

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre

Wednesday 18th May 2016 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), Brian Turpin, Cllr Mark Ingleby, Stewart Whitworth, Alex Raha, Rik Andrew.
Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Roger Stocker.
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed. Responses to Actions not covered in main Agenda as below:
 - a) **LC Website – set up regular backup using BackWPU and Dropbox.**
Stuart, our website developer, previously offered to provide us with a full one-off ‘dump’ of the website.
Action: Jane to request that Stuart provides us with a full ‘dump’ of the website.
 - b) **Catford Green development.**
At our meeting with Sam Yell, the Catford Green Project Manager, on 3rd Feb he agreed to look into replacing the barrier in Adenmore Road with a bollard. Jane recently emailed him again to remind him of this commitment. He replied on the day of this meeting to say that he now has the bollard available and will be installing it ‘next week’.
 - c) **Eddystone Road Bridge – motorcycles.**
Nick Harvey (LBL) has investigated this issue about enforcement of motorcycle restrictions on this bridge and has been unable to find a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to cover it. As LCN route 22 passes over the bridge and this is soon to be upgraded to a Quietway, Nick said he would make sure this is picked up as part of the Quietway project.
 - d) **Grove Park Parade (14th May).**
There is a ‘debrief’ on the Parade with a film of it being shown at the Green Man pub on Tues 7th June at 6.30pm open to anyone who wishes to attend.
- 3) **Current issues & projects:**
 - a) **Lewisham Cycle Strategy.**
Cllr Mark Ingleby outlined the next steps for taking forward our Motion to Council, the Lewisham Cycle Strategy and the A21 Project.
The Motion should be taken to Full Council asap.
The Strategy needs to go to Mayor and Cabinet for approval. Once this has taken place it will be embedded in LBL policy so that future infrastructure projects will all have to be assessed against the Strategy.
The A21 Project is a distinct project that will need to be developed under and measured against the Strategy.
Action: Jane to publish the latest version of the Lewisham Cycle Strategy via social media with an invitation to comment.

As part of the promotion for the Strategy the meeting agreed that we should host a ‘Councillors Ride’. This would take in some of the new features of Quietway 1 e.g. Edward St two-way segregated cycle lane and a section of the A21 to illustrate how that road could be improved with similar cycle provision. The ride would be on Sun 3rd July at 11am for a maximum of 1.5hours. Then followed up with a briefing for Councillors at Labour Group on Mon 11th July in the evening. 15 minute presentation based on the Lewisham Cycle Strategy with time afterwards for Q&A.
Action: Alex, Rik & Stewart to prepare presentation.
Action: Cllr Ingleby to schedule with Labour Group.
 - b) **Lewisham Gateway development – follow up to Lewisham Mayoral Question.**
Brian and Tim had a follow-up meeting with Cllr Alan Smith (Deputy Mayor) on 11th March. At that meeting Cllr Smith agreed to support us in convening another meeting with TfL to

get access to the definitive up to date detailed plans. This meeting has not yet been set up and Cllr Smith said at the time that it would have to be after 23rd June because of 'purdah' for the Euro referendum. The general view of the meeting was that 'purdah' for the Euro referendum shouldn't impact local issues like Lewisham Gateway.

Action: Brian to chase Cllr Smith to organise the meeting with Catherine Abrahams as soon as possible.

c) **Quietway 1 (Q1) – general update on progress and schedule.**

Work is proceeding well on the Trundleys Rd crossing and in Edward St.

Work on the Childers St section (and Rolt St partial closure) are not scheduled to start until the building works on SR House are complete.

Tim has amended the www.openstreetmap.org Cycle Layer so it now shows the final route of Q1 correctly.

Tim has recently chased Nick Harvey for TfL/Sustrans contacts so we can be involved in the opening event(s) for the route and also a schedule for the Childers St section – no response received yet.

Action: Tim to chase Nick again if no response received soon.

d) **Deptford High St – Northern section project.**

Jane, and probably Alex, are meeting with Sandra Plummer (LBL) on Friday 20th to review the draft detailed development plans for Deptford High St.

e) **'Deptford Canal Link' campaign update.**

This proposed pedestrian and cycling 'link' would run from Folkestone Gardens (Quietway 1) along 'Canal Approach', under the Blackhorse Bridge on Evelyn Street to join up with the new 'Wharves Deptford' development shared path and the Thames path.

The current planning application for 'Trophy House' at the east end of Canal Approach (Lewisham Planning Ref DC/16/095258) is coming up before the Planning Committee on 19th May. Stewart, and other(s), will be speaking against the application as in its current form it would scupper attempts to develop the 'link'.

f) **Hilly Fields Midsummer Fayre (Sat 18th June– noon to 5pm)**

Dr Bike (two mechanics) and three pitches have been booked. John, Tim and Alex are attending. Stewart provisionally. Other volunteers welcome on the day.

g) **Summer Rides programme (Bike Week Sat 11th June to Sun 19th June).**

Jane is going to be away on holiday for much of June so she would welcome any LC members who are prepared to lead rides to help out with the rides programme.

Tim indicated he would lead a repeat of the 'Tour of New Cycle Infrastructure Ride' on one of the Bike Week weekends and also a Lewisham Peaks ride on the evening of Thu 16th June.

Brian said he should be able to lead a Tuesday Totter on Tue 7th June.

Other ride suggestions welcomed.

h) **Prudential RideLondon FreeCycle (Sat 30th July) feeder ride.**

Jane said that Lu at LCC had been trying to contact her probably about this feeder ride.

Jane, Alex and Tim all volunteered to marshal the ride.

Action: Jane to confirm to LCC that we will run a feeder ride.

i) **Courthill Rd turning issue.**

Tim has recently had discussions with Cllr Stella Jeffrey (Lewisham Central Ward) about the left turn from Lewisham High St into Courthill Road. Under the traffic light scheme introduced recently this turn is banned for all but cycles. However a significant number of motor vehicles are still making the turn and omitting to stop at the pedestrian lights at the start of Courthill Road although they are at red. Understandably local residents are concerned about the risk of a vehicle/pedestrian collision. Currently the traffic light configuration on Lewisham High St is a green light with 'no right turn' and 'no left turn except cycles' signs.

For clarity TfL would like to change the green light to a straight ahead only green arrow, however they have stated that under DfT rules that would have to apply to cycles as well!

Tim suggested that alternatively a sign should be added to show the alternative route via Longbridge Road and afterwards some enforcement work done by the local Police to see if that solves the problem.

Rik and Alex thought that the straight ahead arrow and left turn for cyclists could co-exist – if anyone can provide photographic evidence of this configuration elsewhere in London that would very much help the case!

4) **A.O.B**

a) **Lewisham ‘mini-Holland’.**

The new London Mayor Sadiq Khan committed in his election campaign to fund a mini-Holland for every London Borough. The meeting discussed potential mini-Holland locations in Lewisham e.g. Catford Town Centre, Deptford Town Centre or the A21 Segregated Lanes Project. The general view was that mini-Holland funding would be best utilised on the A21 Project which has close analogies with the Waltham Forest work done on Lea Bridge Road.

Action: Jane and Stewart to investigate further what the definitions of a mini-Holland project are and whether the A21 Project would be a suitable subject for one?

b) **Beckenham Place Park cycle-related developments.**

Jane & Matt Beale-Collins (Wheels for Wellbeing) are soon meeting with Access Sport regarding the development of a new BMX track within Beckenham Place Park. The BMX track is due to be constructed late in 2016.

c) **Lewisham Retail Park redevelopment.**

According to the recent public consultation the plans for this redevelopment retain and widen the Thurston Road cycle lane.

Action: Tim to respond to the consultation on behalf of Lewisham Cyclists to ensure the new cycle lane is two-way and meets current design standards for minimum width.

d) **LCC Membership totals.**

John informed us that Lewisham is now third in the LCC membership list with 838 members with only Hackney (885) and Lambeth (942) ahead of us.

e) **Addendum to last month’s minutes.**

John reminded us that at the last LC meeting ‘A member of the LC Committee offered to donate £500 towards the establishment of a permanent site for the Mend & Ride scheme should this possibility come about’.

f) **‘Quick win’ cycle developments.**

Rik proposed that, in addition to the medium term work on the Cycle Strategy and the A21 Project, the group should encourage LBL to make some more immediate improvements for cyclists. A couple he mentioned were keeping more of the parks unlocked at night to allow cycle passage e.g. Mountsfield Park and relocating some of the bus stops in Lewisham High St.

Brian commented that the new cycle racks at Blackheath Station were a good example of how useful small improvements can be.

Meeting closed around 8.30pm.

Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 15th June at Lewisham Civic Centre.