

# Cycling Friendly Dunoon & Cowal

## Meeting Notes

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Present: Nicola Hackett (Live Argyll); Dougie Fletcher; Ross Morley-Trapnell; Helen Dick (Visit Cowal / Dunoon Presents); Josh Wood (Cycling UK); Ralph Jessop (Cycling UK) Ann Campbell (Dunoon Area Alliance/SURF).

Apologies: John Ferrie (Cowal Mountain Bike Club / Dunoon Men's Shed), Tom Warren, Claire Hallybone (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme). Stacy Holloway (Live Argyll)

Topic	Discussion	Action
Introductions	<p>Ann welcomed everyone along to this networking meeting arranged by Dunoon Area Alliance.</p> <p>This networking group has been set up to support a shared conversation on the range of cycling-related assets here in Dunoon and Cowal; to help make connections between initiatives; and to consider any gaps and whether joint action could be developed to fill these.</p> <p>Following our first meeting Dougie made contact with Cycling UK's Inverclyde Bothy project based in Gourock train station. Josh Wood and Ralph Jessop of Cycling UK kindly agreed to come along to this meeting to share their experience of getting the Gourock project up and running.</p>	
New Updates	<p><b>Helen Dick, Visit Cowal</b> freelance development agent and Dunoon Presents volunteer. Interested in maximising the potential of cycling events and networking with local businesses.</p> <p><b>Nicola Hackett, Live Argyll</b> – Live Argyll is a libraries and leisure trust with a dedicated Sports Development Team. Stacey Holloway is Sports Development Worker with a remit to develop community provision and funding applications. Live Argyll has staff in schools where there is a massive demand for cycling activities. Lyndsey Mitchell delivers Bike Ability training as part of her Active Schools remit. The Business Development Team is considering bike hire, including options for a collective approach. Argyll &amp; Bute Council Road Safety Team has been diminished very recently and Live Argyll is discussing how to deal with the impact of this.</p> <p><b>Ross Morley-Trapnell</b> – Ross is active in Cowal Mountain Bike Club and Dunoon Hill Runners. His partner, Maxine, is a trained Breeze Network leader.</p> <p><b>Ralph Jessop:</b> <a href="mailto:ralph.jessop@cyclinguk.org">ralph.jessop@cyclinguk.org</a> Development officer for Cycling UK covering, Angus, Argyll &amp; Bute, Clackmannanshire, Dundee, Perthshire, Stirlingshire. My focus areas are Big Bike Revival, Community Cycle Groups &amp; Networking.</p>	

**The Inverclyde Bothy**

This Cycling UK Bothy project is designed to provide inspiration, advice and help for walkers and cyclists. Josh Wood is Project Co-ordinator for the Inverclyde Bothy and detailed the work of the Bothy. It is funded via Inverclyde Council from the Transport Scotland Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund with some funding from NHS and others. The project started in May 2018. Year one was seen as a pilot year. There are good cycling options across Inverclyde, but it is among the lowest areas for bike ownership in Scotland. A lot of groundwork was required on showing cycling as an option for people. The Co-ordinator post initially covered three days a week, then increased to four plus a cycle instructor and walk co-ordinators. There are now around 150 people taking part in walks each week and significant volunteer involvement. There is a lot of 'signposting' people to other services and activities.

Activities and resources include:

- E-bike try out scheme
- A trio of tandems to support people unable to cycle independently, e.g. due to health or visual impairment
- Adult Bike Ability to build confidence. This includes a bespoke one-to-one approach.
- Cycle Friendly Café Network with a shared loyalty card scheme, repair kits at cafes and reward badges for visiting them all.
- Clyde Muirshiel Park trail with plaques to find, encouraging family cycling.
- Family cycling with trailers to try.
- Learn to Ride for adults and children.
- Play on Pedals putting bikes in to community centres.
- developing partnerships with community centres and projects across Inverclyde.
- All ability cycling is being tested to prove interest and need with adapted bikes (see Blazing Saddles in Edinburgh).
- General promotion through free bike maintenance sessions and maintenance education sessions.
- Health Walks providing Paths for All walk leader training.

Health walks are normally one-hour long. Walks were initially led by the co-ordinator with two volunteers. Now there is a Walk Leader post and they have a training the trainer qualification. The aim is to have three walk leaders on each walk (one front, one back one 'floating'). There are currently three official Bothy walks each week with another 4 health walks delivered by people trained by the Bothy.

Ralph Jessop is development officer for central Scotland and outlined other projects that Cycling UK is involved in. The Big Bike Revival is an initiative that can fund community-led activities (Helen noted that Dunoon Presents had accessed this funding for the Christmas Lights Family Cycle and that the Christmas Lights group is intending to apply again to repeat the event). Events and training could be supported now.

	<p>Ralph is also involved with Community Cycle Groups helping communities establish non-competitive ride groups for all. The support for this comes in the form of training, such as First Aid, Ride Leader, Mechanics, personal roadcraft skills and insurance. As no money changes hands this can operate at a non-constituted grassroots level.</p> <p>Shona Morris is overall project manager for Cycling UK and developed the funding applications for the Bothy projects. A second Bothy has been set up very recently in Ardrishaig with funding support from Scottish Canals and Transport Scotland Safer Choices Safer Places with Alex Omstad appointed as full-time co-ordinator.</p> <p>There is recognised potential for development of the five ferries route and interesting developments are underway on Bute through Zero Carbon Bute (e-bike trials), a keen network of cyclists and growing community cycling initiatives (including repair stands sited around across the island).</p> <p>It was noted that the wider cycling landscape can be complex. For clarification, British Cycling is the support body for elite sports cycling with a focus on spotting and developing talent.</p>	
<b>Potential for Dunoon Developments</b>	<p>The key elements required for a Bothy project are funding, a location and keen partners. There could be potential to discuss with Shona the option of developing something in Dunoon under the Cycling UK umbrella. There could be positive opportunities in linking to the Gourock-based project to share resources and explore both areas. CalMac could be approached as a potential partner.</p>	
<b>Making Connections</b>	<p>Stacey Holloway Live Argyll can provide help with funding applications.</p> <p>It was suggested that providing free bike locks and 'toast racks' at cafes and venues would encourage cyclists to stop off.</p>	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>Ann will email notes of the previous meeting to Josh and Ralph.</p> <p>Ann and Dougie will arrange another meeting date</p> <p>Invitations to attend will be extended to Iain Cairns of Dunoon Hill Runners, Cowalfest and Josh Sivarajah of Puck's Rest, who might be interested in being part of this network and discussion.</p>	<p>Ann Dougie</p>