or 6 people who would participate. Fiona says it can be done in a way that frustrates car drivers based on her experience in the past - it was a bad experience. Cyclists were cycling en masse in the middle of the road at rush hour and motorists were behaving badly - driving down pavement. Those mass rides were aimed at frustrating road users. Daniel says he anticipates just lots of cyclists all doing a ride together. Laurie says Aberdeen probably won't get a lot of cyclists. Fiona suggests early Sunday morning - fewer cars on the road. Clemens says frustrating motorists will definitely happen because they are easily frustrated by cyclists not going as fast.

6pm on the last Friday of the month. First one for 30th September. Rachel will check legal guidelines about going through red lights and create a WordPress page to publicise the rides. Meeting place - Marischal College. However Gavin reminded everyone that for insurance reasons this is not ACF business or our event. If there is overlap with ACF members being involved that is fine, but they are doing so on their own account and not in the name of ACF.

- Countesswells Road - It was brought up at a meeting about a year ago about traffic on the road. We raised it with the council before and they weren't interested in having a reduced speed limit and were not remotely concerned about cyclists. Someone from Countesswells community council got in touch with us to say there's a new bus service going out to service the development and he didn't think it was suitable for buses and wondered if we could work together to object to it. The road is too narrow and not a good

bus route. It should be a closed road and the traffic should be re-routed around to the A944 rather than driving on Countesswells Road. It should be a 40 mile limit. Gavin will write to the council again about it.

- Social / coffee ride. Proposed for 11 September. Gavin will be away but Laurie volunteered to be the coordinator.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 September