



## Report of John France

### Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 30 November 2020

## Cycle Access in Gower

Members will remember that there is a proposal to create a cycle network across the Gower. They will also remember that while nobody directly opposed this idea there were considerable reservations about its implementation. These reservations can only be increased by recent events concerning cycleways in parts of West Swansea adjacent to Gower, and the actions of the Council with regard to them.

- a. **Mayals Road:** Two weeks ago the Traffic Engineers held a Zoom meeting to explain a scheme for a cycle track up Mayals (which is a gateway to Gower). No plans were made available to the public at any point and the only ones later obtained were very poor with no real description of the scheme. WHEELWRIGHTS is a lobbying body for cycling, was given privileged access at the meeting by being associated with the Council and allowed to address the meeting. The general public were allowed to ask questions and make points but the Engineer stated that this was a roads and not planning matter. The inference was that the attitude of the public mattered not at all. It appears that that the scheme needed to be in by March to qualify for government support. For there to be any chance of this being done the contracts must surely have been let out by now.
- b. **Clyne Woods:** Part of this zone is, I believe in the Gower AONB. New cycle ways are being proposed for this area and local people says they have not been asked about it. I am the recipient of a great deal of indignation, especially because established pathways are being closed and plans apparently made for tarmacked riding routes cutting across established walking routes. What all the people I have spoken to remark on is the remote attitude of the council and the lack of real consultation with anyone. I belong to Swansea Ramblers who have a strong interest in such matters – we are a lobby group like Wheelwrights -and the Council has not advised us of this scheme.

All or any of these schemes may have virtues. But giving special access to lobbyists has none at all. It would be unfortunate, to say the least, if these tactics of steamrolling through schemes without consultation are going to be applied more widely in Gower. This is why I am raising the matter here.