

Cross-Party Group on Cycling, Walking And Buses

4th Meeting

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 18:00-19:30

Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament

MINUTES

Present: Alison Johnstone MSP (Co-convenor, chairing), Claudia Beamish MSP (Co-convenor), Graham Simpson MSP (Deputy Convenor), Mark Ruskell MSP; Colin Howden (Transform Scotland, group secretariat); Adrian Davis (Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute), Dave du Feu (Spokes), PC Dominic Doyle (Police Scotland), Keith Irving (Cycling Scotland), Kim Harding (Pedal on Parliament), Iona Sheppard (Pedal on Parliament), Rod Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland), Rona Gibb (Paths for All), Simon Pilpel (South Lanarkshire Council), Stuart Hay (Living Streets Scotland), Suzanne Forup (Cycling UK), Inspector Vincent Fisher (Police Scotland).

Apologies: George Mair (CPT Scotland), Helen Todd (Ramblers Scotland), Isobel Leckie (Causey Development Trust), Maureen Kidd (Cycling Scotland), Michaela Jackson (Gorebridge Community Development Trust), Paul White (CPT Scotland), Robert Andrew (Stagecoach Scotland), Tom Rye (Edinburgh Napier University Transport Research Institute), Tricia Fort (Go Bike!), Wendy Graham (The Bike Station).

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Alison Johnstone MSP [AJ] opened the meeting and welcomed those present. There followed a round of introductions.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 27/06/17

- 2.1. One change was agreed to the draft minutes: in para 10.3, change “road danger” to road casualty”.
- 2.2. **DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting held on 27/06/17 were approved as a good record.

3. Matters arising from meeting held on 27/06/17

- 3.1. Colin Howden [CH] reviewed the matters arising from the previous meeting, noting the following:
 - Simon Pilpel had been added to the membership of the group.
 - This meeting was to feature speakers on the topics of ‘road danger’ & ‘the use and purpose of streets’.
 - CH had made enquiries with Transport Scotland regarding their providing a speaker on the topic of STPR2; however, their view had been that it was still too early for them to do so.

4. Membership applications

- 4.1. CH reported that we had a request to join the group from South West Community Cycles. **DECISION:** South West Community Cycles to be added to membership of the group. **ACTION: CH** to advise South West Community Cycles re. this decision.

5. Annual General Meeting

5.1. Election of Officebearers:

- AJ proposed Claudia Beamish MSP [CB] as Convenor. This was agreed.
- Graham Simpson MSP [GS] proposed AJ as Convenor. This was agreed.
- AJ proposed GS as group Deputy Convenor. This was agreed.
- **DECISION:** The Officebearers were confirmed as: AJ & CB as Co-convenors, GS as Deputy Convenor.

5.2. Preparation of Annual Return. CH advised the meeting that the Annual Return had to be completed & submitted within 30 days of the AGM. **ACTION: CH** to prepare draft Annual Return & check with the Co-convenors prior to submission.

6. Theme: Road danger

6.1. Inspector Vincent Fisher (Police Scotland) introduced himself, and made an appeal to members of the groups for innovative ideas for road safety. **ACTION: ALL** to consider road safety ideas for passing to Inspector Fisher.

6.2. Inspector Fisher then introduced his colleague PC Dominic Doyle, who made a data presentation on the topic of 'Operation Close Pass'.

6.3. In later discussion, CB asked whether the group could write to other Police Scotland divisional commanders highlighting the benefits of Operation Close Pass. **DECISION:** It was agreed to write to other Police Scotland divisional commanders regarding Operation Close Pass. **ACTION: CH** to draft letter to Police Scotland divisional commanders regarding Operation Close Pass.

6.4. Also in later discussion, Mark Ruskell MSP asked whether similar letters could be written to public safety committees at Local Authorities. **DECISION:** It was agreed to write to public safety committees at Local Authorities regarding Operation Close Pass. **ACTION: CH** to draft letter to public safety committees at Local Authorities regarding Operation Close Pass.

6.5. Also in later discussion, Rod Mitchell suggested that the group should write to the Scottish Government regarding Operation Close Pass. **DECISION:** It was agreed to write to the Scottish Government regarding Operation Close Pass. **ACTION: CH** to draft letter to the Scottish Government regarding Operation Close Pass.

7. Theme: The use and purpose of streets

7.1. Stuart Hay (Director, Living Street Scotland) [SH] highlighted matters such as: the difference between 'streets' ("places") and 'road' ("infrastructure"); the continuing influence of the Buchanan Report amongst traffic engineering circles; and that much street planning is still too focussed on movement of traffic. He went on to highlight problems with the Traffic Regulation Orders process, noted that parking will form a part of the forthcoming SG Transport Bill, and called for 'equality proofing' of streets.

7.2. SH questioned why the The Royal Mile prioritised 'movement' over 'place', not least as the latter would be more likely to drive economic activity. He suggested that the group could usefully consider The Royal Mile as a 'test case' for this topic, and would come back to the group with suggestions on how the group could take action here. **ACTION: SH** to make a proposal to the Co-convenors how the group could consider The Royal Mile as a test case on the theme of 'the use and purpose of streets'.

8. Proposed Restricted Roads (20mph Limit) (Scotland) Bill

- 8.1. Mark Ruskell MSP [MR] updated the group on progress with his Bill proposal: while it proposed a switch for all restricted roads from a 30mph speed limit to 20mph, it did not constitute a blanket approach as it allowed Local Authorities to exempt particular roads. He saw the benefits as reducing road casualties and improving conditions for walking and cycling; however, it was not a panacea and would need to be accompanied by other interventions.
- 8.2. MR noted that the Bill had completed its four-month period of consultation, that it had received c. 1,200 response (82% in favour), and the responses were now being analysed. Specific consultation had been held with Police Scotland, SCOTS & Cosla. The Bill would require the support of 18 MSPs from 3 parties to go forward.

9. Q&A

- 9.1. Adrian Davis highlighted majority support for 20mph limits found in three national surveys, followed by an increase in support post-implementation.
- 9.2. Simon Pilpel raised a point regarding cycle provision on dual carriageways.
- 9.3. Keith Irving asked a question regarding implementing signage changes around a change from 30mph to 20mph speed limits.
- 9.4. Dave du Feu highlighted CEC Street Design Guidance but questioned why many new developments were not adhering to this.
- 9.5. Kim Harding asked whether it might be time for a “new Buchanan Report” and a further question around 20mph signage.
- 9.6. Dave due Feu raised a concern regarding the future of the Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets fund. In response, Keith Irving indicated that he didn't see this as an immediate threat.

10. Proposals for date & theme for next meeting

- 10.1. It was agreed that the next meeting be held in mid- to late-January. **ACTION: CH** to confirm date for next meetings & advise the Parliament and group members.
- 10.2. AJ asked for suggestions regarding themes for following meetings.
- 10.3. **DECISION:** It was agreed to pursue STPR2 as theme for the next meeting. **ACTION: CH** to ask Transport Scotland to supply a speaker on the topic of STPR2.
- 10.4. CH noted that Paul White (CPT) had indicated that he could make a presentation on their November 2017 report ‘Trends in Scottish bus patronage’. **DECISION:** It was decided to invite Paul White to present to the next meeting. **ACTION: CH** to invite Paul White to speak at the next meeting.
- 10.5. The next meeting would also feature follow-up on (i) Operation Close Pass letters, and (ii) SH's Royal Mile proposal.

CB closed the meeting at 19:32.

Minutes: CH, 18/12/17.