



## **Minutes of the ByCycle Quarterly Meeting**

**Held in person 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**At Congregational Church Meeting Room, Murray Street, Perth**

**Present:** Christine Fraser, Ian Fraser, Sarah Walker, Alasdair Dutton, Mike Simm, Katharine Melville, Shelagh Fulton, Gordon McFarlane, Margaret Scott, David Lyle, Tom Collier

**Apologies:** Kirsty Ellis, Craigie-Lee Paterson, Lorna Johnson, Kirsteen Ross, Lewis Simpson, Gina O'Neill, Damien O'Neill, Richie Neill.

**1. Welcome and Apologies** Mike Simm opened the meeting, Chairing in Kirsty Ellis' absence and welcomed everyone and covered apologies.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the AGM/ last quarterly meeting were accepted, with request for them to be sent out timelier. Tom Collier agreed to aim to have all minutes sent within a week of a meeting occurring.

### **3. Update of Committee Business**

**3.1 BAM engagement** Tom Collier gave an update, on behalf of Kirsty Ellis, that a productive meeting had taken place with BAM and that they were keen to work with us on some of the present issues and have us involved in consultation on the permanent infrastructure. The representative from BAM had taken away our feedback about signage, surface etc. and were going to make improvements and come back to Kirsty. At last update, Kirsty hadn't heard back and was going to chase.

Question was raised about whether there is any consideration for the flooding that has been known to happen under the existing A9 bridge and TC not aware, so agreed to take away and ask BAM at next opportunity.

**3.2 Social Media Channels** TC shared that some new channels have been sent up to promote ByCycle and improve community and stakeholder engagement. They consist of new email addresses for the Chair and Secretary to enable more professional outreach. They are [chair.bycycleperth@gmail.com](mailto:chair.bycycleperth@gmail.com) and [secretary.bycycleperth@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.bycycleperth@gmail.com)

There has also been the creation of a new X/ twitter account @bycycle\_perth and Instagram @bycycle.perth in addition to the existing Facebook page.

Question was asked about whether one channel would be used more than other, which TC answered that they will all be used equally as will the website. All members are requested to provide any content they wish to have shared on website or channels and to follow and engage with the channels as we start to use them more.

A suggestion was also made to add them into the email signature, which was agreed.

Also discussed was in pursuit of new members, as a subscription hasn't been charged and no need to sign up each year, whether there was a requirement to write to members to re-engage. TC answered that there is a plan to do something similar to this, once some more committee business has been conducted on rides administration and other reviews into mission statement and action trackers.

**3.3 The Big Birthday Ride** Katharine Melville shared that 37 people are signed up for the Big Birthday Ride, which is lower than usual at this point. Which maybe due to waiting on weather, or often is less for circular vs linear route. Hoping that as it comes closer, we get more sign ups to mark the occasion. Request that members continue to promote and if you haven't signed up yet, please do. As there is no bus or van this year, costs are minimal so there is no financial issue with less sign ups.

Those present shared that Breeze, Guided Rides and Belles on Bikes are all promoting it and suggested to reach out to other groups, organisations and bike shops.

**3.4 Rides** ByCycle rides have been great turn outs, with positive feedback. And there seems to be a consistent group of members coming along, if you haven't been out yet, please do join. Discussion held around whether ride leaders require emergency contact information and GDPR consent, plus liability around leading rides in general. Tom Collier shared that Kirsty Ellis and him were working on new ride leader guidelines as well as general terms and conditions for ByCycle members and/or those joining rides, and hope to present proposed guidance for consideration at the next quarterly meeting. There seems to be inconsistency across Sunday and Wednesday rides and all agreed that guidance was needed.

**3.5 Stakeholder engagement** with his apologies Lewis Simpson had sent the following updates:

Susannah Rae:

PKC's Tier 1 funding from Transport Scotland was 25% less than the Cycling Waking Safer Routes (CWSR) funding received last year. CWSR funding was based on population. With Tier 1 funding there has been greater emphasis on urban areas and a decrease in funding for rural authorities other than islands, which have seen an increase. This funding decrease is disappointing given the distances involved, and cost of covering those distances, in installing better active travel infrastructure in rural areas. PKC plan to use a lot of the money for design, to enable them to apply for more funding under Tier 2 for installation.

We will be having cycle parking and storage installed at various locations throughout Perth and Kinross between 5th and 16th August. This will include:

- 1) A bike shelter at the St Madoes bus stop
- 2) Sheffield stands in Errol High Street, Errol Play Park and Glendoick bus turning circle
- 3) Bike storage and a shelter at Arngask village hall (Glenfarg)
- 4) Sheffield stands at McLean Village Hall (Fearnan)
- 5) Residential bicycle storage near flats in Aberfeldy, Crieff, Rattray and Errol
- 6) Secure bicycle storage at Bells sports centre for bicycles used by Giraffe
- 7) Secure bicycle parking at PKAVS Carers' hub
- 8) A bike stand at Denmarkfield community allotments.

Following an open tender we have a two year framework agreement with Lockit Safe to provide cycle parking. We are also in discussions with a company to provide a pilot scheme for bookable secure bike storage at Broxden and Walnut Grove. There will be more cycle parking installed later in the year. This work is being funded by the Cycling Scotland grant

we received last autumn. We will be applying for another grant fairly soon, which will need to be spent before the end of this financial year. The grant application this year has to be focussed on Perth itself, which is a pity as we have had a lot of interest from villages and rural areas as you can see from the above list. If anyone has suggestions for cycle parking/storage in Perth itself do let me know.

There has been a delay to the start of the Tay Street feasibility study, but it is still going to go ahead. We hope that this will eventually lead to improvements for active travel in Tay Street and a better connection between NCN77 and NCN775.

Currently the Marshall Place end of Tay Street is closed to all vehicles due to Scottish Water works, so cyclists have a choice between pushing their bicycles along the footway between Tay Street and Marshall Place or taking the right hand turn from Tay Street into Canal Street, which isn't very satisfactory. Sadly there isn't space to make that stretch of footway next to Scottish Water's works shared use.

We had a discussion with Sustrans about signage and speeding on the NCN in Almondbank, which one of your members is keen to see progressed. The next stage that Sustrans plans is to do some traffic monitoring to see what speeds traffic is reaching. I do not have a timescale for this, however.

I have asked Community Greenspace for an update on the removal of the kissing gates on the core path to the west of Dobbies. The person who is dealing with this is away until Monday, by which time I will be away. I have therefore asked him to reply to Blair who will forward any response on to you for Tuesday's meeting.

Also, Susannah had raised the question about whether ByCycle would be keen to support the provision for cycling on Perth High Street. Which was discussed and consensus was that whilst cycling on High Street should be actively promoted, it also shouldn't be banned and should be a core path, similar to Buchanan Street in Glasgow.

#### Neill McDonald:

We do have a couple things on, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July we have a presence at the Energy fest offering e-bike and cargo bike trials, skills loop and Bikeability info etc.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> we will have the summer cycle sessions in Balhousie, session 1 10am-12pm and session 2 1pm -3pm.

I've received feedback about the use of Balhousie playground as a cycle hub location. It may be worth reiterating that a perfect location isn't possible at the minute and in fact the space is ideal for off road teaching, developing skills, is 30 seconds from the lade and 1 minute along quiet roads to the North Inch. Many, many people have benefitted immensely from using the facility and in turn has created a very positive impression to all that have used the facility. I feel that as cyclists, we have to nurture such a facility and support anything that happens there in a positive light, it's the only way that we can develop into something bigger in future years.

Katharine shared that her and Kirsty had attended the Biodiversity fair held at 2 High Street and were able to speak to a few people, although were unsure why the event had been held indoors as passers by wouldn't know it was going on, resulting in low footfall. Leaflets were given out.

**4. Open Committee Positions** Discussion about the additional support required for general committee business, as well as specific roles and responsibilities e.g. ride leading, social media. As

ByCycle moves forward, will hope for more members to paly their part. Ian Fraser and Alasdair Dutton agreed to attend next committee meeting to find out about what role they could support with.

**5. Perth Rotary Event** Discussed that ByCycle had been invited to have a stand at Perth Rotary clubs' annual charity event, but date of 24<sup>th</sup> August meant none of committee could attend. Asked for volunteers to represent ByCycle, but nobody can attend. Agreed to politely decline invite.

**6. Open forum/ AOB** Alasdair shared he has been doing an audit with Sustrans of paths coming off NCN route in Dunkeld and reporting condition or other relevant information.

Ride the Forth bike bus is taking place every Sunday, for those who want to hop on/off and complete some of the lap around the Forth by bike. Details shared to the ByCycle Facebook page. Agreed to also post to website.

Logierait to Pitlochry road is closed, but open to bikes, although cyclists dismount sign in place. But road is passable.

**7. Date of Next Meeting** Will be Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, venue TBC but suggested to hold away from Perth. Suggestion to hold at Strathmore Cycle Hub in Coupar Angus. Also looking into having virtual attendance option alongside face-to-face meeting. Details will be sent out to members in plenty of time.