

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford

Wednesday 15th July 2015 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Alex Raha, Duncan Peterkin.
Apologies: Roger Stocker, Stewart Whitworth, Paul McQuillen.
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed. Responses to Actions not covered in main Agenda as below:
 - a) **'Cycling Champion' councillor.**
Previously we discussed if London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) should have a 'Cycling Champion' Councillor. Cllr Mark Ingleby indicated he would be happy to fulfil this role. Jane has sent a letter to the Mayor's Office to formally request this. Jane has received an acknowledgement email, but nothing further yet. Jane has recently emailed both Cllr Mark Ingleby and Cllr Joe Dromey to try and move this forward.
 - b) **Quietway Route 1 ('Q1' - Waterloo Station to Greenwich via Deptford).
LBL managed section (Creekside to Surrey Canal Road).**
Jane has recently received the raw consultation data for Q1 from Nick Harvey in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. Around 80 responses most of which were generally supportive. However 60 or so were specifically concerned about the point closure of Childers St.
Action: Jane to post spreadsheet of consultation results on LC website.
 - c) **LC 'Mend & Ride' workshop project.**
For information Jane has recently posted the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) Summary Document about the Mend & Ride project on the LC website here:
<http://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/mend-and-ride-project-summary-report-march-2015/>
 - d) **Sustrans proposed bridge linking Rotherhithe & Canary Wharf.**
There is now a website for this project which has been codenamed the Brunel Bridge:
www.brunelbridge.london
Action: Tim to follow up with Caroline's office and Sustrans to arrange a meeting with them in August.
 - e) **Proposal to email all LCC members in Lewisham periodically with updates on campaigning, rides etc.**
Stewart has prepared a draft communication using MailChimp. It was agreed that it looked interesting, readable and contained the right sort of information. Also agreed to aim to send one out every two months.
We have now received an up to date email list for Lewisham members from LCC. There is a proviso that we should contact LCC each time we use it to establish if we have an up to date version.
Action: Jane & Stewart to bring the draft communication up to date and send it out using the email list provided.
At some point in the future we may drop MailChimp and use the LCC central system 'Engaging Networks' once it is fully operational and the relevant people in LC have been trained in its use.
 - f) **LBL development plans for the following local areas: Kirkdale Shopping Area, Burnt Ash Hill, Sangley Road, Hither Green Lane and Dartmouth Rd. Consultations close 21st June for the first four and 30th June for Dartmouth Road.**
Jane has made formal responses on behalf of LC for Dartmouth Road and Kirkdale taking into account various member responses previously received.
Tim has made formal responses on behalf of LC for Burnt Ash Hill, Sangley Road and Hither Green Lane taking into account various member responses previously received.

g) **Quietway Route 1 'Q1' – (Waterloo to Greenwich via Deptford) development progress.**

Nick Harvey tells us that the revised Childers St design may now incorporate a banned right turn from Rolt Street into Childers St to prevent rat-running traffic, while maintaining local resident vehicular access. We are waiting to see the final proposal.

h) **Feeder Ride for Ride London Freecycle, on Saturday 1st August.**

Jane will be leading this feeder ride from the usual location - the bridge on the Waterlink Way (NCN21) in Lower Sydenham behind Bell Green Sainsbury's. Jane is still looking for marshals who need to sign up asap via this website: <http://lcc.org.uk/pages/ride-london-volunteers-led-ride-marshals>

Alex, Duncan Tim and John all said they would be able to help out.

3) **Current issues & projects:**

a) **Lewisham Gateway development issues.**

There are two elements to this issue – 1) Safe management of cyclists during the ongoing development of the new junction layout. 2) The specifically cycling related features of the final design and cycle safety of the road configuration.

As discussed at the previous meeting an email was sent on 18th June to Steve Bullock (Mayor of Lewisham) cc Cllr Alan Smith, Lewisham Central Councillors, Heidi Alexander MP and Simon Moss (LBL Manager).

A 'holding' response was received from Andy Williams (Office of Sir Steve Bullock) on 30th June – an extract follows: 'At Sir Steve's request, I have asked senior officers in Transport to liaise with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Alan Smith, whose portfolio includes Transport and Regeneration, and send you their comments on your concerns that your suggested modifications, comments and complaints about the Lewisham Gateway highway layout are being overlooked by TfL alongside your request that LBL as a senior partner uses its position to press TfL and the developer to engage and reconsider.'

Heidi Alexander MP also responded in writing asking to be copied into further correspondence.

Those at the meeting agreed this wasn't a satisfactory response and as we haven't heard anything further agreed to escalate the issue with a further letter to London Assembly Members Caroline Pidgeon (Lib Dem – Head of Transport Committee), Len Duval (Labour) and Darren Johnson (Green) cc Akubueze Ikenna (TfL Communications Officer responsible for Lewisham Gateway).

It was also agreed to prepare a Press Release for local media: Kate Gould (South London Press) kate.gould@slp.co.uk and Mark Chandler (News Shopper) mchandler@london.newsquest.co.uk

Action: Brian to send the second email pp Jane and LC. Also to prepare a press release.

b) **Molesworth St – TfL initial proposals.**

TfL have recently released these plans for Stakeholder Consultation. There are some positive elements to the plans e.g. semi-segregated Northbound cycle lane along Lewisham High St from Whitburn Road to Engate St. However the two-way cycle lane along Molesworth St is just 'tidied-up' rather than being relocated to the East side of the pavement, segregated and set at carriageway level as we suggested.

Please send any comments to Jane asap so she can compile a group response.

Action: Jane to make LC response to TfL by deadline of 17th July.

c) **CS4 outline plans.**

Jane attended a LCC meeting recently where she briefly saw some outline plans for Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) - London Bridge to Greenwich via Surrey Quays. LC have been involved previously in evaluation rides on this route with TfL and we believe that a 2 way segregated cycle lane predominantly on the North side of the main road(s) is a feasible option for the majority of the route. Apparently the outline plans do not take this approach and are quite disappointing in their ambition. Nick Harvey from LBL is meeting with TfL regarding this route soon and has said that he will make representations about our

preferred approach.

Action: Jane to contact Nick re LC also being represented at the meeting with TfL.

d) **Cycling in Lewisham parks – upcoming meeting with Lewisham Parks User Group (LPUG).**

Tony Rich from the Lewisham Parks User Group wishes to arrange a meeting with LC representative(s) and Liz Brooker (LBL Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Manager). Apparently the LPUG is concerned about some instances of inconsiderate cycling in Lewisham's Parks. They are not anti-cycling by any means but wish to discuss ways of improving pedestrian/cyclist interactions. This could involve new signage, leafleting etc. We discussed this briefly in the meeting and agreed the following:

1) We would support 'Considerate cycling welcomed, pedestrians have priority signs' at the main entrances to parks.

2) We aren't generally in favour of painting white lines down paths and marking one side a cycle lane and the other for pedestrians as this does not work in practise with pedestrians continually straying into the cycle lane. Also pedestrians tend to take it as an implication that cyclists shouldn't be cycling elsewhere in the park which isn't the case in Lewisham parks.

3) We would support a 'considerate cycling' leafleting campaign provided we agreed with the content of the leaflet. Jane commented that this approach had been tried before on Surrey Canal Path and was not that successful in her view.

Jane and John indicated they would like to attend any meeting that was held on this issue.

e) **LCC governance Review paper - Public Liability insurance cover requirements & recommended Notification of Meetings best practice.**

John made an interim report on his discussions with LCC on these points as follows:

Notification of LC meetings to our (800) members:

1) LCC are anxious to ensure members are kept as widely informed as possible, but within workable limits – the Charity Commissioners may be leaning on them a little. For our regular monthly meetings correspondence I've had with Mustafa about best practice suggests that our website would be sufficient for this purpose.

2) AGM notification by contrast should be emailed to our entire LCC membership list. This can or shortly will be available to use. A password will be available which will enable us to login and despatch the emails from the LCC's database. I'll attend the next LCC training session when they let me know when this is and pass on the essentials afterwards.

Third party liability insurance

Basically cover is in place with LCC's insurers provided we have told LCC in advance when an activity is to take place. Seems to me there are three types of activity.

1) Rides. Provided we post notice of forthcoming rides on LCC Rides and Events page then we're covered - no problem here since we usually do this anyway.

2) Monthly Meetings. In theory this should also go on the Rides and Events webpage. However it's a fag to have to it, it would tend to clutter up the page itself and it's difficult to envisage a scenario where liability could occur. I'd suggest we could disregard this requirement from an insurance point of view.

Tim and Jane commented that in fact we have set up a recurring appointment for the LC Monthly Meeting on the LCC website so the point is moot.

3) Services e.g. Mend & Ride scheme, Loan Bikes, Training. This seems the most problematic area. Arguably, potential risk is greater here than anywhere else since lightly or non-experienced cyclists are involved. Chris Evans – finance officer at LCC emailed a while back to say these activities ARE covered but Mustafa seems to be suggesting that some form of prior notification is required. It's difficult to see how it would be practicable to advise LCC each and every time a Loan Bike is taken out or a training session is organised. This perhaps needs clarification and I'll be attempting this in the coming months. I'm attending a boro group meeting at LCC tomorrow and may get some resolution there.

Jane commented that the Mend & Ride sessions are OK as they are notified on the LCC website. For Training, which is only done by Jane, she is covered under her personal Third Party liability insurance. For Loan Bikes Jane is maintaining a maintenance log for each bike plus a register of users.

Action: Jane to check with LCC if the current Loan Bike procedures are adequate for LC to be covered under the LCC insurance.

Action: John to attend upcoming LCC Local Groups meeting to further review these points with LCC staff.

4) **A.O.B**

Mend & Ride workshop – Action: Jane to send out Doodle Poll again so that members can volunteer to help with upcoming workshops.

Meeting closed around 8.45pm.

Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 19th August at 6:30pm - venue to be confirmed but probably Lewisham Civic Centre.