

**Cross Party Group on the Active Travel Act**  
**Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held at 12.00 noon July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Meeting conducted through Microsoft Teams**

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

**Welcome and Introductions:** Huw Irranca-Davies MS welcomed participants to the inaugural meeting. He offered a particular welcome to the new MSs attending. He gave a brief history of the group and outlined the activities it had undertaken in the previous Senedd. He explained that the Group had an inclusive and flexible membership policy and encouraged MSs, in particular, to inform the Group of any organisations in their constituency, or councillors or local government officials who would benefit from being invited to the meetings.

**Election of Chair:** Huw Irranca-Davies MS was proposed by Llyr Gruffydd MS and seconded by Sarah Murphy MS. There being no further nominations, Huw was elected Chair.

**Election of Secretary:** Chris Roberts was proposed by Sarah Murphy MS and seconded by Llyr Gruffydd MS. There being no further nominations, Chris was elected Secretary.

**Agreement of Formal Statement of Purpose of the Group (Previously: To raise awareness of the Active Travel Act and its implementation):** After a short discussion it was agreed that the Chair and Secretary should strengthen the wording of the statement to better reflect the way the Group had operated in practice.

**Future Work Programme for the Group:** A list of possible topics for future Group meetings has been circulated (see annex 1). The following further topics were suggested:

- The safety and security of active travellers and cycles (of all types).
- Engage more with the planning/highway engineer professions.
- Opportunity to learn from Greater Manchester and the Bee Network.
- Anyone under the age of 17 is an active traveller by default if travelling autonomously - this should have a much bigger impact on planning decisions.
- Active Travel in rural areas.
- How do we 'green' active travel from the perspective of adding and enhancing green infrastructure - often trees and hedges are removed to install the engineering solutions for active travel, which don't always then create the nicest travel setting for users. Added benefits of helping the nature recovery agenda.
- The National Cycle Network and the need for better access to it for all, including people using adapted cycles or wheelchairs.
- Highlight best practice in projects being carried out by LAs via the Active Travel Fund
- Engage with local councillors/candidates ahead of the local elections on how they will include active travel in their manifestos.
- Impact of road repairs, especially pothole filling, on cycling.
- How to increase public support for active travel measures.
- Welsh Government's modal shift target.

Given the number of topics raised and the limited time available to the Group, it was agreed that the Chair and Secretary should draw up a prioritised list of topics that could be programmed in the medium term, taking into account the support for the various topics expressed in the meeting.

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

The Chair welcomed Lee to the meeting. Lee talked about the challenges of his new portfolio. He emphasised the importance he attached to the work of the CPGATA and how he valued his quarterly meetings with the Chair and Secretary. In establishing the new department, the First minister had made clear that there was to be “no messing around” on climate targets, they had to be met. This would require major changes in behaviour and would not be easy. He thought the current modal shift target in Llwybr Newydd was not ambitious enough. Delivery of active travel was a challenge, both for Welsh Government and local authorities. Transport for Wales (TfW) would have a bigger role and the new Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs), whilst not formally charged with transport responsibilities, would play a role in delivery. He announced that the revised AT Guidance would be published on July 16<sup>th</sup>. There was now a record level of AT funding, he promised to set out the details of how it was being spent in a letter to the Chair. The new level of funding was now allowing investment in public art and play equipment along routes which, he believed, would drive up usage. There would also now be limited funding, around £2m, for leisure routes but the focus remained on enabling everyday journeys.

Responding to questions from members, the Deputy Minister made the following points. TfW are responsible for processing funding applications and building up a pipeline of bids. Deprivation should have significant weighting in funding allocation. There had been a positive response to the roads review, and he thanked councillors who had fielded the early impacts, such changes are not easy. Active Travel funding now included 10% in revenue. Progress was being made with the Education Department in normalising active travel to school, but he was disappointed in the level of applications for school streets, he would consider how the process could be made easier. He was keen to understand better the problems in procuring active travel services. There was a need to improve the skills and status of AT staff. There was a possibility that revenue funding could be used for staffing, but he would want to see that happen at a regional (CJC) level. He did not accept that road maintenance funding could particularly benefit cyclists. There would be a different approach to achieving modal shift in rural areas. He was keen to invest more in ROWIPs but leisure routes could not enjoy the same priority as those that facilitate modal shift and thus help meet climate change targets. There would be resistance to the shift to 20mph limits, but it would be mainly a vocal minority, by no means the majority. He paid tribute to Cardiff Council’s work in developing AT infrastructure and he was seeing it being used.

The Chair thanked Lee for his contribution.

**Any Other Business:** No other items were raised.

**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
Rebecca	Brough	Policy and Advocacy Manager	Ramblers Cymru
Richard	Brunstrom		Cycling UK North Wales
Teresa	Ciano	Partnership Manager	GoSafe, Road Safety Wales
Duncan	Dollimore	Head of Advocacy and Campaigns	Cycling UK
Sian	Donovan	Director	Pedal Power
David	Edwards		Casnewydd Community Cycling
Richard	Evans	Chair	Cycle Training Wales
Christine	Farr	Senior Health Promotion Specialist - Healthy Schools	Welsh Network of Healthy Schools
Catherine	Floyd	Locum Consultant in Public Health	Public Health Wales
Matthew	Gilbert	Active Travel Lead	Transport for Wales
Danny	Grehan	MSS	Heledd Fychan MS
Natalie	Grohmann	Transport - Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer	Welsh Government
Llyr	Gruffydd	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Rhiannon	Hardiman	Wales Manager	Living Streets
Stephen	Hughes		
Huw	Irranca-Davies	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Carwyn	Jones	Constituency & Digital Content Officer	Rhun ap Iorwerth AS
Mike	Jones-Pritchard	County Councillor	Cardiff Council
Richard	Keatinge	Secretary	Beicio Bangor
Robert	Kent-Smith		Welsh Government
Peter	King	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Hugh	Mackay		Cycling UK VofG
John	Mather		Cycling UK (N Wales)
Sarah	Murphy	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
David	Naylor		Wheelrights
Gwenda	Owen	Engagement Officer - Wales	Cycling UK
Dareyoush	Rassi	Secretary	Wheelrights
Jenny	Rathbone	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Paula	Renzel	Policy Officer	Sustrans Cymru
Chris	Roberts	Secretary	CPGATA
Kaarina	Ruta	Transport Assistant	WLGA
Emma	Sandrey	County Councillor	Cardiff Council
John	Sayce	Chair	Wheelrights

Ben	Sears	Sustainability, Environmental, and Transport Policy Support Officer	WLGA
Gwyn	Smith		Sustrans
Phil	Snaith	Secretary	Carmarthenshire Cycle Forum
Paul	Streets	Schools Officer	Cardiff Cycle City
Rhys	Taylor	Senior Researcher	Jane Dodds MS
Carolyn	Thomas	Member of the Senedd	Senedd Cymru
Rhiannon	Wade	Active Travel Officer (Schools)	Cardiff Council
Tom	Wells	Proprietor	bikebikebike

**Apologies:**

Anne Adams-King, Chief Executive Officer, Welsh Cycling

Rhun ap Iorwerth, Aelod Seneddol, Senedd Cymru

Joseph Carter, Head of Devolved Nations, British Lung Foundation

Warren Davies, Secretary, Wrexham Cycling Campaign

Luke Fletcher, Member of the Senedd, Senedd Cymru

Amy Preece, Rheolwr Prosiect / Project Manager, Newport Council

Luke Stacey, Access Development and Public Rights of Way Officer, Newport Council

Leah Young, Active Travel Projects Officer, Newport Council

## **Annex A: Possible Future Topics for the Cross-Party Group on the Active Travel Act**

To help inform the discussion on the future work programme for the Group, below is a list of topics that are carried over from the last CPGATA, or suggested by members, or upcoming events of relevance to the group.

Cargo Bikes – practical demonstration of cargo bikes, giving MSs an opportunity to assess the capabilities of cargo bikes and have an opportunity to ride one (Covid rules permitting).

Review of the Active Travel Act - The AT Act requires WG to review the effectiveness of the Act by no later than September (possibly November) 2022, which means arrangements for the review should be being considered later this year.

Electric scooters – are they a complement or deterrent to active travel?

Promotion of active travel - how effectively is the Act's duty to promote active travel being implemented (follow up on December 2020 meeting)?

The contribution of cycling to the Welsh Economy – the previous Group started contacting companies earlier this year with a view to organising a special event and received five expressions of interest.

Planning – Following lobbying from the previous Group, Planning Policy Wales 11 requires new developments to have AT infrastructure in place before people move into their new homes. Is this happening, are developers aware?

Active Travel to Schools – The previous group drafted a toolkit to promote walking and cycling to school, but the translation and launch was postponed because of the pandemic.

Lynn Sloman of Transport for Quality of Life - report on her work for Welsh Government on the contribution active travel can make to decarbonisation in Wales.

Barriers to effective delivery of active travel at local authority level - discussion with key local authority figures.

Welsh Government's Active Travel Fund – how is funding allocated?