



DRAFT

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1 October 2020, 2:00-4:30pm

Online via Zoom

Minutes (DRAFT) – to be reviewed and approved at AGM 2023

Present (34 including 32 members): Declan Adams, Paul Adams, Franz Bozic, William Brown, Mike Cookson, Dorothy Crow, Paul Davison, Scott Dawson (committee member), Lindsey Davies, Jacqui Deans, Jo Ellis, Alistair Ford, Colin Gilbert, Roderick Joyce (committee member), Cllr Gareth Kane, Joseph Mackay-Christie, Audrey Macnaughton, Neil Murphy, Mark Nelson, Emily Pippard, Stephen Psallidas, Claire Prospert (Secretary, committee member), Beccy Say, Cath Scaife, Nick Simpson, Matthew Snedker, Alison Stenning, Marion Talbot, Laurence Taylor, Vincent Tse, Billy Ward, John Watson (Treasurer, committee member), Sally Watson (Chair, committee member), Julie Whittaker (committee member), Graham Grant (Newcastle City Council)

Apologies (4): Cllr Nick Forbes, Katja Leyendecker, David Down, Martin Hood

1. Welcome

Sally Watson, Co-chair of NewCycling welcomed and thanked everybody for joining the online AGM. The 2020 AGM planned in March 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid so this virtual AGM was arranged to get together and discuss all the various emergency schemes that have been launched since the summer. She outlined the programme for the evening and pointed out that the “formal” AGM business will be dealt with at the end, after the updates from the groups.

2. Updates from local groups

The following groups provided an update on recent local campaigning activities, In Newcastle mainly instigated by the active travel pop-ups:



We love Salters / Garden Village. Audrey Macnaughton talked about the local campaign, created a few years ago, to permanently close Salters Bridge to motorised traffic. Currently the group of local residents are actively campaigning to retain the filter introduced as a trial during the summer.

Safer Stoneyhurst. Nick Simpson talked about this new campaign which focuses on promoting the benefits of the traffic filter on Stoneyhurst bridge (also introduced as a trial during the summer). The campaign aims to make the filter permanent.

West Jesmond School Streets / Space for Jesmond. A representative from S4J introduced the local group campaigning for better and safer streets in Jesmond. One of the key objectives of the group is to have a school street at West Jesmond primary school on Tankerville Terrace.

Space for Fenham and Arthur's Hill. Jo Ellis talked about the space group in the west end of the city and their campaigning activities.

Sally Watson then welcomed representatives from groups in North Tyneside to talk about their campaigns:

Save the Sunrise Cycleway. Billy Ward, a local resident, talked about the campaign to keep the cycleway along the seafront from Whitley Bay to Tynemouth; a flag ship pop up scheme currently at risk of being removed by North Tyneside Council.

Play.Meet.Street North Tyneside and Living Streets North Tyneside. Alison Stenning talked about the success of the North Tyneside play streets group which she set up a few years ago. More recently she set up with other residents a local Living Streets group to bring people together and campaign for space for cycling and walking across North Tyneside borough. The group has been involved in promoting the benefits of car free high streets at the coast.

The group discussed the importance of having local groups bringing people together to campaign effectively. Members asked whether there was an active travel group in Gateshead. Although nobody was aware of any, Transition West Gateshead brings together people and groups interested in taking action on climate change,

3. Presentation from Neil Murphy: The 15-min city

Neil Murphy, Director at Town, a profit for purpose Developer company, gave a presentation about the 15-min city concept followed by a discussion with members.



4. Update from Newcastle City Council

Graham Grant, Assistant Director (Transport) at Newcastle City Council provided an update on the emergency active travel schemes introduced over the last 4 months. Despite the operational challenges during Covid, a number of schemes have been introduced with support from Active Travel Funding and consultations are taking place while the trials are live: Grey Street, Queen Victoria Road, 5 bridge filters, High Streets. Only some of the high street pop ups have been removed and it was agreed not to introduce any social distancing measures on Shields Road.

5. Campaign plan 2020/21

Sally Watson presented the Campaign plan 2020-21. It is articulated around 6 key priorities:

- Continue to campaign for network of protected cycleways and low traffic neighbourhoods
- Ask Newcastle City Council to adopt LTN 1/20 as primary guidance for cycling
- Support good new infrastructure and give feedback on how schemes can be improved
- Ask Newcastle City Council to review cycling governance
- Ask members to get involved in actions
- Work with existing partners and build new relationships

Graham Grant acknowledged that the campaign's asks for LTN 1/20 and governance were fair.

6. Annual reports 2019-20 and management committee

Claire Prospert summarised the annual report of activities for 2019-20 and John Watson presented the accounts for the past year.

It was noted that about 100 people joined the Newcastle Cycling Campaign over the last few months and there is a lot of support for retaining active travel measures across the city. The pandemic has certainly mobilised people to take action locally once they had an opportunity to discover the joy of cycling and walking in streets less dominated by motorised traffic.



The Management Committee as formed in 2019 will remain in place until further notice.

7. Minutes of the last AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on 30 March 2019 at the Commercial Union House in Newcastle were approved as a true record.

8. Virtual cakes and closure

The meeting concluded with three members in attendance been randomly selected to receive cakes from a local shop. Sally Watson thanked all speakers, everybody who helped organise the AGM and the members who joined the call.