

Cross Party Group on the Active Travel Act
Minutes of the Meeting held at 12.00 noon Tuesday, June 21st, 2022
Meeting conducted through 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

Huw Irranca-Davies MS spoke of the highlights of the year including the launch of the Active Travel to School Toolkit at Penyrheol School, the discussion on electric scooters and the Review of the Active Travel Act. He reported that he and the Secretary had continued to hold regular meetings with the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, where they were able to raise the issues discussed at Group meetings. He said there had been a very welcome increase in involvement in Group meetings from local authority representatives. He thanked the Secretary for his hard work in support of the Group.

Financial Report

The Chair reported that whilst the Group had no funds or bank account, there had been some transactions during the year. The Schools Toolkit had been produced entirely free of charge, except for the translation. That had cost £800, and he expressed gratitude to Cycling UK, Living Streets, Sustrans Cymru and Welsh Cycling for each donating £200, which had been paid directly to the translator. The review of the Active Travel Act had also been produced at nil cost, but the RTPi had hosted one meeting of the panel and kindly provided refreshments to a value of £25.

Election of Chair

Huw Irranca-Davies MS handed over the Chair to the Secretary who invited nominations. Huw Irranca-Davies MS was nominated by Cllr Hazel Evans and seconded by Carolyn Thomas MS. There were no further nominations, so Huw Irranca-Davies MS was elected unopposed.

Election of Secretary

The Chair invited nominations for the post of secretary. Chris Roberts was nominated by Gwenda Owen and Seconded by Cllr Hazel Evans. There were no further nominations, so Chris Roberts was elected unopposed.

Report of the Expert Panel for the Review of the Active Travel Act

The Chair introduced the item by reminding members that in December the Group had discussed the requirement in the Active Travel Act for a review of its operation to take place in 2022. The Group had then decided to pre-empt the official process by starting its own review and had established an expert panel with the remit of reviewing how Wales was living up to the ambitions of the Act and formulating a series of positive recommendations

for accelerating progress. Copies of the report, which contained 51 recommendations had been previously circulated. The Chair paid tribute to the work of the panel. He then called upon five members of the expert panel to give a brief summary of the chapters in the report.

- Roisin Wilmott gave an account of how the review was conducted and the extensive nature of the evidence gathering conducted by the panel including 16 interview sessions with a wide range of relevant bodies, four group discussions two of which involved total of 20 local government officers involved with active travel, a session with the Royal Town Planning Institute Policy and Research Forum and also a session with the Planning Officers Society for Wales. The panel had also received 20 written submissions. She thanked the contributors for their time and effort.
- Kaarina Ruta introduced the Delivery chapter outlining the disjuncture between local and national approaches to delivering active travel, with no national strategy to guide delivery. She outlined some of the key recommendations including a new National Delivery Plan (NDP) that would promote more partnership working, particularly with local authorities, within a nationally defined policy framework; action on workforce development; and a significant increase in revenue funding to finance behaviour change and associated measures.
- Hugh Mackay introduced the Governance & Equalities chapters. The new NDP must clarify the roles of Welsh Government, TfW, local authorities and the 3rd Sector, setting out who had responsibility for doing what, and thus increasing accountability. There should be new, co-produced national and local targets. The Active Travel Board should be restructured and refreshed with an increased scrutiny role supported by an independent secretariat. Local authorities should be supported more to deliver, but face sanctions if they failed to do so. On Equalities, the main recommendation was to provide a package of pathways for currently excluded groups into active travel. There was a need for more effective Equality Impact Assessments and better training on equalities issues.
- Alan Tapp introduced the Behaviour Change chapter. The panel had heard many criticisms of the lack of action on promotion and behaviour change. There were some positives such as school streets and the upcoming default 20mph limits and ban on pavement parking. There was a lack of expertise and capacity across the sector and some frustration that what expertise did exist, e.g., in PHW, was not fully utilised. There were three key recommendations: a coordinated, multi-disciplinary behaviour change programme; building capacity and skills by investing in local authorities' teams and the development of a national expert unit located in TfW; a culture change campaign that helps address the issue of car dominance and improves driver behaviour around vulnerable road users.
- Chris Roberts introduced the Schools and Legislative Change chapters. He said that active travel to school went to the heart of what the Act was trying to achieve yet, whilst there were many examples of good practice, little progress had been made. He highlighted the failure of Welsh Government guidance for new and refurbished schools to require the effective promotion and enabling of active travel. He expressed the concerns of the panel over the failure by both Welsh Government and local authorities to implement several provisions of the Act. The report was calling for changes to strengthen the wording of the Act and to widen the application of the

duty to promote. The possibility of amending the Act by means of provisions in the forthcoming Clean Air Bill needed to be investigated.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their presentations and opened discussion to the floor. A number of points were made including: the need to better resource local active travel teams; the potential impact of increasing cycle lanes on bus services; the need to engage effectively with ethnic minority communities; the need to link rural communities with active travel infrastructure; and the potential for links with tourism.

The report was agreed by the meeting. The Chair explained that the report would now be sent to the Welsh Government. The Deputy Minister had said he wanted to consider our review and recommendations before deciding how to proceed with the Welsh Government review. There would be a media launch of the report in Pedal Power on June 28th. The Chair concluded the item by stating that making a reality of the proposals in the report would need significant pressure and cajoling from this Group and its members; the CPG would regularly revisit the report and monitor progress over the next couple of years.

Good Practice in Active Travel Delivery – Cardiff Council’s Bike Fleet

Matt Price, Team Leader, Transport Vision, Policy and Strategy at Cardiff Council gave a presentation on how the council has bought their own fleet of Welsh made bikes to help provide equal access to cycling for all children by ensuring every child could use a quality bike for cycle training and other activities. They had partnered with Pedal Power to provide adapted bikes for disabled students. He also outlined the council’s general approach to encouraging active travel to school including school streets and active travel plans, which almost all schools now had in place. He reported that the council had a team of 2.5 FTEs dedicated to active travel to school. Matt agreed to make his presentation available to members. The Chair thanked Matt for his inspiring talk.

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

Any Other Business

British Horse Society

(At this point the Chair had to leave for another engagement and handed over the chairing of the meeting to the Secretary) Correspondence had been received from the British Horse Society (BHS) requesting permission to attend CPGATA meetings. The Chair had made it clear to the BHS that horse riding was not included in the definition of active travel, because it does not replace car journeys. However, the BHS were still keen to attend: ‘so that the Group can have an informed equestrian opinion as to whether active travel routes, and especially proposed routes, are impeding equestrian use or require equestrians to use a less safe route. I would perceive this as being the primary purpose of us being a member rather than the general advocacy of horse-riding.’ On that basis it was agreed that the BHS be invited to attend future meetings of the CPG.

Move to hybrid video/presential meetings?

The Secretary reported that, given the relaxation of Covid restrictions, a number of CPGs had started meeting in person again, or on a hybrid basis with some people in the room some on video. Members were asked to email in their views on how future meetings of the CPG should be held. Initial comments in the meeting strongly favoured hybrid meetings.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Attendance List

First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation
Ken	Barker		Cycling UK
Ruth	Billingham	Head of Campaigns & Public Affairs	Living Streets
Rebecca	Brough	Policy and Advocacy Manager	Ramblers Cymru
Richard	Brunstrom		Cycling UK North Wales
Joseph	Carter	Head of Devolved Nations	British Lung Foundation
Dan	Coast	Secretary	Cycling Newport
Stephen	Cunnah	Community Liaison Officer	Mark Drakeford MS
Dan	De'Ath	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport	Cardiff Council
Duncan	Dollimore	Head of Advocacy and Campaigns	Cycling UK
Sian	Donovan	Director	Pedal Power
Ryland	Doyle	Communications and Research Officer	Mike Hedges MS
David	Edwards		Casnewydd Community Cycling
Hazel	Evans	Cabinet Member for Environment	Carmarthenshire County Council
Rhiannon	Hardiman	Change Maker	Future Generations Commissioner
Stephen	Hughes		
Huw	Irranca-Davies	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Keith	Jones	Director	ICE Wales Cymru
Hugh	Mackay		Cycling UK VofG
John	Mather		Cycling UK (N Wales)
Andrew	Minnis	Research Team Leader	Senedd Cymru
Charlotte	Morgan	Policy and Public Affairs Co-ordinator	British Heart Foundation Cymru
Gwenda	Owen	Engagement Officer - Wales	Cycling UK
Gareth	Price	Clerk	Senedd Cymru
Matt	Price	Team Leader, Transport Vision, Policy and Strategy	Cardiff Council
Chris	Roberts	Secretary	CPGATA
Joe	Rossiter	Policy and External Affairs Manager	Sustrans Cymru
Kaarina	Ruta	Transport Assistant	WLGA
John	Sayce	Chair	Wheelrights
Shah	Shumon	Communications Officer	John Griffiths MS
Luke	Stacey	Access Development and Public Rights of Way Officer	Newport Council
Paul	Sullivan	Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager	MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council
Alan	Tapp	Professor of Social Marketing	UWE
Alison	Taylor	Cabinet Support Office	Cardiff Council
Carolyn	Thomas	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Will	Thomas	Councillor	City & County of Swansea
Nick	Tulp	Active Travel Officer	MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council
Tom	Wells		Active Travel West Wales

Roisin	Willmott	Director	RTPI Cymru
Yasmin	Zahra	Community Liaison Officer	Luke Fletcher MS

Apologies:

Anne Adams-King, Chief Executive Officer, Welsh Cycling

Rhun ap Iorwerth, Aelod Seneddol, Senedd Cymru

Richard Evans, Chair, Cycle Training Wales

Delyth Jewell, Member of the Senedd, Senedd Cymru

Lyndon Jones, Leader of the Conservative Group, City & County of Swansea

David Naylor, Wheelrights

Peredur Owen Griffiths, Member of the Senedd, Senedd Cymru

Julie Robinson, Chair, Active Travel West Wales

Gwyn Smith, South Wales Network Development Manager, Sustrans

Paul, Streets Schools Officer, Cardiff Cycle City

Dafydd Trystan, Chair, Welsh Govt. Active Travel Board