**WCA Transport Topic Group Notes 12 November 2020**

 **Attendees:** AN (Chair), BJ (Zoom convener), MG, JW, JS, RB, JB, DK, CS, JJ, CR, MP, AD (minutes).

1. **Cycling**
	1. **Member reports** – AN thanked the contributors for their pieces on cycling, and will collate the responses.

Members updated the group on recent news from their local groups:

JS (Devizes) **–** Have conducted a survey of cyclists and would-be cyclists needs and are forming a coalition with Cllr Richard Gamble (Air Quality & Transport Strategy for Devizes) who seems keen to allocate Section 106 money. JS shared the link to the [survey information](https://sustainabledevizes.org.uk/initiatives/transport/cycling).

DK (Wootton Bassett) also shared [EcoRWB’s survey results summary](https://www.ecorwb.org/cycle-group) to help others putting surveys together. The group met Laura Gosling (WC Sustainable Transport Officer) for a discussion re: access improvements and interventions to enable less confident/able cyclists to get to High Street safely. The group has also been sharing survey results and continuing inputs to Neighbourhood Plan process.

CS (Calne) – has just set up a cycling and walking group. Is interested in survey questions already done by other groups. Feels inputting on Neighbourhood plan might be easier with some data. DK suggested talking to Anne H who has done some extensive work on a sustainable travel plan for Calne. **DK to put CS in touch with AH**  **ACTION**

RB (Salisbury – COGS) – ‘People-friendly streets’ initiative has been controversial, and difficult to see impact during lockdown. COGS is not a lobby group, but RB feels lobbying necessary.

JJ (Swindon) – Members have compared notes on unsuccessful deployment of Covid funding, with permanent changes now being set based on bad trial routes. Plan to campaign for better provision around school routes. Cycling group may appreciate opportunity to participate in county-wide actions.

* 1. **Where we want to be? Achieving ‘lift-off’?**
	Agreed that we need to be very focused, organised and selective in how we use our energies. “Doesn’t matter how hard we are pushing if the stone doesn’t move!”

Great to use and have local groups, but perhaps with a ‘meta-group’ of cycling campaigners across Wiltshire we may be more likely to succeed… most in the group want to support this and could spare some time to contribute.

* 1. **Strategy, tactics, resources (how to get there?)**

JW mentioned the consultation around changes to the Highway Code around cycling and walking. When results released could be good timing for actions – e.g. critical mass bike ride. Changes will be recommendations not law, but could ask police to enforce more strongly (e.g. cars passing too closely).

[LTN 1/20](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120) is in place and it is good guidance for local authorities – Need to get WC following in order to get funding.

Also reference the [Gear Change](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf) guidance – says cycling provision will be well designed and in the main it hasn’t been. We need to say more loudly that planning good routes takes more time.

RB said increasing UK tourism involves leisure cycling and this brings income into the area – another angle to take.

Agreed there’s a need to focus on routes between towns and villages as well as within… CS said potential routes from Calne to Melksham & Devizes, and Calne to Chippenham there but hopeless for commuting. Negotiations can be complex (e.g WB to Swindon).

Could we identify a few main routes that we’d like WC to back?

Sustrans – invite them to share current status of route planning in Wiltshire with us. DK said a talk was given at a WC meeting and there is also a Sustrans contact in EcoRWB.

Campaign for speed limit changes – cycling is safer if cars slow down on A & B roads. AN has a contact in the police – can ask for data on road accidents. JS can also access data on RTAs in his area via Parish online mapping.

‘Flat-pack democracy’ / Targeting Council Elections next May – often seats in Council not hotly contested so can try to put forward and raise support for greener candidates. CR shared that Jonathan Seed from Bromham has put himself forward.

Most councillors don’t seem on board personally with a modal change away from cars. We could each question our own Councillors about their attitudes to cycling, and/or challenge Councillors to try cycling or an e-bike (ask a local shop to lend out?), or join a car club.

Bikeability training is also available for adults – this could be promoted and made accessible to those who want it, and could help many people shift to cycling.

1. **Plenary**
	1. Minutes from last meeting on website.
	2. Other Transport Topics:

[Consultation on Pavement Parking](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking/pavement-parking-options-for-change) – ends 22/11/20 – could respond to signal importance of reducing dominance of cars on roads

MG reported that Louise from BoA is starting a group to audit town for accessibility. We can put her in touch with people who are working on potential cycle/walking routes.

EVs – different experiences of charging points (availability, particularly fast charge, and ease of use). Can be difficult to travel far with confidence. Most agreed EV infrastructure will develop soon with market forces and isn’t a campaign priority for WCA *Transport* group, although *Energy* group is willing to prioritise it.

BoA hoping to introduce E-car and E-bike club: joint scheme from Bath & West Community Energy and [Co-cars](https://www.co-cars.co.uk/).

Co-cars are also launching an E-bike delivery system.

E-bike sales are booming. Can be ideal option for some to replace car travel. Kits can be bought to re-use existing bike parts.

Car Clubs are a powerful way to get people to change from Car ownership – can WCA help with mapping these?

1. **Transport Topic Group – Process, Structure, Support & Communications**

Topic Groups leads report back to WCA Steering Group. Can be crossover between Topic Group areas so this helps to reduce overlap and ensure we can join up if needed.

Can also communicate with wider Member group via monthly main meeting and newsletters.

Minutes and other stuff we want to share as a group can be posted to the [Transport Topic group page on the website](https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/transport-topic-group), and registration for each new meeting of the group will be via this page.

There is a Transport@wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk email address – people can send inputs to Andrew and Amy via this, and we can add to website, or share to other group members (draft documents for comment, or sensitive discussion topics). It was noted that Mailchimp email addresses often go to people’s spam/junk mail folders – members may need to be aware of looking there.

Structure agreed to keep cycling together with roads under transport banner for now as most pressing issues, which affect each other.

Agreed next meeting in 3-4 weeks. **AN to identify and AD to circulate date ACTION**

1. **Roads**

We may not need to focus on certain road building schemes as there are some existing and very active campaign groups (A303 Stonehenge; CAUSE Wiltshire (for Chippenham HIF bid scheme).

But we need to keep pressure on generally that we want to see a moratorium on road building (and funds redirected to cycling). We should speak more loudly on this.

Melksham bypass (of the bypass) was warmly ushered in by Councillors, who apologised that Westbury had ‘missed out’; Councillors still very out of touch with the CEE.

Can we work politically with sympathetic Councillors? Cllr Ashley O’Neill spoke out against Chippenham scheme unexpectedly at recent Area Board meeting.

Also use examples of better practice from neighbouring authorities as carrot and stick. Some of these councils are unhappy with Wilts as their sustainability record is bringing joint ventures into disrepute.

Can we impress upon WC a vision of what net zero 2030 would look like and work on roadmap to it? Could use ‘backcasting’ – DK has experience of this to plan projects. DK and JB willing to collaborate on this (cycle paths first?).