

# Spokes Canterbury

## Annual General Meeting Minutes 25 May 2021

**Date:** Thursday 25 May 2021

**Time & place:** 6.00pm, Pegasus Arms Hotel, upstairs meeting room.

**Present:** Don Babe, Robert Fleming, Chris Abbott, Anne Scott, Jill Scott, Paul Churton, Meg Christie, Fi Bennetts, Martin Fraser, Emily Cambridge, Keith Turner, Peter Dobbs, Geoff Sugden, Wendy Babe, Glen Koorey, Kair Leslie, Allan Taunt, Cr Sara Templeton, Cr Mike Davidson

**Apologies:** Dirk De Lu, David Hawke, & Richard Smith.

**1. Emily Cambridge** started proceedings with a talk on:

**a. International Cargo Bike Festival in Groningen 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Emily showed many pictures and gave a brief history of cargo bikes as being prevalent a century ago, reducing in use as the car became dominant, but now resurgent as popular transport choice. Emily foresees the demise of the Remuera tractor and the rebirth of the modern cargo bike as the transport of choice for mothers with children. Problems to be overcome include:

1. Sharp kerbs impact 3-wheeled cargo bikes & small-wheeled children's bikes.
2. Narrow gateways on some "cycle paths". Cargo bikes don't turn as sharply.
3. Parking – cargo bikes need different spaces.
4. Camber – anything more than a very shallow camber creates safety issues.

**b. Planning a Cycling City.** This talk referenced her visit to Amsterdam in 2019, attended by 30 students from a variety of professional backgrounds and 20 different countries. The visit included 22 professional lectures over 3 weeks and some 9,422 kilometres cycled by the group in total. Memorable factoids include:

- Amsterdam's population is 900,000
- 880,000 bikes (!!)
- 200,000 bike parking sites (reason for bikes everywhere)
- Bike share in terms of trips made has remained constant at c.25% for c.50 years despite population growth

Emily noted that cycling was born from protest (in the 1950-60s) about the hundreds of children killed in Amsterdam in road accidents.

Emily busted and reworded four myths about Amsterdam's rise to pre-eminence as a cycling city. The myths were (Emily's slides were more erudite)

1. Cycling infrastructure can be efficiently engineered.
2. Build it and they will come.
3. Cycling replaces driving.
4. Write a plan and follow it.

Realism showed:

1. A cycling city can and will always be messy and organic.
2. Build it connecting meaningful destinations in a robust network, then maintain it, sell it, evaluate it and adjust it, and over time they will come.
3. Cycling plus a dense and high-service transit network can replace driving.
4. Writing a plan helps but listen to and watch the people, experiment and follow their dreams. Then re-write the plan.,

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<sup>1</sup> Google it, see eg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbm2otrjoo>

- Emily noted that ebikes are now much more prevalent, doubling range from 7.5km to 15km, and being very common among seniors (65+)
- The Dutch success has relied on
  1. hardware,
  2. software and
  3. “orgware” – eg policies
- It includes both:
  1. The PULL of:
    - Fair distribution of road space,
    - Bike parking
    - Excellent cycle bridges (a must for Amsterdam with all its canals)
  2. The PUSH of:
    - Signage
    - Policy eg no cars near the school
- Other points to note:
  1. Bike minutes are the std unit of travel time
  2. Dutch people cycle even though they have the money not to
  3. Google “Mama Agatha” and watch the film. See <http://mama-agatha.com/> Agartha Frimpong is a 59-year-old Ghanaian woman who runs a bicycle training program for migrant and refugee women in the south of Amsterdam.
  4. “We’re not made of sugar” ergo Dutch cyclists ride in all weather!

**2. Confirmation of previous AGM Minutes:** Approved Jill / Anne

**3. Matters arising from previous AGM Minutes:**

- a. Spokes did not accept contribution from CAN this year as Spokes’ financial position is healthy and feels that CAN will make very good use of it at a national level, which also helps out in Canterbury and Christchurch.

**4. Chair’s Report**

**a. Don’s Report is attached.**

- b. One of the year’s highlights was the awarding to Dirk de Lu of a Civic Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Christchurch. On behalf of us all Don reiterated his thanks to Dirk for his years of service, and wished him well as he faces ill-health.
- c. Christchurch and CCC were in a good position to leverage Government funding for shovel-ready projects relating to the Major Cycle Routes.

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

- a. The Treasurer’s Report and financial statements were emailed before the meeting (on 24/5/21 at 1534) and **are attached.**
- b. Robert noted that 2020-21 was a “year of kindness” in terms of Biketober sponsorship despite/because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- c. Robert also noted that CCC’s Strengthening Cities funding is likely to move to a four-year program and indicates the good standing in which Biketober is held.
- d. The benefit of being part of CAN was explained as giving Spokes and Biketober events Public Liability Insurance cover
- e. Report accepted (proposed Robert / seconded Meg)

## 6. Election of Officers

- a. Chair:
  - Don Babe (Chris/Fi)
  - No other nominations, so Don duly elected
- b. Treasurer:
  - Robert Fleming (Fi / Chris)
  - No other nominations, so Robert duly elected
- c. Secretary:
  - Chris Abbott (Fi / Meg)
  - No other nominations, so Chris duly elected
  - David Hawkes thanked in his absence for taking Core meeting minutes
- d. Executive Committee:
  - Don, Chris, Robert (all per officer status), plus Anne and Keith
  - No other nominations, so these five duly elected

## 7. General business

- a. Meg observed that given the improvements in Christchurch's cycling infrastructure Christchurch and CCC deserve to be nominated for the annual NZTA awards. Don will ensure that consideration is given this year.
- b. Sara thanked Spokes for its ongoing positivity regarding cycling.
- c. Chris thanked Cllrs Sara Templeton and Mike Davidson for their ongoing support for a cycle-friendly city.

## 8. Meeting closed: 7.08pm

## Appendix 1. Annual Chairperson's Report, 2021

Good evening,

If we compare the situation we are in individually, as a group and as a society to where we were in 2020 at this time I think we would all say we are better off than we both were then and expected to be.

The turmoil of the second quarter of 2020 passed quite quickly and most parts of our lives are back to business as usual. There are a couple of dozen kiwis that have had their life cut short because of the pandemic, quite a few people that were and maybe still are involved in the tourism sector that are still waiting to get their customers back and a number of people that have had to change their holiday habits but we are coping quite well.

There may have been an opportunity lost as the normality that has returned includes a lot of features that we would have liked to change and possibly could have. The actions required at the time can easily take up so much time that thoughts about long term changes get forgotten.

As people that travel by bikes in Christchurch we have benefitted a lot from the disruption. The biggest factor I am referring to is the shovel ready funding either used as a stimulant for the economy or a pre-election give away by the central government. This has enabled the Christchurch City Council to include the completion of most of the Major Cycleways in the proposed Long Term Plan. We may never know if the city council was expecting the form of the government contributions or if they just happened to be in the best position to get such a funding boost at the end of 2020.

The consequence is that there are road works in many parts of the city as further cycle ways are being installed. It will be great to be able to report on the completed facilities at next year's meeting.

A highlight of the year was the award of a Christchurch Civic Award to Dirk de Lu. Dirk was our submissions coordinator for a number of years and also had a stint as the newsletter editor. Unfortunately Dirk is experiencing ill health but it was good that his service was recognised by the Council.

We have continued to meet on a monthly basis with a couple of meetings having to be done by Zoom calls and one in the library because Ara was closed to outsiders during one lockdown. Our meetings are still dominated by people like me, mostly men in their 50s and 60s. The contributions that Charlotte and Ken have made over the years both in terms of getting things done and lowering our average age have probably gone on hold for a while, they had their first child a little over a month ago. Congratulations to them but we do miss them. However, some things are more important than cycling advocacy.

Robert Fleming and his team continue to offer a range of activities during Biketober. This is well supported by sponsors and provides some cash for us to use in our advocacy work. There was doubt whether the 2020 event would happen but it went ahead and the Passport one day challenge was a great day out.

The 2Walk and Cycle conference was delayed from October 2020 but did go ahead in March 2021 in Dunedin. There were 6 of our people there listening to some inspirational speakers and networking with others from around the country.

We are fortunate that Keith Turner is producing our monthly newsletter. Keith is putting a lot of effort into our flagship production and I think the quality of the coverage is improving with each issue. If you have anything you think should be communicated to those that cycle in Christchurch please get in touch with Keith at [newsletter@spokes.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@spokes.org.nz). Thanks Keith.

Our core submission activity has continued during the year and looks like ramping up as central government seeks input to their infrastructure plan. I do not recall being consulted on these topics before, it seems like government by committee to me. Thanks to Chris Abbott for coordinating the submissions role.

We had hoped Christchurch submissions would get less contentious as more cycleways were installed but the Wheels to Wings consultation recently has been one of the most difficult we have been involved in. Thanks to those that stayed close to this and answered people's questions politely.

Finally thanks to everyone that has helped us in our advocacy role during the past 12 months, I think we are making a difference. Just look out the front door of our venue and remember what that street was like during the 2000's.

Safe, happy riding.

Don Babe  
24 May 2021.

# Appendix 1. Annual Treasurer’s Report, 2021



2021 Spokes Financial Report PDF.pdf



2021SpokesAccts.pdf