**Attendees:** AN (Chair), JWi, JWa, GA, LW, LK, RB, TT, JB, DK, JJ, NM, AD (minutes).
**Apologies:** MG, MW.

1. **Introductions**

**Donation Link** – There is a donation button on the top left-hand side of the home page of WCA’s website ([here](http://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk)) for contributions to the ongoing running of WCA. One idea is a leaflet on our response and challenge to the Local Plan Review. **Please use and share**

**Writer’s Group** – still looking for members of topic groups to help with material for initial 1 page per month WCA piece in Wilts Times, and potentially to distribute elsewhere. There is a list of transport related potential articles which they need someone to help with. **Please let us know if you can help**

DK offered to pass on some columnist contacts at the Swindon Advertiser, and WCA member GH who runs a community radio station in Swindon called ‘The Birds and the Bees’. **ACTION DK / AD**

 **Uploading files and links**

Files can be uploaded onto the Transport Topic Group website pages (Transport – Roads, and Transport - Cycling). Please send files to: transport@wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk, with a small introductory paragraph. We can also circulate information or urgent calls for action between meetings. Please note the inbox will be checked approx. 2-3 times per week. There are also Roads and Cycling Forum strands on the website [here](https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/forum)

**General WCA News**

**Climate Emergency Anniversary –** NM reported thatWC have only committed to 0.7% reduction, all on internal emissions, and we still haven’t even seen this happen. Their Climate Strategy is yet to come out.FoE gave WC the highest rating initially, but would be interesting to ask FoE for the criteria used to judge councils and re-evaluate now.

**[Post-meeting note: Andrew has followed up. See** [**https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/methodology-local-authority-data-project**](https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/methodology-local-authority-data-project)**. AN will send more info to the group and upload stuff to WCA website].**

**WC CETG -** Environment Select Committee have endorsed the WC CETG’s latest Planning report, and this will now go to Cabinet. But the response to the previous reports was poor and we now need to ask them why they can’t implement the recommendations (on WCA Website [here](https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/interesting-stuff-wiltshire-council)). Should some opposing Councillors be asked to remove their name from the Climate Emergency statement?

The group note that WC haven’t confirmed that the housing to be delivered by Stone Circle will be carbon neutral, and with cycle parking and other facilities for car-free households. It should be and they can demand this.

**Sustainability Topic Group –** NM will chair this new group, based on the Local Plan and other high-level investments, to help put pressure on the Council during the review process. More information & sign up [here](https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/sustainabledevelopment).

**Steering Group** – have an ‘away day’ (on Zoom) on 15th Jan to discuss how to progress the group’s vision (practical, financial, strategic issues).

1. **Minutes (agreed from 03/12/20)** Some actions to be carried forward due to time pressures.

**Cycling (A)**

1. **Information / Updates (& some Actions)**

**Consultation on Existing (Tranche 1) and proposed (Tranche 2) schemes (now closed)**The Tranche 1 schemes are in place, but not all well done. BoA to Winsley and

Trowbridge to Hilperton are examples (cutting across the road, bad signage, motorists getting angry). The scheme for Chippenham was really badly thought through. In Salisbury the Tranche 1 schemes have been widely opposed. Had to follow bus routes and too wide, so again motorists angry. Agreed planners have taken the LTN/120 government guidance and applied it without discretion in a rural context. In some cases segregation bollards cause more danger by taking up limited road space, and paths are too wide for narrow roads, yet some are too narrow for cyclists, and some don’t use them. This had led to people blaming cyclists for the proposals.

The format of the consultation was also frustrating – wasn’t set up for detailed responses for the separate schemes. WC responded to criticism of Tranche 1 schemes saying that they had little time to implement, but the further £5bn over 5 years should give opportunity to design well and we should add pressure to ensure this is done. But there remains a disconnect between the relevant planning teams at WC. Schemes detailed [here](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-road-reallocation-schemes).

**General discussion**

This is reflected nationally. Expressways free of pedestrians, cyclists, horses, tractors and motorbikes will be rolled out over 50% of Britain’s trunk roads over the next x years.

Cyclists who’ve used the roads for leisure cycling for decades are angry – AN is contacting fellow ‘sporty cyclists’ to raise awareness.

JWi added that a new Highway Code is coming in soon – and will need to recognise and include use of E-bikes and Scooters. There is an urgent need to think through the different uses of the cycle space, and accommodate different needs.

Road-building supports the ailing steel/construction industry so is high on the agenda, and conversations about wellbeing still defer to GDP. But cycle schemes (according to published studies on established ones), deliver better returns on investment – DK shared these figures: Road projects produce returns of £3 to £5 for every £1 spent.Walking and cycling schemes produce returns of £4 to £19 for every £1 spent.

**Transport Planning and Public Health** – is there any crossover in WC? The pandemic seems to highlight the obvious benefits of cycling. Is there a Public Health champion in the County that would help? Sarah Gibson (BoA) is a good Cllr - on air quality objectives.

Council Public Health team seem to be constantly dealing with a stream of directives and therefore not able to prioritise this. Perhaps we can use Medical Journal evidence to support this angle – the [Greener NHS](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/) initiative is starting to do this, and involve the CCGs.

Salisbury have a Cycle Liaison Panel which is chaired by Heather Blake from the Sustainable Transport Team, and Laura Gosling comes to Chippenham and feeds back to Council. These are examples of [WC CATG (Community Area Transport Groups)](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-community-transport-group), sub-groups of Area Boards – should we strengthen our representation through these?

DK has looked in detail at the LTN1/20 document and can pass on his findings, for the website. **ACTION DK**

Agreed that we should ask for an online meeting with Sustainable Transport Team and Parvis Khansari (Director of Highways and Environment) to try to foster a dialogue as representatives of Wiltshire’s Cycling campaign groups. Parvis is beginning to understand the need to support cycling. A Task group could meet and present thoughts as to a design approach to LTN/120 that is more suited to rural Wiltshire. **ACTION: AN to email a request to this effect [Post-meeting note: done 15/1/21 but no reply as of 25/1/21. Chased]**

Agreed we can offer our services as active road-testers of future potential routes (with different cycling sensibilities and needs), although LTN 1/20 government guidance Cycle Infrastructure Design places emphasis on designers having had the experience of cycling a route themselves.

**Discussion about nervous and novice cyclists.** The Bikeability scheme has [some additional modules for adults](https://bikeability.org.uk/bikeability-training/bikeability-plus/) - we can ask about offering some of these widely?

With a sympathetic PCC we could ask police to make specific use of the rear camera footage captured on cameras which would have the ability to monitor closeness of cars to cyclists.

**[AN: Post-meeting note: known as Operation Close Pass, see** [**https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/4993/Drivers-stopped-in-Operation-Close-Pass**](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/4993/Drivers-stopped-in-Operation-Close-Pass) **from September 2019, and enquiry email sent to Wiltshire Police using the page** [**https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/1292/General-Enquiry-Form**](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/1292/General-Enquiry-Form)**]**

1. **Cycling route roadmap for Wiltshire**This action from the last meeting to be carried forward:

DK, JB and AN to work together on this (understanding first the existing process to develop the LCWIP), and incorporating existing local route plans (e.g. Chippenham has developed a ‘Cycling Opportunity Map’). **ACTION DK, JB & AN**

1. **Cycling (B) Further Contacts**
2. **Sustrans**
DK has contacted his contact – will report when heard back. **ACTION: DK**
JJ can ask someone with contacts at Sustrans who comes to their meetings, what help could be offered / what has been established to date in Wiltshire. We’d also like to find out about their system of volunteer guardians for routes. **ACTION: JJ**
Sustrans seem hesitant to get involved unless it’s a funded piece of work. WC pay them to consult.
3. **Paul Key (Chippenham group)** is very knowledgeable (via NM).
4. **Wiltshire /Swindon -** A directory of key contacts would be useful to have to share. Including Wilts Cabinet Councillors and Highways and Sustainable Transport main Officers, Transport Leads in the six adjoining authorities, Directors of SWLEP, Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body, WC CETG Members, Swindon Council contacts. **ACTION: AD to prepare**
5. **Roads (A) – Information/ Updates**

**Chippenham HIF Bid –** Grant application made in advance and Council are back-filling the local plan.There will be a consultation but this is framed around route options not the decision to build the road, which has been called a relief road, although it’s a distributor road for a proposed 7,500 new houses.Similar to **Melksham Bypass** in that road seen as an inevitability, so just route decision to make.

**Stonehenge** – no news – note that the Amesbury bypass won’t exist for cyclists anymore.

**Local Plan Review Consultation Events** – **look** [**here**](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review) **for local dates**. Noted that villages are treated separately and at the end of the period. We should look to have these represented too.

AN reported that the A36 Corridor Alliance are meeting again (27th Jan). Agenda to include contesting the downgrading of Cleveland Bridge in Bath to take less weight (for lorries). BANES seem to thereby be offloading footprint onto Wilts by asking government for the A350 to be upgraded to trunk road status and improved.

**AOB
i) Speaker on Integrated Transport** – Graham Ellis, a very experienced local (Melksham) campaigner on railway infrastructure, will present at a full Member’s Meeting soon. Should be very useful.
**ii) Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 18th Feb – 7 - 8.30pm**