



## **Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Castle Park Arts Centre 19:30**

**Introductions and Attendance:** Steve Pemberton (SP), Ashley McCraight (AMc), Andy Chappell (AC), Patrick Milroy (PM), John Edwards (JE), Mark Warren (MW), Chris Copeman (CC), Tom Rawlings (TR), Stephen Perry (StP)

**Apologies:** Nick Sljivic (NS) Patrick Eakin (PE) Frank White (FW), Sam Turner (SaT)

**AOB:** Stephen Perry from the Cheshire Cycling Campaign introduced the Chester Active Travel Festival 18 June 23

**Next meeting:** **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 19:30** – Parish Room Helsby Sports and Social Club 19:30

### **Chester Active Travel Festival 18 June 23**

The festival will take place in the University of Chester car park near the racecourse. The festival aims to engage Chester residents in particular schools in exploring the possibilities of active travel around Chester. Although primarily focused on the region around the city, the greater the attendance the more impact the event will have and the greater the likelihood that it can become an annual event. There will be several stands and activities such as Dr. Bike, a slow bike race, e-bikes available to try.

CNC members can assist by promoting the event through local bike clubs, volunteering and encouraging more cycle activity through Chester on the day of the festival.

#	Topic	Background and Latest status	Action Needed	Who
1	Integrated Sustainable Taskforce (ISTT)  (previously Active Travel Forum)	<p><b>Background:</b> The purpose of the 'ISST' is to enable CWaC to consult a diverse group of engaged members who will provide feedback in respect of projects that the council decides to pursue. Formed from 3 separate groups including the Active Travel Forum. The ISST leader is Rose McArthur.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> Nothing has improved with the last meeting being cancelled due to lack of interest. It now appears appropriate to raise the effectiveness of the ISTT and the lack of engagement of CWaC offices with the CWaC elected members</p>	Raise ISTT issues with CWaC elected members (Louise Gittins).	SP
2.	Road Surfaces - Pothole Reporting	<p><b>Background:</b> Experience has shown that CWaC's Highways Dept. respond quite promptly to specific requests to fill them. However they need to pass a criteria which doesn't take account of cyclists needs</p> <p><b>Latest (May):</b> The roads have deteriorated noticeably this year, with new potholes appearing faster than the existing ones are being fixed. Pot holes issues was on the manifestoes of the newly elected CWaC members.</p> <p>CNC members are encouraged to report as many potholes as possible using the report-it app  <a href="https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it-app.aspx">https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it-app.aspx</a></p>	Invite the newly elected CWaC members for our area to the next meeting to hear their plans and discuss how CNC can help	SP

3.	Planning Applications	<p><b>Background:</b> Nic Siddle's Chester Cycling campaign diligently monitors planning applications for our area to evaluate whether they meet requirements of Active Travel design &amp; the Supplementary Planning Document. CNC then need to consider the implications and whether any S106/CIL monies can be obtained to further our objectives.</p> <p>AM proposed that CNC would appoint a member to focus on our area as Nic is not familiar with local needs.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> How to improve CNC's monitoring of local applications was discussed but given the limited number of members and time available it was felt that available time could be better spent on other objectives.</p> <p>The Hynet project was discussed as a possible source of funding. All work on the Meres Edge Helsby has stopped as the developer has entered administration – it is not clear what impact this might have on the cycling path agreements agreed for this development.</p>	<p>Would anyone like to pick up this important role?</p> <p>Talk to Paul Bruffell of Sustrans to see if they are aware of the Hynet project and if they can influence CWaC in directing section 108 (or equivalent) to cycling project</p> <p>SP: I think Tim Hollins has started something on this and should be our first point of contact, not Paul.</p>	<p>Members</p> <p>AMc</p>
4.	Publicity	<p><b>Background:</b> CNC look to make people aware of its work and key issues via web site and Facebook pages. Encouraging more volunteers and driving forwards the CNC agenda.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> TR has agreed to look at managing the CNC web site</p>	<p>SP and AMc to meet with Tom to hand-over the web site details</p>	<p>SP AMc</p>
5.	Cycle Maps	<p><b>Background:</b> CNC have produced printed maps of local cycle routes in Frodsham and Helsby area. Which are also available on the CNC web site. These receive positive feedback.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> We still have a good stock of the latest maps</p>		

6.	A533 Murdishaw Bridge - Safe Transit of Cyclists	<p><b>Background:</b> CNC want to ensure the redevelopment of the A533 Murdishaw bridge has provision for safe cycling.</p> <p><b>Latest :</b> National Highways have made it clear that no further improvement to the scheme will be made without further funding from the DfT despite several parties (Sustrans, Halton BC, CNC) pointing out that it does not meet the need of cyclists.</p>	Check with Halton BC if any further progress has been.	MW
7.	Shovel Ready projects	<p><b>Background:</b> MW produced an excellent report on potential shovel ready cycling projects. 2 are being taken forward. A56 to Ship Street link and Mouldsworth-Helsby video link (see Helsby-Mouldsworth item below)</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> Both of these projects have in effect been subsumed into the Helsby cycle Route (#9 below)</p>	Closed	
8.	Covid T2 project - Helsby High School	<p><b>Background:</b> CWaC have now started work on the upgrade of the shared use path between Frodsham and Helsby.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> CNC believe the appetite for a rearranged opening ceremony is very low.</p>	Closed (item complete)	

9	Helsby Cycle Route  Rename NCN#5 re- route	<p><b>Background:</b> CNC commissioned study of possible cycle routes through Helsby has been adopted by Sustrans and extended to include Frodsham and the Helsby-Mouldsworth disused railway line.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> The study is now largely complete but Sustrans want to engage CWaC before opening the study up for public consultation. Public consultation is a mandatory part of the study and CNC cannot pay Sustrans until it has been completed. We also discussed asking Sustrans to provide the Helsby section separately as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) CNC will be funding it.</li> <li>ii) the Crowdfunding process requires the money to be used before too much longer. Steve knows when</li> </ul> <p><b>Disused railway line:</b> Steve - Is this in abeyance? No far from it! My last input email to the May CNC meeting covered it as an abstract from an email from Paul Bruffell to me. Posted below. Its moving – slowly!</p> <p><i>“I have had a couple of meetings with Network Rail to outline the route options and to gain their approval in principle to allow Sustrans/CW&amp;C to engage in more detailed discussions with Network Rail once we gain CW&amp;C support for developing an active travel route around Helsby. “</i></p>	<p>Discuss with Sustrans how the public consultation can be completed in the next few months.</p> <p>Ask for Helsby section plan to be made available within a few weeks</p>	SP
10	Frodsham Cycle Route	<p><b>Background:</b> CNC have the ambition to extend the cycle route from items 14 &amp; 15 through Frodsham. This is on hold until the results of the Helsby route project (15) is clearer</p> <p><b>Latest:</b></p>	Merged with item #9	
11	Helsby- Mouldsworth	<p><b>Background:</b> SP stated that this has now become a core Sustrans project, which is a big advantage (hence standalone item rather than inclusion with shovel ready project)</p> <p><b>Latest :</b></p>	Merged with item #9	

12	Frodsham Town Council	<p><b>Background:</b> A working group comprising CNC’s AMc, FW, MW and Cllrs Patrick Eakin, Lucy Sumner &amp; Pauline Lowrie has been formed to improve Active Travel (AT) in Frodsham. Three projects are proposed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Improve signage &amp; information on AT,</li><li>ii) Make certain junctions &amp; crossing points safer.</li><li>iii) Introduce an e-bike hire scheme.</li></ul> <p><b>Latest:</b> FTC has allocated a budget of £30K to support approved projects from the group. The first project is to place three information boards in Frodsham with QR codes to access cycling and walking routes. These boards would be located at the railway station and Castle Park and show active travel routes and directions around Frodsham. Currently the group is working on the content for the board which would be co-funded by the North Cheshire Community Rail Partnership.</p>	Provide updates	AMc																				
13	Active Travel Officer	<p><b>Background:</b> Sam Turner was appointed by Sustrans, funded by CWaC as an active travel officer for the region.</p> <p><b>Latest:</b> Although Sam could not attend the meeting, she sent the following information about her activities.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>School Name</th><th>Activities Started</th><th>Activities Delivered Term 2</th><th>Total Activities</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Alvanley &amp; Manley Village School</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Helsby High School</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Frodsham Manor House Primary School</td><td></td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>St Lukes Primary School</td><td></td><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr></tbody></table>	School Name	Activities Started	Activities Delivered Term 2	Total Activities	Alvanley & Manley Village School		4	9	Helsby High School		2	3	Frodsham Manor House Primary School		1	3	St Lukes Primary School		2	4		
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14	AGM Actions		<p>To invite Hapsford and Elton parish councils to the next CNC meeting</p> <p>To arrange a review of the constitution and indicators of success at the next CNC meeting</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>AC</p>															
Retired Topics																			

