

Member Champion: Cycling and Sustainable Transport

Annual Report 2015/ 2016

Keeping the issues at the forefront of Council business:

Cardiff Cycle Liaison Group

I Chair the Cardiff Liaison Cycle Group, which has representatives from about 16 agencies, charities, social enterprises and Council officers with cycling as their main focus. This year I joined a small bi-monthly meeting with the Director of the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways and Transport and the Deputy Cabinet member responsible for Active Travel to go over issues that arose at the Liaison Group and from other consultations. Through this we have lobbied for cycling and sustainable transport to be taken into account, particularly over the development of Central Square and the new city centre Transport Hub focussing on the Central Railway Station. I have met with the Director and senior officers in Transport and City Centre Development.

Car Free Day 2016

I sat on the Planning Group for Cardiff's first 'car-free' day. This was held on Thursday 22nd September which is International Car Free Day. Park Place was closed to traffic for the day and it coincided with the return of the University students to a new academic year.

There was good attendance from public transport companies, including Cardiff Bus, and cycling and sustainable travel charities. Many people were disappointed that the street closures were not more extensive but this year was a pilot and it was generally felt to be effective and reinforced Council policy to shift the modal split from car dependence to sustainable travel.

National Bike Week

I raise the profile of cycling and sustainable transport by writing letters to the South Wales Echo, via Twitter & email contacts e.g. highlighting National Bike Week 2016. I take a lead on organising the annual Commute Challenge. This year 4 Councillors were involved in the commute challenge as well as members of Communities First teams. The results that show cycling over distances of between 2 and 6 miles are faster by bicycle. Cycling rates in Cardiff are steadily increasing and the Council transportation team and the Cardiff Cycling Campaign have statistics to verify this.

I am confident that the authority transport planners are aware of good practice in other cities in Britain and on the Continent, and I continue to lobby for policies to be adopted that take road space from cars and segregate cyclists and pedestrians where possible.

Work in progress:

- Living Streets: I continue to liaise with the Wales Director of this pedestrian focussed charity setting up in Cardiff to provide a voice for people who walk as their main means of getting around.
- I attend the South West Neighbourhood Partnership team to encourage their promotion of active travel.
- I am encouraging stake-holders to engage with the development of the Active Travel Plan and we eliminated some cycle network routes as they did not reach the standard of continuity that the Welsh Government expects.

Councillor / Cynghorydd Iona Gordon

October 2016