

## **ByCycle Quarterly Meeting 21-01-26**

Present	Apologies
Kirsty Ellis CP	Shelagh Fulton
Mike Simm VCP	Alistair Tait
Richie Neill Treasurer	Neil Cameron
Ian Fraser Rides Co-ordinator	
Lewis Simpson Campaigns	
Alasdair Dutton campaigns	
Gina O'Neill Minutes Secretary	
Michael Findlay Active Travel PKC	
Gerry Burke	
Colin Halley	
Margaret Scott	
Christine Fraser	
Damien O'Neill	
Sara Davies	
Scott Peddie	
Katharine Melville	

### **Previous Quarter**

A correction was made regarding the Face Book page, **Perth and Kinross Cycle Campaign** and agree.

**Chair Update.** There are three committee meetings to discuss, plan and organise this years Big Ride, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Kirsty attended the Cycling Scotland Conference and reported that the main theme was 'getting women/girls on bikes' thus bigging up the gender balance in cycling throughout Scotland.

### **Finance**

At the present time ByCycle has a healthy balance and recent outgoings are insurance and Domain name registration fees.

### **Rides**

Ian reported that this years Third Sunday Rides had begun this January and despite the fog an alternative route was decided upon with Margaret leading and a first visit for ByCycle to The Cart Shed, Rait. A brave 17 ventured out on this alternative hilly route.

Ian has prepared a list of rides based on previous rides which he will send to ride leaders to start covering the dates. Ian will put the dates on Spond and they will be confirmed when the rides have leaders allocated.

The Big Ride is already in the planning with quotes being sought from coach companies and removals firms. A mobile mechanic has already agreed to patrol the route, Liz from Tiso.

Ian also announced that this years Big Ride will be from Callander to Perth, but an alternative route is being explored. This alternative route will go via Doune and Auchterader, it is of a similar distance to the usual route and once the recce has been done a decision will be made and route confirmed. It was opened to the floor and the consensus was that a new route would be good. The proposed recce will be discussed at the next meeting regarding logistics of getting there etc and when.

Regarding number of places for the ride ian has said there will be only one van and coach which is 53 places. Advance notice will be given to regular riders of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and Wednesday rides then open to all.

## **Active Travel PKC- Michael Findlay**

Michael was welcomed and introduced by Kirsty, Michael explained that in his role with Susannah Rae he looks after techy things such as lights.

Re funding, he explained that the funding bid had finally been approved and received in November but this has to be spent by April!

£750,000 has been allocated to creating a route from the CTRLR to Scone Airport so avoiding cycling on the road. Marshall Place and Tay Street are being looked into for creating a bike lane. There are larger projects being planned, Kinross P&R to the High Street, Broxden to the City Centre. Michael said that he would approach ByCycle in the future for thoughts on materials, lighting, and routes.

The traffic lights in the City Centre are being improved with the lights for cyclists going green possibly five seconds ahead of the change for motorists, in this way existing lights can be used so no detriment to motorists and improving cyclists safety.

Queries regarding funding for small projects or any problems one can be emailed to [activetravel@pkc](mailto:activetravel@pkc).

The NCN77 had been closed west of Bertha Bridges and should now be open again at time of meeting. However a ByCycle member said that there were no diversions signs, this will be looked into.

Michael reported that despite Perth having the lion's share of funding it is behind other cities regarding cycle lanes etc

Active Travel are in the process of planning paths between Braco and Greenloaning and also Muthill and Crieff and they have to comply with funding requirements to obtain funding.

Ian asked if Perthshire could be promoted as a cycling county including new maps designed for tourists. Michael replied that there was a new map being developed, also an Active Travel App is being developed

Ian also mentioned that people may be encouraged to cycle more if there were fewer potholes.

Michael said that potholes can be reported through the PKC website and PKC are obligated to repair them within a certain time frame from the report. NB On the PKC website, they request that only potholes that are likely to cause a serious accident be reported.

Mike Simm said that there is a list of rides on the website for information to all. He also suggested that Gordon McFarlane be approached in with regards to rides in Kinross.

Gerry asked if the cycle path from Stanley to Perth via Luncarty was any nearer to going ahead.

Michael replied that Countryside Trust and Greenspace are responsible for the route design, which is off road, and when they have planned it Michael will be involved in finalising it. At this time there is a problem with one of the land owners and it is at a stalemate. Michael will update as soon as he knows anything.

Katharine then thanked and was appreciative of Michael and Susannah for all their hard work and asked that when he has any success stories could he put it on the FB page, also photos would be good.

An email on the Joint Active Travel Manifesto for 2026 will be attached to the minutes on the website.

## **Campaigning**

Alasdair and Lewis thanked Michael. Both have had a busy start to the year, starting with a meeting with Michael and Susannah, an opportunity that many cycling groups do not have. Lewis received a report from David MacArthur (Road Safety and Sustainable Transport Co-ordinator) who is based in the Public Transport Unit. Currently his team are running a pilot project called Early Years Road Safety, offered to 6 primary schools. This involves, road safety, Bikeability, Bikestation and Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans).

Feedback from all primaries has been very positive, high engagement, increase in cycling skills and confidence. Bikes made safe and roadworthy and a couple of bike maintenance classes for older pupils. “ Strong community spirit and volunteer involvement, reinforcing the social value of active travel initiatives.”

Lewis has a meeting in February with Jonathan Love, Scone Estates, to discuss access paths and cycling within the estate and connectivity to the CTRL.

Lewis commented that as Scotland has elections approaching it is an opportune time to write to your MSPs to promote cycling, if you need any assistance he is willing to help. Alasdair, Kirsty and Lewis have all been in touch with MSP's and councillors and questions regarding Scottish Government funding being withheld from PKC have been heeded, and Kirsty and the boys are taking the credit!

Alasdair and Lewis have an upcoming meeting with Nigel Wilson of Local Transport Projects, who is undertaking a feasibility study for Walk Wheel Cycle on the NCN77 around Perth.

Kirsty then thanked both Lewis and Alasdair for their hard work and commitment to their campaigning roles.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

Richie asked if anyone knew if the N77 north of Dunkeld was open, as there had been tree felling along it. No one knew the answer to this.

Richie has passwords to social media sites if needed.

Gerry thanked the committee.

Katharine said she is unable to lead rides at present to an injury sustained to her hand last year, we all hope it improves soon Katharine.

Sara gave thanks to Richie.

Mike reported that Alistair Tait had an accident and fortunately is on the mend but has offered to do a talk on the wearing of helmets. There was a positive response by those present.

Liz Todd has been awarded an OBE for services to Education, congratulations Liz.

Michael Findlay, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust have a launch event in April, details to follow, he would love some ByCycle members to attend. Katharine added that ByCycle have supported WWCT in the past.

Kirsty asked if there was anyone who was interested in becoming the ByCycle marketing officer, or knows of a student studying that would be interested in doing it as part of their studies. If so please contact one of the committee.

Kirsty thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the next meeting will be the AGM on 15/04/26.