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THE PERTH AND KINROSS CYCLE CAMPAIGN

QUARTERLY MEETING

AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER, 2017

Congregational Church Meeting Room, Murray Street

(at Mill Street Bus Station), PERTH PH1 5PJ

1. Present:

Katharine Melville(Chair), Mike Simm(Vice-Chair), Fiona Robertson(Minutes Secretary), Margaret Scott(Wednesday Rides), Sarah Walker, Evelyn Ellis, Richie Neill, John Palfreyman

2. Apologies

George Alexander, Bill Grigg, Brenda Roddy, Marianne Scott(Tactran), David Dawson, Duncan Thomson, David Lyle

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the July 2017 Quarterly Meeting were accepted

Proposer: Richie Neill Second: Sarah Walker

Matters Arising:

- a). **Safer Streets Consultation:** The consultation period for this had been extended but is now closed. All present were asked to look out for any report arising from this consultation.
- b). Stanley to Luncarty Path: K. Melville had written to B. Cargill(PKC) who has indicated that he doesn't feel he is getting a fair deal from Sustrans Community Links funding. She had also written to Sarah Feldman, new Sustrans Community Links Officer, who has made contact and is feeling her way into the job. K. Melville continues to liaise with the Chair of the Stanley Development Trust – the main obstacles are an absentee landlord of the quarry area and an awkward farmer. Help with consultations is being provided by Dave Stubbs of Greenspace.
- c). **A9 cycle path-Tibbermore to Kinkell Bridge:** This project appears to be unlikely to go ahead although an e-mail had been sent to say that cyclists other than ByCycle members would be likely use such a path.
- d). **Sustrans Project– Dunkeld House Hotel to Jubilee Bridge:** There was no update on this project.
- e). **Tactran Report –Scone/Crieff:** We are still awaiting this.
- f). **Website:** This item had been discussed at the pre-meeting meeting. M. Simm is able to put items on the website and is doing back-up each week. K. Melville had been asked to find out who the "host" is as she has details for this. There was some discussion about what to pay the Webmaster - £150 was suggested but, finally, it was agreed to give an annual gift e.g. a bottle of whisky.
- g). **CyclingUK:** J. Anderson reported that Bycycle is now covered as an organisation but individual members would have to join Cycle UK to get cover for themselves. There was much discussion about whether ALL rides(monthly and Wednesday) should be registered as well as the Big Ride and whether they should be registered as "rides" or "events". This is to be investigated by Jane. Regarding our Sports Council insurance we appear to have a cover note but no policy so this is to be rectified so that we know exactly is covered by this insurance. J. Palfreyman said that his organisation had private insurance and he would bring details to the January meeting. **Action**
- h). **Tay Street Dual Use:** S. Walker reported that she has noticed only 1(not very visible) sign near the Courthouse. She suggested that paint be used on the pavement to indicate dual use. The path is still uneven with flagstones are loose. J. Anderson suggested that we get use publicity to get in-

formation about the Dual Use aspect of the pavement more widely known about and this will be investigated.

Action

Regarding the tree root problem on the river path to Inveralmond K. Melville had spoken with B. Cargill(PKC) who has no budget to deal with this and also to P. Kearney(Sustrans). The latter had cycled the part of the path with roots and had indicated that there may well be money available to deal with this. More information at the January meeting. Repairs are going ahead on the A9 to Almondbank part of the path in four places with diversions indicated. The Black Bridge has now been completed.

i). **Bycycle Representation:** K.Melville and B. Grigg had met with M. Figures (PKC) who had told them that Perth railway station is to be re-modelled and that cycle paths will radiate from it to various areas of the city. E-bikes will be available at the station and four other points. Time scale for this project is 2019/2020.

There had been a Bycycle stall at the Perth On The Go event. M. Simm reported that there had been a good attendance with 2 circuits on closed roads available for cycling.

K. Melville had attended a Sustrans event to the Muthill/Crieff cycle path to celebrate the completion of the first half of the Community Links project, to encourage older cyclists and point out the advantages of e-bikes. Roseanna Cunningham(MSP) had attended and gamely used an e-bike. J. Anderson had gone to a Cycling UK meeting at Bike Station to network with other local cycling groups.

K. Melville is to attend the Cycling Scotland AGM and also meetings about the A9 Dualling(Birnam to Tay Crossing).

4.Treasurer's Report

In the absence of George Alexander KM reported the bank balance at £2435.30.Expenditure to date for the Big Ride was £989.00 with about £90 still to be paid. Income was £1600.00. Expenditure was mainly transport but also included new signs(£135) and membership repayments(£10).

5.Bycycle Rides

a. Monthly: M. Simm reported 9 riders on the Pillar of Hercules ride and 12 on the Coupar Angus ride, the return on the latter being into a strong wind!

b. Wednesday Rides. M.Scott is prepared to again look after the programme for 2018(April to September) and had several offers by members present to lead rides.

c.Special Ride. M. Simm said that by the cut-off date there were 80 entrants, of which 72 actually set out on the day. However, it did take a publicity push to get the final 25% of entries. Apart from one casualty(coped with by Bike Station) and some problems with diversions all had gone well and the weather was favourable for the whole ride. Statistically the average age of participants was 58 and 82% had a PH postcode. It had been decided at a sub group meeting that the Drumochter Drop will be the 2018 ride and that participants will be encouraged to use designated stop-off points en route.

9. A.O.C.B.

a). Membership: K. Melville reported a membership of 106 at present. M. Simm said he had a larger number on his monthly ride contact list so a definitive list may need to be compiled.

b).Country Road Speed Limit: M. Simm suggested a speed limit of 40mph on lesser roads should be considered. S. Walker agreed that side roads are used as "rat runs" and that speed signs should be erected at particular danger points. E. Ellis pointed out that no notice is taken of speed limits which have been put up on the A923! Some councils have designated Cycle Friendly roads and it was discussed whether we should make representation to PKC.

c). Electric Bikes: These are increasingly popular with older(and not so old) cyclists as they enable greater distances and heights to be covered with less physical stress. Also the cost of the bikes is coming down with more being sold.

d). Bikes on Buses and trains: K. Melville is compiling a report on this and has had a lot of responses. The topic had attracted a big following on Facebook.

Action

e). Cycling on Pavements: S. Walker said that Police Scotland are going to clamp down on pavement cycling and that more signage is required to show where cycling on pavements is allowed. R. Neill said that if you can justify cycling on the pavement – e.g. for safety reasons – then you cannot be prosecuted.

Action

f). Strathmore Cycling Network: J. Palfreyman reported on this project which was started in May 2016 to link Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie and Alyth by providing safe cycling routes of 5 to 7 miles. Coupar Angus and Alyth already have cycling hubs and provide rides and events and Blairgowrie

does have a BMX track. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for this project. A steering group was swiftly formed and a public meeting held. Applications for funding for feasibility studies, etc have been made and money obtained from Cycling Scotland and Sustrans Community Links. Chris York(Walking for All) has used his experience with walking tracks to now help with advice on cycle tracks and has given presentations to MSPs, Councillors and Sustrans. He also wrote a grant application for the Improving Public Access Funding Scheme run by the Scottish Department for Agriculture to cover Stage 1 of the works. The estimated total cost is £1.2 million and it is hoped to start work by the end of March 2018. The success of this project gives hope that cycling is now fairly high on the political agenda!

10.Date of Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7pm. The meeting closed at 20.40ish and K. Melville thanked all those who attended.

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