

Dundee Cycling Forum

2nd October 2017
Dundee University, Dalhousie Building

Participants

Laurie Bidwell, David Martin, Neil Quinney, John Berry, John Whyman, Gill Town, Tony Turvey, Kate Treharne, Michael Holligan, Stephen Cragg, Jojo Neff, Alexander Cochrane, Andrew Kesterton, Jenny Anderson, Donald Baddon, Trudy Cunningham, Peter Clinch, Andrew Kesterton, Kenneth Crooks, Rory MacGlone
Invited guests - Councillor Lynn Short, Councillor Kevin Cordell

Apologies - Marianne Scott, Andrew Smith, Carol Ann Smith, Andrew Llanwarne

Introduction

Laurie B welcomed everyone to the meeting, and there was a quick round of introductions.

1. Structured Discussion with Councillors

The meeting was structured around the list of 8 issues the forum decided through the discussion at the last meeting and the online survey.

1. Joined up cycle routes and cycle friendly junctions

Neil Q explained the need for continuous, easy to use routes which were safe and welcoming. There is a preference for segregation from traffic. **Lynn S** explained her experiences in Europe and some of the differences. **Donald B** suggested that a route for consideration for cycling and walking was to V&A to McManus. It was agreed that the Green Circular is good, but we need more and that new developments such as the proposed Dundee FC ground should have first class pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. **David M** mentioned parts of the city where junctions and roads are major barriers for example the Kingsway junction at Camperdown. **Trudy C** raised the national drive to reduce car use. **Kenneth C** asked what are the council officers doing now? **John B** outlined some of the developments including the Bank St cycle contraflow. **Kenneth C** reported that some infrastructure is not helpful, such as some Advanced Stop Lines that are difficult or dangerous to get to. **Donald B** asked about winter maintenance - e.g. ice on the Green Circular. **John B** responded to say that there was some progress and a commitment from the council to treat the National Cycling Network routes after snow, but acknowledged that pre-treatment would be better and other routes have no planned winter maintenance.

2. 20mph zones or limits

Tony T explained that most people comment that they do not feel safe cycling. Slowing traffic makes cyclists feel safer and makes the speed difference between

the motor vehicles and cyclists less intimidating. **David M** also highlighted the issues with road side parking pushing cyclists out into the moving traffic. **Rory M** has experience of cycling in Edinburgh in the 20mph limits. He feels that many motorists drive above the limit and the limit is not enforced especially, however there has been an increase in cycling. He also reported the installation of average speed cameras on Dalkeith Road which has had a dramatic effect on vehicle speed. **Jojo N** described his experience in Germany where even without enforcement, the similar drop in urban traffic speed limits eventually reduced the traffic speeds as people got used to it. He also celebrated the reduction in road noise. **Steve C** clarified that 20mph limit has no infrastructure other than sign, 20mph zones have traffic calming and is self-enforcing although more expensive. He also mentioned the private members bill going before the Scottish Parliament proposing the urban default speed to be lowered to 20mph. **Laurie B** suggested the pilot in Dundee (Johnstone Ave and the Glens) is too small, and that the whole of Broughty Ferry south of the Railway could have been 20mph. **John W** asked if the assessment of the pilot could include data from pedestrians and cyclists rather than just the effect on vehicle speed. **John B** mentioned the interest in 20mph from NHS colleagues and public health strategies which acknowledge the health benefits.

3. The 5% of transport spend

Laurie B referred to the Cycling Strategy commitment to 5% of transport budget for cycling and walking and the SMP local government manifesto which pledged 5% of transport budget for cycling. **John B** suggested it was not easy to account for cycling infrastructure spend on small items – should a percentage of pot hole repairs be credited with cycling spend. He outlined the £400,000 (£200,000 DCC contribution) cycle parking facility at the station. **Kenneth C** asked who was making the decisions? He thought the Tesco bridge was not good value spend on cycling and walking, and asked what consultation was carried out to decide to spend budget on the railway station cycle parking? **Tony T** added that the forum was set up to be consulted on projects. **John B** explained that there is currently consultation about the Docks route with over 200 responses. He added that DCC need to work on a process to account the cycle improvement spend.

4. Parking on the school run/car free schools

Laurie B explained the existence of the Schools Parking and Safety Group. **Kate T** explained the cycle of behaviour – parents drive kids to school as traffic creates dangers for active travelers, but they in turn add to the traffic. At Kingspark, school transport vehicles have their engines running, reversed up to the kerb where emissions are most concentrated for younger children and those using wheelchairs. Peak school travel periods are particularly difficult for anyone cycling commuting. **Steve C** reported that headteachers can be a barrier to active travel to school and have told children and parents they should not cycle to school because it is too dangerous. **Donald B** and **John B** explained that Dundee schools had been slow to take up initiatives such as I-Bike, Cycling Friendly Schools award and Bikeability. **Trudy C** thought that placement requests add incentive to use the car for school run. Group discussion followed - Baldragon School cycle lanes on Harestane Rd have been discussed at several Forum meetings. The cycle lane is treated as a car park by residents and school staff, useless for kids cycling to school. The broken line means no enforcement is possible. The design looks after the interest of drivers more than cyclists. **Laurie B** asked if the Hands Up survey could be shared with the

forum. **John B** explained that data is there for several years passed. This September's survey data will be released next May. **Neil Q** advised that both Sustrains I-Bike officer and Bikeability trainer are in post to work with kids on cycling in the school. **Lynn S** asked what is the benefit for the kids and school? **Peter C** responded that research provides conclusive evidence - kids that active travel to school have improved health and are more attentive learners during the school day.

5. Near miss project – close pass mat

Laurie B has written letters to the councillor involved in the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee and also to Police Scotland, Tayside Division. The responses indicate that close pass project is not a high priority and that no action will be taken in the near future. He also reported a video of a police vehicle cutting up a cyclist on Claypotts Rd

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/514233/video-police-van-comes-within-inches-hitting-dundee-cyclist-close-pass-bend/>

John B advised that equipment had been provided for 36 Dundee police officers to carry out patrols on bikes. **Peter C** advised he had been carrying out some of the training for police officers on last Saturday. **Lynn S** offered to raise with a senior police officer.

6. Mapping desired routes – major employers

Stephen C explained that given a limited pot of money for putting in interventions, we would need a good evidence base of where infrastructure is required based on where people are actually wanting to cycle to and where there are problems. He commented that someone he knows at the Improvement Service had created a GIS of Glasgow which brought together various datasets which could be used to lobby for improvements.

7. European City of Culture

Neil Q explained that a submission has been made on behalf of the Cycling Forum - Dundee aspires to be a cycling City of European Standards.

8. Youth activities – in and out of school

Members of the forum outlined what they knew about currently active initiatives including:-

Play on Pedals (for Nursery children), Bikeability cycle coaching, and I-Bike. Active Schools also do some cycling activities. There were reports of schools refusing to participate in cycling schemes. A new easy (Level 1) kids out of school mountain bike project is coming to Camperdown starting in the October holidays promoted through kids that the Active Schools Coordinators work with. There will be some girl specific sessions. **Lynne S** suggested inviting the Convener of Education Committee to attend a future meeting to discuss schools cycling project.

General comments

Kevin C explained that he recognizes the issues and the history that leads us to have the city we have today, with its difficulties for cycling. He knows the frustration of having to extend commuting journeys to feel safe as a cyclists. He also recognizes the opportunities that the aspirational cycling strategy provides, the need for services to work together on delivery. He suggests that the forum invites Police Scotland and from Children and Family Services to participate in a future

meeting. He recognizes the roles the Forum has to play in delivering improvements in cycling in Dundee.

Lynn S acknowledged the forum is now a recognized group. She explained that members may wish to join in other meetings such as the Local Community Planning Partnerships and she thought that the cycling forum could be represented on a wider travel forum.

David M wound up the session and asked forum members to thank the Councillors for their time and support.

2. AOCB

Tony T provided details of Taycoasters North Fife Cycling Groups ride Saturday 28th October <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taycoasters-autumn-cycling-rides-and-cafe-meet-tickets-38492828085?aff=affiliate1>

Cycling Breakfast is this Thursday 5th October, Henry's Café City Sq.

Email subscription. We are going to move over to an email management system.

This makes it easier for us to send out emails and to get feedback and also means members can unsubscribe at any time join here

http://dundeecycling.co.uk/members_list_subscribe.html

3. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th November 2017, 6:30pm, Dundee University **Trudy C**

Positions:-

- Chair/Facilitator - **Laurie B**
- Advisory Group - **Nina G** (Sustrans) **Marianne S** (Cycling Scotland) others TBC **Martin H** (Scottish Cycling) **Ralph J** (Cycling UK)
- Vice Chair/Facilitator - **David M**
- Secretary - to be provided by DCC
- Treasurer - **Steve K**
- Social Media/Website Team - **Steve K, Scott F, Neil Q**
- Event Planning Team - **Trudy C, John W, Donald B**
- Projects/Audits Team - **Donald B, Gill T, John B, Neil Q, Jojo Neff**
- Planning Applications Team - **Stephen C, Trudy C, Donald B, Laurie B.**