



Annual General Meeting

24 March 2015, 6:00-8:30pm

The Cycle Hub, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1BU

Minutes (DRAFT) – to be reviewed and approved on 12 April 2016

Present (5 management committee members, 38 members, 1 speaker and 2 observers): Katja Leyendeker (Chair), Claire Prospert (Secretary), Scott Dawson (Management Committee member), Roderick Joyce (Management Committee member), Geoff Turnbull (Management Committee member, retiring), Sally Watson (Jesmond Branch Chair), Shannon Robalino, John Watson, Paul Adams, Cath Scaife, Tony Waterson, Richy Hetherington, Colin Percy, Wilbert Den Hoed, Peter Macdonald, Alex Thompson, Tom King, Les Haddon, James Stanton, Max Hall, Ben Nuttall, David Redshaw, Rorie Parsons, Andy Hunter, Chris Sherratt, Ruth Hayward, Ray Waters, Henry Box, Alistair, Ford, Peter Wesolowski, Seraphim Alvanides, Paul Snedker, Jim Woodlingfield, Michael Smiles, Cllr Rob Higgins, Patrick Carr, Geoff Underwood, Angela Walker, Marie Walker, Martin Edney, Bill Dodds, Yinvent Tse, Rupert Weare, Graham Grant (Newcastle City Council, speaker), Richard Groves (Northumberland Police, observer),

Apologies (39): Al Reid, Vicky Gilbert, Emily Pippard, Bronwen Banner, Kate Cairns, Andrew McKenna, Joe Street, Pete Hawthorns, Cllr Nick Forbes, Catherine Weare, France Hinton, Kate Hancock, Iain Riddell, John Mabbitt, Andrew Gray, David Down, Robert Mullen, Achim, Anne Clark, David Ross, Helen Simmons, Ian Nelson, Fiona McGargill, Martin Hood, Mima Cattan, Richard Innes, Tim Owen, David Stith, Chi Onwurah MP, Michael Gardner, Lindsay Perks, Christian Wolmar, Tim Binks, Malcolm Farrow, Cllr Marion Talbot, Cllr Ged Bell, Graham Stewart, John Litherland, and Andrew Straw.

1. Chair's welcome

Katja Leyendeker, the co-founder and Chair of Newcycling since 2010, kicked off the meeting by saying that our Campaign thanks to all volunteers had indeed shifted up a gear last year, consolidating our foundations while reaching out more to involve our membership in activities.

2. Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held on 25 March 2014 at the Cycle Hub were approved with no matters arising.

3. Reports (for information)

Claire Prospert, Campaign co-founder and Secretary, presented the annual reports and highlighted the key achievements of the year:

- more than 500 people involved in the *Space for Cycling* campaign
- two successful rides organised by **Peter Macdonald** (next ride on Saturday 25 April 2015, marshalls welcome)
- 67% local councillors in support of Space for Cycling
- Organised Cycling Infrastructure Safari rides with more planned next year
- our first local branch established in Jesmond, chaired by **Sally Watson**
- set up two Campaign infrastructure policies (sustainable safety and protected space)
- established an Infrastructure Team led by **Scott Dawson** and attended fortnightly Council Technical Advisory Group meetings
- wrote more than 20 replies to consultations – local and national
- sent 29 press releases, and not to forget a strong voice on social media
- gave presentations at 4 public events, **Katja Leyendecker**
- More than 20 members came to our last members' meeting

To date NewCycling has **1,520 members**, with a majority of Newcastle residents (with high concentrations of members in Gosforth, Heaton, Jesmond, and wards near the city centre).

The Campaign activities in 2015/2016 reached many members. Today's AGM is another opportunity to involve members through discussion and help grow the Campaign.

Claire Prospert summarised the financial annual report: we started the year with a positive balance of £1,500 and finished it with £2,700 in credit so a healthy financial situation. Our expenditure amounted to just over £2,000 and we raised an income of £2,250. Our income came from:

- £1,000 **grant** from the Cooperative Bank, Customer Donation Fund
- **donations** from 43 members and match-funding from LocalGiving through the double your tenner campaign
- fees from corporate members: **Apex Acoustics, Cycle hub and Saddle Skedaddle and Macks Solicitors/Cycleclaim**

A big thank you to all!

Both reports (available on the Campaign's website) were well received by members and no questions were raised.

4. Management Committee 2015-16

Claire Prospert introduced the process to appoint the Management Committee. Like all previous years there are less nominations than places available on the committee so formal voting will not be necessary.

The following members expressed an interest to remain on the committee and Claire Prospert asked for members in attendance to second them:

- **Scott Dawson** – seconded by Shannon Robalino
- **Roderick Joyce** – seconded by Tom King
- **Katja Leyendecker** – seconded by Michael Smiles
- **Claire Prospert** – seconded by Richy Hetherington

The following members expressed an interest to become part of the committee and **Claire Prospert** asked for members in attendance to second them:

- **Sally Watson** – seconded by Tony Waterson
- **John Watson** - seconded by Scott Dawson
- **Rupert Weare** – seconded by Katja Leyendecker

A big thank-you goes to **Geoff Turnbull** who decided to retire from the committee.

The constituted posts and roles will be discussed and appointed at the first (newly formed) Committee Management meeting.

This concluded the formal business part of the AGM 2015.

5. Newcastle City Council's programme of cycling infrastructure works

Graham Grant, Newcastle City Council's Transport Development Specialist, was invited to present the City's programme of cycling infrastructure works.

Graham outlined Newcastle's context and plans for transport and development. On the one hand Newcastle has a low level of car ownership but on the other hand the city imports more trips than any other urban areas in the region. Significant amounts of funding have been secured to modernise the transport infrastructure and improve flow of traffic: hotspots like Haddricks Mill and Blue House roundabouts. Graham also described that more needs to be done to develop plans for an entire area rather than only focussing on spot improvements; more information regarding the city centre will be released after the elections. Funding for cycling features heavily in the transport investment package with £15m alone

from the Cycle City Ambition Fund programme. Support from communities and individuals is essential and can lead to further investment being made locally.

Sally Watson raised the issue about DIY streets in Jesmond where proposals do very little for cycling and not enough is done to stop rat running.

Katja Leyendecker also stressed that when the Campaign replies to council consultations, it's on behalf of 1,500 members and this needs to be taken into account, with the council properly recognising the role of community groups like NewCycling.

Graham Grant's presentation will be posted on the Campaign's website.

6. Campaign priorities and plan for 2015/16

Katja Leyendecker presented the Campaign plan for 2015-16 which is articulated around 4 main areas of attention:

- Talking about the transport transition and documenting the economic benefits of cycling
- Building the transport transition (infrastructure)
- Engaging decision-makers
- Members engagement building on last year's "shifting up a gear" motto

Katja invited members to discuss the activities which could derive from these areas and asked to discuss how members could contribute to them.

7. Table discussions and feedback

Members split into groups to discuss the 4 areas; feedback is summarised below.

Transport Transition – Economic case for cycling

As outlined by **Geoff**, there are different levels: individual, community and society/city. And also different aspects: impact on local retailers and how to overturn **perception problems**, highlight **public health** benefits and how they can be converted to monetary value. Health economics are a key part of the debate. Despite evidence, data and local surveys in support of cycling, retailers can still be sceptical – the idea of doing cycle "cash mobs" was flagged up.

In future and as part of the campaign, simple economic arguments for everyday cycling should be articulated. Language is important, and the bigger picture too, i.e. a **liveable and people-friendly city**.

Transport Transition – Infrastructure

Ruth talked about what it's like to cycle in the West end. There are cyclists, not just students, but it is currently not pleasant and safe to cycle around. There are lots of buses, narrow bike lanes, wind tunnels and too many parked cars. Putting aside the Strategic Cycle Routes, in order for people to go to key destinations such as

schools, community facilities, workplaces etc, we need a full and functional **network**. Transport Transition is also not just about cycling. Public transport is another component – part of the traffic in the West end is generated by people commuting by car from further afield (Northumberland) so improving public transport connections is absolutely essential. Members suggested that a **Sustainable Transport Forum** for the city be set up, where interest groups (cycling, public transport, elders, disability) can work together to shape and steer the city transport transition.

Engagement decision-makers

Activities will be more local and neighbourhood-based; members can pick up specific spots to focus on – for example **Tony** suggested that members invite their Councillors to join a school run and observe traffic issues, as a way to experience the problems and start discussing how the built environment has to change. The voice of the Campaign will be strengthened by individuals talking to Councillors – it's not one or the other, it's both! It would be great to have more **local branches**, building on the model led by **Sally** in Jesmond and recognising that it takes time to connect and empower people, facilitate knowledge sharing and a sense of community.

Members' engagement

John said that there are lots of opportunities to help NewCycling and we need to continue to explain what they are, how much time members need to commit to and use our communication channels (newsletter, email) to pick one activity at the time and “demystify” it. Sometimes it takes one person to put their hand up and say “I’ll do it” and some other times, it is not as straightforward. It is important to provide support and guidance to volunteers, at least at the start.

All the while, we’d like to thank **Alistair** for agreeing to be the Campaign’s representative on the Tyne and Wear Public Transport User Group (Newcastle).

Other ideas were flagged up and would need input from members, with the support of the committee: how to get more students involved, how to get more families with (young) children involved, school projects, marketing materials to spread the word about NewCycling: stickers, freebies, members’ stories

A members’ co-ordinator/secretary post is essential to provide support, advice and progress this area of campaigning.

8. Conclusion

Katja Leyendecker closed the meeting by thanking **Graham Grant** for his presentations and everyone who came along and supported the Campaign’s plan for 2015/16; it was a record-breaking turn out and discussions held at the AGM will enable the committee to take forward plans for a transport transition.

END