



27th January 2025 AGM

Via Zoom

Participants

Valentine Scarlett, Catherine Wykes, David Wykes, Donald Baddon, Jenny Baddon, Russell Pepper (DCC), Steve King, Aaron McCarthy, Jonathan Simpkins, Peter Clinch, Richard Sandeson, Iain McDonald, John Berry (DCC), Jojo Neff,

Apologies – John Whyman, Angela Cantali, Fiona Welch.

1. Introductions

Cath provided a welcome to the AGM

2. Presentation on Critical Mass and Glow Rides by Aaron Mc

Aaron gave a thorough and engaging presentation on his background in active travel and the history and future of Critical Mass and Glow Rides in Dundee.

They started as a monthly protest in San Francisco, and have grown to reach cities all over the world, including several other Scottish cities. When Aaron saw that Inverness had one (with some jealousy!) he decided it was time to have one in Dundee. Depending on the city, they can be a protest, but they can also be a celebration of cycling. Generally, to be consistent and to allow as many people as possible to join, they are the last Friday of the month, straight after the standard 9-5 workday.

Aaron found, in his work as an active travel officer with St Andrews University and at the Dundee Cycle Hub, that people's biggest barrier to cycling is fear of sharing the road with vehicles. To get round this, he would often work with people on a long process to figure out safe, comfortable routes for them to use. People wanted something to do to show their support for improving and expanding these routes, so a Critical Mass seemed like a good idea! It has been a bit slow to gain momentum, but now recent rides such as the Glow Ride have had up to 25-30 participants. Partnerships with places like Braw tea Ferry, who stayed open late for the event, have really helped encourage people as they can meet for a tea/coffee/cake beforehand. The Christmas rides were also popular and will be badged Santa Rides in future to make sure folk know what to dress up as.

Aaron is presenting at the next Creative Dundee PechaKucha event (a series of short, ~6 minute talks where the presenters have 20 slides with 20 seconds per slide). These events are always sold out and have an audience of ~300 people. He is also working with Generator Projects (an artist-run institution and gallery in the west end) to encourage their members and audiences to take part.

He has successfully applied to Dundee Changemakers for funding to put on all 12 monthly critical Mass rides in 2026 including funding for flags on the bikes, Dr Bike Sessions, workshops, and speakers to make the rides more visible and encourage more folk to come. The Dundee Cycle Hub will also stay open late for all of these rides to further encourage people to come along. There will also be feeder rides from other locations such as the Bell street Hub.

Aaron is keen to have other fun rides such as a Pride Ride, Solstice Ride, involving Scrap Antics, a race into the headwind or up the law – get in touch with ideas!

Valentine – could you do a Greenpeace collaboration

Aaron – keen to do a litterpick ride which could tie in nicely with Greenpeace. Up for a collab with anyone, really! He's part of the Dundee Changemakers Network who are primarily about climate justice so working with Greenpeace would align with this.

3. Minutes of meeting 10/11/2025

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Cath and seconded by Peter.

4. Actions from previous meeting

What	Who	Update
Letter of support for the Cycle Hub. Need to contact them to see what they need.	Cath W/Donald B	Done
Blog for website about Cyclin Scotland conference.	Cath W	Not done. Work in progress.
Find out location of banners and what events they can be put up at.	Cath W	Pete has them
Ask Arran to update flyer/redesign.	Cath W	Cath will speak to him
See if Arran can consider this day change for future Critical Mass rides.	Cath W	Decided against this for consistency
Contact Cara Finlay to see if DCF can have stall at the Eastern PS Christmas event	Fiona W/Cath W	Didn't happen – too late now
Find out how many cycle maps are left at DCC and get some to Cath	Russell P	Done
Give Cath details of community centres and people working there.	Russell P	Done
Once updated, people to print off their own flyers and flyer bike parking etc. May need people to commit to doing this!	Everyone/can we have individual volunteers?	Needs the update to be done first
Write draft of letter to send to candidates for Dundee seats.	Iain Mac	Working on it.

Iain - Elaborated on the final action: There are currently 8 candidates for Dundee. 3 in the west, 5 in the east. He put a question to the group – will the DCF wait until more candidates are put forward, or contact these candidates now?

Donald – No downside on contacting them now. Others can be contacted as and when they are announced.

Cath – Agrees with Donald. Also made the point that DCF should highlight local groups that support the manifesto such as Dundee Dragons and the Dundee Cycle Hub.

Donald – Ask List MSPs to support as well. This would cover more than Dundee but good to get them in any case.

Iain – Happy to but won't chase them as hard as the constituency MSPs.

Donald – Made the point that the list MSPs may sign up to the national manifesto in any case.

Action – Iain to send emails to all candidates and additional ones as and when they are announced.

4. Reports from the seventh year of Dundee Cycling

a) Convenor

Cath read out her report (appended to these minutes).

Valentine – Applauds Cath's work, mentioning she's been doing a great job as chair – Cath and Angela absolutely deserving of being included in the "100 women in Cycling" list.

b) Planning.

Donald – nothing of note, other than the McDonalds Drive through at Riverside Drive. Donald noted that now that Russell is embedded within the council, he comments on planning applications looking at cycling provision and so there is little need for the DCF to comment other than to object to larger applications.

c) Campaigning

The appended reports on various meetings were presented to the group.

d) Comms.

The appended report was presented to the group.

e) Events

There have been no events.

f) Treasurer

Steve – Still receiving £5/month from an anonymous donor. There was a donation of £150 from North Fife Cycling who would like it to go towards a specific project.

Cath – The £150 could be used for printing leaflets, once they're redesigned.

Steve – There's over £2000 in the account so shouldn't be afraid of spending.

Cath – Could even get a poster/advertisement run with that.

Donald – Could have “poster bikes” i.e. bikes chained up with weatherproof posters attached to them, along main cycling routes.

6. Election of Office Bearers

a) **Convenor**

Cath was the only candidate to put themselves forward. Valentine proposed and Pete seconded.

b) **Vice Convener**

David was put forward in his absence (with the proviso that his permission would be sought after the meeting). Steve proposed and Valentine seconded. David has since stated he is happy with this.

c) **Treasurer**

Steve K stated he was happy to continue in the role. There were no other candidates. Cath proposed, Valentine seconded.

d) **Secretary**

Russell performs this role as part of his work with the council, however stated that the DCF were free to have their own secretary, if they wished. Nobody put themselves forward. Steve proposed and Valentine seconded.

Sub-groups stand as they are – no need for voting, everybody was happy to carry on in their roles.

Iain – would like to join the campaigning group as he is writing/sending emails to all candidates in the Scottish elections. His title will be “Elections Campaigning Co-ordinator”.

7. AOCB

a) **Manifesto Launch Event**

Cath – asked Donald to lead.

Donald – A bike bus event from the Cyclehub to City Square would be good. With a joining manifesto launch/photoshoot.

Idea would be that you try and bring a friend.

The pedalling pensioners and Infrastesters make their events very informal – would be good to do similar.

Maybe get t-shirts?

The launch in 2022 was good, as was the Pedal on Parliament in 2019 – hope to get similar.

The date must be after the 2nd April.

It'll be May 30 in Edinburgh – the Saturday before (23 May) may be a good date

Might be good to utilise the lighter nights and do an evening.

Valentine – Involving children and Dundee Dragons would be good.

Cath – is weekend or weekday better for getting candidates?

Donald – either will be fine, candidates will be working every day! Is there a Reform candidate? Even if there is we need to be apolitical and ask them.

Cath – asked which manifesto to promote, the DCF's own, or the national one from Cycling Scotland.

Decided among group that the national manifesto would be promoted, but that once the DCF has the attention of a candidate, local issues can be brought up. Will also need to badger the winning candidates ASAP after the election.

Iain – will amend the draft to include a term similar to “we hope to meet with successful candidates to discuss local priorities”.

Steve – Will need to have a think about how the national (Cycling Scotland) campaign can be reflected in local priorities.

b) **Recruitment/awareness of DCF among wider Dundee**

Cath – wants to go out to community centres and groups throughout Dundee and ask folk there what they would like to see. Currently the DCF can't really say they speak for many people in areas that current members do not live in, so it's important that they get out there and speak to people. Needs volunteers to do this!

Valentine and Donald volunteered.

Action – Cath, Valentine and Donald to organise going to community centres to talk to people.

c) **Cycling UK**

Donald – Made the point that whilst for a long time, Cycling UK has been progressive and inclusive, it was a real shame to see that they excluded trans women from their recent “100 Women in Cycling” list. They justified their decision with the Supreme Court ruling but they could have just changed the name/definition of the list to explicitly include trans women.

Cath – This point was brought up at another meeting she was at and it seems that CUK basically panicked. If the DCF wants to write a letter, that would be really good.

Donald – Even if they did panic, they could have at least apologised, .

Action –Donald to write a letter to CUK.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting Monday 23 March 2026, 6:30pm. Venue TBC – Russell was asked if there are any warm DCC buildings/rooms available.

Action Russell to see if any libraries etc. can be used. If not, contact Jerry/Claire to see if room at Meadowside St Pauls would be available.

Positions:-

- Chair/Facilitator/Convenor – **Catherine W**
- Vice Chair/Facilitator/ Convenor – **David M**
- Secretary – **Russell P**
- Treasurer – **Steve K**
- Social Media/Website Team – **Steven K, Valentine S, Donald B, Alice T, Catherine W, David W**
- Event Planning Team – **Trudy C, John W, Donald B, Jojo N, David M, Peter C**
- Campaigning and Engagement – **Donald B, Valentine S, David M, Graham MacB, Iain McDonald**
- Planning Applications Team – **Trudy C, Donald B**

Actions

What	Who
See if any libraries etc. can be used. If not, contact Jerry/Claire to see if room at Meadowside St Pauls would be available.	Russell
Write letter to Cycling UK	Donald
Get out to community centres to see what folk want/need from cycling in Dundee	Cath, Valentine, Donald
Leaflet redesign – Cath and Aaron to meet/talk	Cath/Aaron
Send emails to all candidates and additional ones as and when they are announced	Iain

Convenors report for 2026 AGM

2025 started with the exciting news that Cycling Scotland would be holding their annual conference in Dundee for the first time since 2018, thanks in part to lobbying from DCF and Councillor Steven Rome, who was keen to showcase Dundee's progress and ambitions for active travel.

Throughout the year DCF members have taken part in Critical Mass Rides aimed at raising the profile of cycling as well as highlighting some of the barriers that can deter people from cycling in greater numbers. A particular highlight was the Halloween Glow Ride which was organised by Critical Mass and Dundee Cycle Hub as part of Cycling UK's 'My Ride Our Right' campaign, drawing attention to the need for safe routes for everyone, and particularly for women who continue to be underrepresented in everyday cycling. Despite the rain and the cold we managed to create a bit of a spectacle, cycling from Broughty Ferry to the Waterfront, with riders and bikes lit up. Thanks especially to Braw Tea Café for supporting the event, promoting the ride via social media and staying open late so we could buy hot drinks and cake to fuel our ride!

DCF continue to build a good working relationship with Dundee City Council and attend twice yearly meetings with council officers to discuss progress on ongoing infrastructure projects. As chair I've also been able to meet more informally with councillors to chat about how we can support each other towards the goal of Dundee being a city where anyone can cycle for everyday journeys.

We've taken part in consultations on key projects this year including Eden Connections, Strathmartine Connections, and the Lochee Road and Arbroath Road Sustainable Transport corridors. Whilst progress on these projects can feel painfully slow, and completion is dependent on external funding, it is at least reassuring that the political will, at both local and national level, appears to be there to make things happen.

DCF has been getting involved with Cycling UK's Cycling Advocacy Network, making sure that cyclists have a strong voice at a national as well as a local level. Scott Runciman, Cycling UK's Scotland Advocacy Lead, led a campaigning workshop in August where we had a lively discussion about local issues and campaign solutions. Donald and myself have joined online campaign workshops on a range of topics

which should prove helpful in our campaigning activities. I've spoken about DCF on a couple of the webinars, and other people have been interested to hear about the work of DCF over the years.

Also in August, Cycling UK's Scottish Advisory Committee invited me to lead a cycle infrastructure safari from Dundee to Monifieth and sit in on their meeting as an observer. With committee members coming from Inverness, Perth, Stirling, Aberdeen and Dunbar this proved to be a great opportunity to get an outside perspective on the Broughty Ferry and Monifieth active travel routes.

September saw transport professionals and cycle campaigners from across Scotland arrive in Dundee for the Cycling Scotland Conference, with the theme 'Investment in everyday cycling delivers results'. We shared a stand with Graham from Dundee Dragons, which was a great way to network with other campaigners from across Scotland, as well as showcasing the excellent work of Dundee Dragons to a receptive audience. Councillors Mark Flynn and Steven Rome reaffirmed their commitment to cycling as an important part of Dundee's vision for a sustainable transport network, and we heard from a range of inspiring guest speakers with an excellent keynote address from Brian Deegan of Active Travel England.

David and I attended the Cycling UK in Scotland Annual Gathering in Edinburgh in November. Cycling UK gave updates on their projects and campaigns in Scotland, we heard from guest speakers including long distance cyclist Emily Chappell and founder of the Shawlands Bike Bus in Glasgow, Katherine Cory, and I was formally co-opted on to the Scottish Advisory Committee.

To round off the year, and continuing to keep Dundee in the spotlight, in December myself and fellow DCF member Angela Cantali were named on Cycling UK's 100 Women in Cycling list. It's a huge honour to be included on this list alongside brilliant inspiring women, and it wouldn't have happened without the hard work and support of all of you on Dundee Cycling Forum, so thank you – this one was for you!

Campaigns and Engagement Report For DCF AGM 26/01/2026

The highlight of DCF Campaigns/Engagement in 2025 has been Catherine Wykes relentless positive championing of Active Travel in Dundee and Scotland!

The the inspirational DCF's Chair's engagement in 2025 has included:

Calm, measured and factually correct with her regular correspondence in response to angry anti cycling opinion pieces platformed on DC Thomson's publications.

Promoting inclusive and accessible active travel infrastructure with a joint table with Dundee Dragons at the Cycling Scotland Conference in Dundee.

Signing DCF up as a joint supporter of the Cycling Scotland National Manifesto for the 2026 Scottish Parliament Elections.

As DCF Chair attending many online and face to face meetings with Cycling Advocate Network groups and other like-minded organisations.

Catherine was invited to be a member of the CyclingUK Scottish Advisory Committee.

Being the queen of soft diplomacy, Catherine has been in regular contact with DCC councillors and on occasion has been a critical friend by email to advise that it is not the best look to launch a sustainable

transport hub with cheap parking especially when Perth and Kinross were offering free bus Saturdays of the Christmas period.

Getting a chat with Chris Boardman (Catherine may mention this a few times)

Catherine and other brilliant DCF member (CWAS tri-shaw pilot extraordinary) Angela Cantali were both deservedly recognised for their outstanding work as cycling community champions in the CyclingUK 100 women in cycling list. Catherine and Angela are great supporters of Glow Rides and Critical Mass Dundee rides.

DCF has had good engagement from DCC in 2025 and some welcome warm words that the Sustainable Transport Delivery Plan is on schedule and will materialise. Unfortunately DCC's actions do not live up to the warm words. The conceptual designs for the active freeways developed in 2022/23 have been binned and DCC had to go back to ScotGov for funding to carry out further design work which takes into account the Bus Priority (Tayside Bus Alliance Appraisal report Feb 2023). The new design work was awarded to SWECO who have gone back to the drawing board with a downgraded Lochee Road design and the Arbroath Road design still not clear. One positive outcome is that SWECO have agreed to engage with DCF through the development of the conceptual designs before they go to public consultation. Once again DCC lost direction and soft launched the Bell Street Active Travel with £3 all day parking. Steven Rome and Mark Flynn have yet to respond to the DCF's Chair's informative email highlighting how their stunt undermines their own policies for implementing active travel in Dundee.

Campaigning/Engagement Key Dates in 2025:

Eden Project Links 2008/2025 Survey and email response DCF had excellent engagement from Sarah Garvin (Jacobs) and Caishlan Sweeney (Eden Project) at the consultation day held at the Olympia 20/08/2025. Chair emailed DCF response 5/9/2025. It was encouraging to hear that the Eden Project want to become an active travel node connecting to the NCN1 with an active travel bridge and to the City Centre/Stobswell with high quality active travel infrastructure.

Bell Street Active Travel Hub 28/08/2026

Scott Francis outlined the plans for the Hub and asked for ideas on community engagement. DCF suggest engaging with delivery riders and offering them support with equipment maintenance and cycle training (Which should, in an ideal world, be funded by the platforms).

SWECO 03/10/2026 Dundee Sustainable Transport corridors

DCF emailed questions to SWECO after their public consultation on the Sustainable Transport Corridors which fed into an online meeting on 03/10/2026. It was clear that the previous active travel designs had been binned and only the routes remained. The Lochee Road will be a bi-directional path for the full route. There is no decision/detail on what side of the road the paths will go or what will happen at junctions. The main positive from the meeting was that SWECO agreed to engage with DCF on the conceptual designs before they went out to public consultation.

DCF Update meeting with Steven Rome/Robin Presswood 30/10/2025

Steven Rome and Robin Presswood did not appear so the meeting went ahead without them. Catherine W and Donald B attended for DCF with Councillor Siobhan Toland and officers James Mullen/Michael Sandeman for DCC. James was positive about the active travel projects still being on target and managing to obtain ScotGov funding for the active travel funding bids they submitted.

December 2025 Ideas to Russell Pepper for Tier 1 funding

More great engagement from the DCC Sustainable Transport Team.

Donald Baddon

DCF Campaigns and Engagement Team

Communications Team Report AGM 2026

Social Media

Twitter/X account now closed and using Bluesky instead, where we follow 192 accounts and have 133 followers.

24 posts since starting the account in December 2024

Instagramm page is mainly used for promoting events eg Glow Ride/Critical Mass and has 271 Followers and Following 283.

Facebook page has 2116 followers. The Dundee Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Community group (any member can post here, not just admins) has 631 members.

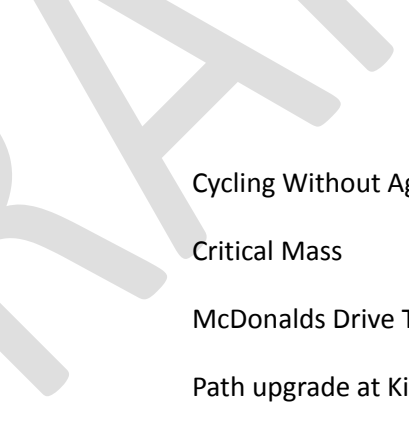
Most engagement is from followers (81%) and breaks down as

59.4% links

34.6% photos

6% reels

Posts with most engagement were about:



Cycling Without Age

Critical Mass

McDonalds Drive Through planning application

Path upgrade at Kilspindie Road

Cyclathon

Glow Ride

Dundee's proposed active travel routes.

So local content is definitely what gets engagement.

Alice has been maintaining a presence on LinkedIn, and some of us have joined the People Powered Streets discord community to connect with other active travel campaigners and advocates from across the UK, though this seems fairly quiet after an initial flurry of activity.

Traditional media:

In addition to regular contributions to the Evening Telegraph letters page, Catherine had an opinion piece printed in the Evening Telegraph and published on the Courier website in May, and was interviewed by Laura Devlin for the Courier about reactions to the Lochee Road/Arbroath Road consultation. Laura was keen to get an alternative perspective to some of the negative reactions rearing their head in opinion columns and comments sections.

Website:

David has made some updates to the website and plans to make it more dynamic, as there isn't really much to grab attention at the moment.