

## **Cross Party Group on the Active Travel Act**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**12.00 to 1:30pm in Conference Rooms C&D, Ty Hywel & via Microsoft Teams**

**Present & Apologies:** see attached lists.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Huw Irranca-Davies MS (Chair) welcomed participants to the meeting.

### **Annual Meeting Business**

#### **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the group's review of the Active Travel Act, highlighting the reform of the Active Travel Board and work on a new Active Travel Delivery Plan. He promised to bring a full report on the delivery plan to a future meeting. There had also been progress with Phil Jones' recommendations on regulatory changes that could benefit active travel and a meeting had been secured with TfW to discuss the problem of bikes not being allowed on rail replacement buses. He announced that the group would be organising a commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Active Travel Act on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> involving a walk and cycle ride to the Senedd, followed by a series of events in the Pierhead. He reported on efforts to include the promotion of active travel within the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill.

#### **Financial Report**

The Chair reported that all the Group's activities had been carried out on a voluntary basis, consequently the Group had no expenditure and had not needed, or received, any income.

#### **Election of Chair**

The Chair passed control of the meeting to the Secretary, who invited nominations for the post of Chair. Huw Irranca-Davies MS was proposed by Phil Snaith and seconded by Kaarina Ruta. There being no further nominations, Huw was declared elected as Chair for the coming year. He thanked the meeting for their support and resumed the Chair.

#### **Election of Secretary**

Chris Roberts was proposed by Gwenda Owen and seconded by Meryl James. There were no further nominations, so Chris was duly elected.

#### **Q&A with Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change**

The Chair welcomed the Deputy Minister to the meeting. In his opening address, the minister revealed that there would be an announcement of £58m of active travel funding the following day which would mean that Wales would be spending 50 times as much as England, per head of population. He thanked the group for their work on the review of the Act and listed his responses to the review's recommendations including: the new ATDP

would be published shortly; work on an active travel hub within TfW, to provide relevant expertise, was underway; the Active Travel Board had been reformed and given new scrutiny powers; there would be a new funding structure to prioritise modal shift; there would be a new Active Travel Town project, on which resources would be focused to demonstrate the effectiveness of active travel measures in bringing about modal shift; and TfW would have more responsibility for behaviour change.

During questions to the Deputy Minister, the following key issues were raised:

Planning – in light of the new requirement that Active Travel England would be a statutory consultee on large planning applications, what could be done in Wales to produce an equivalent level of scrutiny? In the discussion on this issue, attention focussed on problems with the effective application of the positive active travel provisions within PPW 11 and a number of examples were cited where PPW was not being followed. The minister requested that the CPGATA form a working group to examine the issue and propose solutions. He undertook to discuss specific issues in Cardiff with Jenny Rathbone MS.

Social Prescribing – could active travel be utilised more, given its significant health benefits? The minister had met with the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing to press this point, their officials were continuing the discussion.

Promotion of active travel – The minister remained committed to the production of an active travel promotional toolkit. Active travel would also be a key part of the new climate change behaviour change campaign. There would be an important campaign in preparation for 20 mph limits up to 17<sup>th</sup> September. On inclusion of promotion within the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill, his concern was to avoid the promotion of the benefits of active travel being constrained to just clean air.

Transport Assessments and Minimum Parking Levels – there was concern that these were often still engendering car-based communities. The minister undertook to investigate the issue.

Bikes on buses – it was agreed that the group should investigate the issues involved and schedule a full discussion for a future meeting.

Unwillingness of some local authorities to engage in active travel – the minister reminded the group that their review had called for a focus on those councils that had the will to implement meaningful active travel measures effectively. Political will to make changes should be a strong factor in the allocation of funding.

Monitoring and evaluation – TfW were finalising a framework that would give stronger guidance to local authorities on monitoring local schemes to ensure the results are comparable. The minister agreed that the draft framework should be shared with the group and the Active Travel Board.

Engagement and Consultation – the question was raised about how to implement policies, essential to tackling climate change and other challenges, when local communities voiced opposition to the practical, local measures those policies required. The minister spoke of the importance of local leadership and the need for them to have the courage of their convictions. Other contributions suggested the need for better communications, building mitigations into the options offered and the value of involving young people in issues affecting their future.

The minister was also asked if it would be possible to have an ebike pilot in the Valleys, to which he replied that the pilots were dependent on suitable applications coming forward.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Minister for his detailed and comprehensive responses.

**Good practice in active travel delivery: 'Developing a Whole Authority Approach to Active Travel' presentation by Paul Sullivan, Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager at Monmouthshire County Council**

Paul outlined how active travel was integral to Monmouthshire's Community & Corporate Plan 22-28. The county was predominantly rural so their focus was on connections within the seven designated localities. In 2020 responsibility for active travel had been moved from the highways department to MonLife that principally managed the county's leisure services. This had helped develop a more holistic approach to active travel with services across the council engaged in the project. Schools were a particular focus, with active travel being a standing item on the Education Wellbeing Group. All Monmouthshire schools had engaged in the consultation on the ATNM. The county now had a School Travel Plan Officer. They had adopted a data led approach, installing counters to establish baselines. They had a strategy that covered both internal and external promotion of active travel. They were utilising a varied range of infrastructure interventions including contraflow cycling, enhanced bike parking, barrier removal and priority crossings.

The Chair thanked Paul for his inspiring presentation and said that the slides would be circulated to all members. He appealed to other local authorities to volunteer to make a presentation on an aspect of their work at a future meeting.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**The meeting closed at 1.30pm**

## Attendance List

Attended in Person			
First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Joseph	Carter	Head of Devolved Nations	British Lung Foundation
Ken	Evans	Chair	ICE Wales Cymru
Ross	Evans	Public & Community Affairs Manager	CPRW
Huw	Irranca-Davies	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Meryl	James	MSS	Julie Morgan AM
Rhiannon	Letman	Member	Active Travel Board
Phil	Lewis	Chair	Active Wheels
Hugh	Mackay		Cycling UK VofG
David	Naylor		Wheelrights
Gwenda	Owen	Engagement Officer - Wales	Cycling UK
Chris	Roberts	Secretary	CPGATA
Kaarina	Ruta	Transport Assistant	WLGA
Phil	Snaith	Secretary	Carmarthenshire Cycle Forum
Paul	Streets	Secretary	Cardiff Cycle City
Attended via Teams			
First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Madeleine	Boase	Apprentice – Active Travel Support	Newport City Council
Gillian	Brockley	Caseworker	Carolyn Thomas MS
Richard	Brunstrom		Cycling UK North Wales
Teresa	Ciano	Partnership Manager	GoSafe, Road Safety Wales
Richard	Dale	Head of Business Development	Newport Live
Sian	Donovan	Director	Pedal Power
Donna	Edwards-John	Active Travel Officer	Torfaen County Borough Council
Christine	Farr	Vale of Glamorgan Strategic Wellbeing Team	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Matthew	Gilbert	Active Travel Lead	Transport for Wales
Eleri	Griffiths	Policy, Casework and Campaign Manager	Heledd Fychan MS
Max	Hampton	Design Advisor	Design Commission for Wales
Alastair	Hopkins	Service Manager (Transport)	Newport City Council
Stephen	Hughes		Mott MacDonald
Josh	James	Public Affairs Manager	Living Streets
Phil	Jones	Chairman	PJA
Richard	Keatinge	Secretary	Beicio Bangor
Hannah	Little		Mott MacDonald
Dylan	Llewelyn Jones	Group Engineer, Strategic & Sustainable Transport	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Gethin	Pearson	Active Travel – Programme Manager	Newport Live

Hannah	Peeler	Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator	British Heart Foundation
Ian	Saunders	Chief Operating Officer	MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council
Caroline	Spanton	Chief Executive Officer	Welsh Cycling
Paul	Sullivan	Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager	MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council
Alan	Tapp	Professor of Social Marketing	UWE
Beth	Taylor	Group Researcher	Welsh Conservative Group
Will	Thomas	Councillor	City & County of Swansea
Duncan	Thompson	Project support officer active travel	MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council
Lee	Waters	Deputy Minister for Climate Change	Welsh Government
Tom	Wells		Active Travel West Wales

**Apologies:**

Christine Boston, Director, Sustrans Cymru  
Stephen Cunnah, Policy and External Affairs Manager, Sustrans Cymru  
Helen Donnan, Access Field Officer, Wales, BHS  
Francesca Howorth, Higher Research Officer, Senedd Cymru  
Keith Jones, Director, ICE Wales Cymru  
John Mather, Cycling UK (N Wales)  
Hilary May, ValeVeloWays  
John Sayce, Chair, Wheelrights  
Mark Weston, Director of Access, BHS