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## THE PERTH AND KINROSS CYCLE CAMPAIGN

### QUARTERLY MEETING AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 17 JULY 2018

At the Mountaineering Council of Scotland Office, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth

#### **1. Present:**

Katharine Melville(Chair), Mike Simm(Vice-Chair), Fiona Robertson(Minutes Secretary), Margaret Scott(Wednesday Rides), Sarah Walker, Evelyn Ellis, Lewis Simpson, Chris Moore, David Lyle, Felicity Graham, Kenny Cillen

#### **2. Apologies**

Ken Ward, Seph Beer, Jane Anderson, Wol Gilbraith, George Alexander, Richie Neill, Gordon McFarlane

#### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the April Meeting were approved as correct. Proposer – Mgt Scott Seconder – E. Ellis..

#### **Matters Arising:**

- a). **First Aid:** K.M. proposed that Ride Leaders be subsidised to renew their First Aid certificates to the amount of £20. She had found the Red Cross short course to be suitable but there are other courses. There was some discussion about limiting numbers and the amount but finally it was decided that ride leaders would be offered a subsidy with a limit of £200 per year.
- b). **A9 Dualling:** E. Ellis said that cycle access for the Dunkeld area would only be decided once a final option was decided on. However, Sustrans are continuing to be consulted as options are considered.
- c). **Membership:** M. Simm noted that the new Membership form was launched on the Bycycle website on 1 June and appeared to be working well. There are a few teething problems with collecting subscriptions and he suggested that we look at paying through PayPal next year if possible.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of the Treasurer K. Melville said that the bank balance stood at £2621.63 and that all membership subscriptions were being paid into the account.

#### **5. Bycycle Rides:**

- a. **Monthly:** These continue on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and M. Simm mentioned a particularly successful joint ride with Coupar Angus Hub. K. Melville had taken on leadership of the July ride. It was agreed that the mobile numbers of ride leaders should be put onto e-mails advertising all rides.
- b. **Wednesday Rides:** M. Scott said these rides continued to attract 10-15 cyclists and that there were still 8 rides to go.
- c. **Special Ride:** Arrangements for Drumochter 3 had been discussed at a sub-group meeting prior to this meeting and M. Simm reported that there are 42 entrants so far and that, with increased marketing, it should be possible to reach or surpass the 60 required to break even. K. Melville showed a template of a certificate, which was universally approved, for participants to complete and download if they wish to do so.

#### **6. Current Issues:**

**a): Cross Tay Link:** S. Walker had attended the meeting to discuss this as a representative of NMUs. She said that much information, including the Minutes of the meeting, can be found on the Perth Transport Futures website([www.perthtransportfutures.co.uk](http://www.perthtransportfutures.co.uk)). Phase 1 of the works should be completed by April 2019 but Phase 2 – the bridge over the Tay with associated core path links is reliant on funding being in place with a likely completion date of August 2023. Surveys have been done on core paths and access but it is felt that, even with a 50mph speed limit, the width of 2.5m with a 1.5m verge is insufficient to cope with all NMUs and that a wider verge should be considered and, possibly, a barrier of some kind as S. Walker noted the confusion that could arise from bright cycle lights being on the same side as oncoming traffic. L. Simpson expressed the view that adding 1m to the width would be possible and would only be limited by the cost incurred. S. Walker felt that there had been insufficient time given to discussion on NMUs at the meeting but it had been worth attending.

**b): Perth Cycling Infrastructure:** Due to the recent tragic fatal accident involving an experienced, regular lady cyclist and a lorry at Bridgend, Perth there was a long discussion on this topic. Felicity Graham, her two sons and Kenny Cillen attended the meeting principally to discuss this matter. The lorry driver did not even realise that an accident had occurred until he was stopped later on in his journey and S. Walker said that this was all too likely as there was insufficient space for lorries and trailers to turn if all lanes were backed up. She also noted that in an article in the Courier from 2014 Perth Civic Trust stated that cycle and pedestrian access must be improved on all routes into Perth but this appears to have had little effect. K. Melville said that the proposed Perth Cycle Hub does not include the Bridgend area. F. Graham found cycling in Perth centre with children to be dangerous and said that there were no cycle parking facilities at Kinnoull Primary School to discourage pupils from cycling in that area. L. Simpson said that Councillor Angus Forbes who chairs the Environment and Infrastructure Committee is to be purchasing a bicycle with advice from himself and hopes that this move will lead to an appreciation of what requires to be done for NMUs in the Perth city area – and beyond. F. Graham asked for a contact number for Councillor Forbes so that he might be persuaded to cycle with herself and her sons and see the problems. K. Cillen felt that Bicycle, as a campaigning group, could act strongly in affecting infrastructure decisions. K. Melville reported that Sustrans had been awarded a large amount by the Scottish Government to fund Community Links (small projects) and Community Plus (larger projects) and the general feeling was that this money should be wisely used and that, particularly in view of the recent fatality, Perth's infrastructure should benefit which would mean pressing the Council to do something more than just putting up signage. K. Melville said there seemed to be little interest in Perth itself to make it more cycle-friendly, although Brian Cargill, the Chief Engineer for PKC, is generally sympathetic to cyclists, and a survey had shown that a minority were interested in increasing space for cyclists. Mgt Scott asked that we contact PKC to ask for more infrastructure meetings in the near future and M. Simm said that a sub group should be formed to deal with this matter in a more formal manner. Also a group should cycle the Bridgend area to pinpoint where problems arise and low-cost solutions could be suggested to the Council. Finally it was agreed that K. Melville would draft a letter to be sent to Councillor Forbes asking for a meeting as soon as possible and copies to be sent to John Swinney, MSP, Pete Wishart, Murdo Fraser, MSP and Mark Ruskell, MSP asking if they, or a representative, would attend such a meeting.

#### **7. A.O.C.B.:**

**a). Drumochter path:** Part of the cycle path on the northern side of Drumochter is covered with small stones thrown up by quad bikes and, while passable with care, K. Melville suggested that a work party should go up before 17<sup>th</sup> August to clear the path. This will be arranged if possible.

**b). Membership Discounts:** C. Moore offered to ask at various cycle and outdoor shops in Perth if there was any possibility of discounts being offered on production of Bicycle membership card. K. Melville had produced a membership card template which can be downloaded and printed.

**8. Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next quarterly meeting is Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 7pm at the Congregational Church Meeting Room in Murray Street.

The meeting closed at 20.35h and K. Melville thanked all those who attended.

