

Minutes of the Pedals Meeting held at 7.30pm in the Vat & Fiddle Public House, Queens Bridge Road, Nottingham on **Monday, 18th May, 2015.**

Present: Andrew Martin (Chair for this meeting), Hugh McClintock, Arthur Williams, David Easley, Susan Young, David Miller, Roland & Hilary Backhouse, Iain Lane, Roy Wilson, Coral Simpson, John Bannister, Gary Smeardon-White, Ian Hutchinson, Peter Briggs.

Apologies were received from: David Lally, Terry Scott, Mara Ozolins.

Guest speaker Darren Smith (NET Operations Manager):

Darren introduced himself and his role, which covers operation of line one, but not construction or design of the new NET lines. Discussed driver training – which emphasises respect for other road users. New lines highlight issues of potential conflicts with cyclists where there are on-road stretches. We were able to make Darren aware of the recommendation for cyclists to use primary position where there are junctions, etc. and this would include passing through tram stops, who will add this to procedures. Within procedures is, in any case, a statement that cyclists should not be “bullied” by trams.

A fair number of tram drivers are cyclists themselves, and are being encouraged to take up cycling through take up of cycle to work scheme.

Trams stop within a length and a half from max speed of 80 km/h; significantly less on road, where speeds are limited to 50 km/h. Hotspot for incidents and near misses on Radford Road, including around Asda petrol station. High traffic congestion is also an issue on this stretch.

With a larger number of children in City and County receiving Bikeability training, they should have more awareness of correct way to cycle on the road.

New lines are now running test trams, including looking out for problems and feeding experiences back to driver training. Currently live running is planned starting 27th July. Regarding cycles on trams – not allowed currently apart from folding bikes, but not to be ruled out (with reasonable restrictions) in future.

As follow up, Susan offered to send information to Darren about cycle training.

Minutes of April Meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Hugh has followed up a couple of questions from Lucy Hoelmer. Hugh asked which canals Pedals members use, which was confirmed.

Heathcote Street – raised issue that we were consulted at an early stage based on a TRO, but this did not include all of the details that have now been implemented. It

appears that despite being circulated as part of formal consultation, we may miss opportunity to comment on detailed designs.

Issues from election preparation and follow. Iain had most response from Green and UKIP local candidates, mostly supportive.

Peter attended CycleNation AGM. He sent a brief written report following the meeting, which is appended below.

Finance: Andrew raised issue of savings in Triodos account, and whether there are suggestions for using the money to support Pedals work. Hugh reported that there is likely to be (in future) a need to contribute towards a feasibility study for the planned foot/cycle bridge, which is likely to help to lever promised funds from County and City. The development of plans for a fourth Trent crossing could effect funding and wider support for the foot/cycle bridge. Another issue raised is whether we want to use savings to promote Pedals and try to recruit more members. Agreed to have a discussion at October meeting about the future of Pedals, chair, etc. and to learn from successes of other local cycle campaigns.

Membership Hilary reported that 116 members renewed so far.

Forthcoming meetings and issues arising: Introduction to Cyclescape – Iain agreed to do this at June meeting, but it would also be useful to have a longer session.

Public Launch of Cycling Ambition project – Iain can make it – Andrew, Arthur also hoping to attend.

Station Street – Iain has sent in a response following the discussion at April meeting.

Other issues to be raised at CDG – completion of Sustrans Route 15. The problem with the barriers on the riverside route needs following up. iain proposes a press release with a list of the problems on these new routes alongside tram. Needs photos.

GNTF – Spring cycle forum will be on 9th June 11.45 – 14.00; register online.

EM Trains event to support bike week on 16/17 June.

HS2 report on cycling alongside planned route has now been published and is open for comments. All members encouraged to send comments to Hugh who will co-ordinate a response.

Canal & Rivers Trust – survey of canal towpath users is designed in a way to highlight “problem” groups of towpath users. **Arthur** to send feedback to CRT.

6th June – Big Ride from County Hall – with idea of highlighting issues for cyclists and celebration of cycling. All welcome.

Roland has raised again issue of need to provide a direct cycle route from main to jubilee campus.

Future Pedals Meeting plans:

Andrew will chair meeting in May, Hugh in June, Susan will chair in July, David L in August.

June: Guest: John Bann – cycling and public space transformation manager at City council.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Appendix: Cyclenation - Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 16th May I attended the Cyclenation annual general meeting in Birmingham.

1. Cyclenation is an organisation that represents campaigning cycling groups like Pedals, at a national level, and Pedals pays an annual subscription to it.
2. Its management group has completely changed in the last year as the organisation tries to re-find its role.
3. Recently the CTC incorporated for the first time into its scope 'campaigning' on behalf of cyclists. This raised an opportunity for Cyclenation to merge with CTC. Discussions have floundered. The CTC is not yet ready to embrace campaigning for the utility and commuter in any meaningful sense so Cyclenation remains completely separate.
4. There were no papers for the AGM other than a financial statement - very disappointing. There was a strong request from the meeting that these papers be made available as soon as possible. however the following is worth reporting:
 - a. Cyclenation, through the grant it received from the cycle industry has delivered significant publicity for a 'making space for cycling' campaign. The outcomes of this campaign will as always with such initiatives be more difficult to measure.
 - b. Cyclenation will continue to provide an annual conference as these have always been well received.
 - c. Discussions with CTC continue
 - d. A useful list of possible activities for Cyclenation to engage in was circulated at the AGM. All are relevant. The executive for the organisation now needs to determine their plan of action in relation to a manageable number of these.