



Minutes of the ByCycle Quarterly Meeting

Held in person and on Microsoft Teams 16th October 2024

At Strathmore Cycle Hub, 1 Forfar Road, Coupar Angus, PH13 9AN

Present: Christine Fraser, Ian Fraser, Alasdair Dutton, Mike Simm, Katharine Melville, Gordon McFarlane, Margaret Scott, Tom Collier, Kirsty Ellis, Richie Neill, Sara Davies, Gerry Burke, Susanah Rae, Roger Humphry, Teresa Kewell

Apologies: Lewis Simpson, Sarah Walker, Shelagh Fulton, Bill Melville.

1. Welcome and Apologies Kirsty Ellis opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and covered apologies. She also thanked Claire Davis, Manager of the Strathmore Cycle Hub for hosting the meeting and offering ByCycle Members 15% off bikes, parts, accessories and servicing. Details of this will be sent out with the minutes.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were accepted. Proposed by Katharine Melville and Seconded by Margaret Scott.

3. Update on Committee Business

3.1 Big Ride

Big Ride 2024 was acknowledged as a success. Katharine Melville thanked for organising. For 2025 planning Kirsty Ellis has contacted Abbey Removals to confirm they are happy to provide a quote to support and allow bikes and people to be transported. Kirsty will facilitate with them once route decided. They are aware of electric bike requirements, and this provision will also be discussed with them.

Discussion took place about a route, including revisiting previous routes and locations. The consensus was for a proposed start at the Kelpies, along the Forth, before cutting across to come back to Perth via Kinross. Approximately 53 miles estimated. Gordon McFarlane to plot a provisional route on Mapometer to share with the committee who will they arrange a recce of the route to assess viability. Coffee and cake for those who join the recce. More details will be discussed at next quarterly meeting, with plan to sign off route around March or at AGM in April.

Next year is either 15th Bike ride or 15th year of Big Ride and will look to mark that in some way.

Regarding 2024 Big Ride, figures were around £600 revenue, with approximately £320 expenses, meaning costs were covered and we turned a small profit. Overall was a good day, VIPs attended and there was one accident but they were looked after and ok. Café had quoted £1.50 per head previously, but we paid slightly more and included a tip because quality was good.

Ian Fraser acknowledged Katharine's role in organising and declared it an excellent event, that the cake was beautiful, and it marked the Big Birthday well. All were in agreement.

Gerry Burke offered to join the recce for the 2025 route.

3.2 Rides Organisation Ian Fraser shared that he has taken on the committee role of rides coordinator and created a new email address rideco.bycycleperth@gmail.com for ride coordination. He will shortly be sending out an email looking for volunteers to lead rides and plan routes. He has clarified that ride leaders do not need a ride leader certificate or first aid qualification for our insurance. To cover responsibilities he is creating an instruction document for leads and also riders, to ensure everyone aware of their own responsibilities.

He has also reviewed membership list, discovering that members can be split across 5 main areas; Perth City (66 members), A9 corridor including Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus (60), Tayside, Dundee, Montrose etc. (18), Fife (14) and west from Bridge of Earn (33) and stated it would be good to have rides happening to reflect where members are. His email will include more information and call to action for anyone who wants to be involved. He will also ask if anyone wishes to do ride leader training and/or first aid, as whilst not required is recommended. Once we know numbers we will then assess options for covering costs, either from ByCycle funds or re-introducing membership fees.

Katharine Melville proposed ByCycle pay, or to look at free options for training through existing providers e.g. Sustrans. The group agreed to discuss this, once numbers are known, and discussed the requirements for first aid as a 2 day full course may be too expensive and not required. Tom Collier stated that Red Cross do a First Aid for Cycling half day course, and Sara Davies stated that she is a medic, and has included leading rides on her medical insurance in the past, agreed that a full 2 day would not be required and to look at specific courses.

Ian confirmed that he will be coordinating both Sunday and Wednesday rides, but it will be the ride leaders who take responsibility for their rides, and that SPOND will be the place for ride updates as can receive updates quicker than website or other channels. (reminder SPOND code is OZPTA)

Katharine said that rides have on average 9 participants, but some were into double figures this year.

Roger Humphry said he had completed funded ride leader training with the scouts group and would pass a contact on who arranged this.

Gordon Mcfarlane stated he was leading this Sundays ride, and explained it is likely to be cancelled as there is a yellow weather warning in place for the area. All agreed this was sensible, final decision to be made on Friday and communicated via SPOND and email.

3.3 Campaigns and Stakeholder Engagement

3.3.1 Alasdair shared updates from BAM from a meeting held about Cross Tay Link Road. Had discussed some of the paths off this project, especially Green Bridge disappear into nowhere, but BAM have said this is landowners' responsibility. Clarified Green Bridge is a bridge for people and animals crossing the road but not the river, situated between A93 and A94. Some people are using it already, but officially it doesn't open until Spring 2025.

Engagement has taken place with Scone Estates and Galbraith, who are receptive to working with us, and were to provide a map, but we are awaiting this. Alasdair and Lewis to meet up soon to discuss and progress.

3.3.2 Some progress on Loch Earn railway path, Susannah had introduced Alasdair to Ross Morrison who is Network Development Manager who has shared an "aspirational" map for provisions. Which will be shared with minutes. This would be good to see happen as currently lots of mixed surfaces, that are passable but difficult. May be a challenging project as different councils and groups involved,

and there are funding concerns and land ownership issues. Susannah thinks this is a Sustrans project working with other stakeholders.

3.3.3 Kirsty shared that Amanda McClintock from BAM has advised that part of the Luncarty cycle path, under the Cross Tay Link, from the 'park and choose' facility will be opening 4th November. Discussion held around under the A9 by the river Almond, where there is no change to pre-existing provision, which leaves concerns around lighting, flooding and sharp turn after steep descent. This is not part of BAM's remit, and changes to the layout of infrastructure have made alternative of crossing A9 almost impossible. Teresa Kewell to write to council. Susannah suggested contacting traffic@pkc.co.uk in first instance for any road related queries.

3.3.4 Roger Humphrey shared about Kidical Mass, an organised ride who meet several times per year to demonstrate to Perth and Kinross Council need for safer infrastructure and provision for kids and all people to cycle safely. He wants to partner with ByCycle in future, as it will be mutually beneficial to promote cycling and grow both organisations together. All agreed this was something to pursue, and for Roger and Ian to work together on possible joined up rides in addition to social media and other publicity. Also ByCycle members can volunteer on Kidical mass rides as stewards, to help them happen.

Gerry clarified difference between Kidical Mass and Canny Cycle, Susannah explained Canny cycle something different. All agreed that Kidical Mass, ByCycle and Canny cycle should work together to maximise impact.

3.3.5 Tay Street. Susannah shared that no timescale exists for Tay Street updates. But there is an agreement between consultants and Sustrans to complete a feasibility study, that she hopes is completed within financial year. Need will be to win over businesses, who will then play a part in winning over councillors. Whilst it would have been good to complete whilst ongoing closure of Tay Street, it was not possible. Kidical Mass may include in ride in future, and encourage participants to write to councillors.

3.3.6 Gordon raised point about Glasgow and Edinburgh plans for segregated cycle paths and stated that in comparison in the whole of Perth and Kinross only 20 metres exist. And group discussed whether that is fit for purpose, based on not being connected to anything and having confusing signage and proximity to lade as an alternative.

3.4 Social Media and Marketing Tom Collier shared that he is writing a 2025 plan for ByCycle social media activity and marketing and will share this at next quarterly meeting. Thanked Katharine for maintaining Facebook, and acknowledged that not much activity has taken place on other channels as yet.

3.5 Treasurers report Richie Neill updated that £4566 in bank, and that the next cost will be Cycle Scotland Insurance that will be due December or January. Nothing outstanding currently.

4. Open forum/ AOB

4.1 Cycle Scotland Conference has taken place. No ByCycle representation. Kirsty and Tom to be set up as contacts to ensure invites and updates are received.

4.2. Dobies Kissing Gate Susannah updated that in principle there is agreement to remove this but may be difficult to receive funding for removing one piece of infrastructure/ furniture. Stakeholders in discussion, but no plans in place yet.

4.3. Shared Active Travel Manifesto ByCycle post holders been invited, Kirsty to confirm attendance.

4.4 Website Mike asked for anything to be posted on website to be sent through to him regularly.

4.5 Kidical Mass Advert and Feedback After posting about Kidical Mass, which included a cyclist with no helmet and with ear pods in, ByCycle had received an email questioning this as a safe practise. Kidical Mass had used as an opportunity to enter into correspondence about helmet laws, in UK and internationally, but acknowledged that ear pods were a mistake and would not show this in future. We all have our own views on helmets, but law does not require them. Shows the importance of creating safe space and infrastructure for cycling.

4.6 Virtual Meeting Mike acknowledged that the virtual meeting option had been a success, however all agreed that there were some technical aspects, where not all participants could hear each other, between virtual and those in the room. Tom to explore options for future meetings to continue this, but with some different technology to improve it.

5. Date of Next Meeting Will be Wednesday 15th January 2025, venue TBC.

6. Close Kirsty closed the meeting, thanking everybody and reminding about the discount offered by the Strathmore Cycle Hub.