

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford

Wednesday 20th January 2016 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Roger Stocker, Alex Raha, Stewart Whitworth, Christopher Jude, Nimal Jude, Kemi Yusuph, Ian Welsby.

Apologies: None.

- 2) **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed. Responses to Actions not covered in main Agenda as below:

- a) **A20 Lewisham to New Cross highway proposed changes – TfL Stakeholder Consultation ended 1st November.**

We objected to the removal of pedestrian crossings and in particular the removal of the uphill advisory cycle lane on Loampit Vale.

- b) **Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) provisional plans.**

Nick Harvey previously informed us that the TfL Stakeholder Consultation was due to take place by end of January, but we have heard nothing further about this.

Action: Tim to contact Nick Harvey to establish what is happening with CS4 in Lewisham Borough (LBL).

- c) **Lewisham Local Plan - First Stage Consultation ended 20th November.**

We missed the deadline for making a response to this consultation.

- 3) **Current issues & projects:**

- a) **Lewisham Gateway (LG) development issues.**

On behalf of LC Brian Turpin submitted the following question to the Lewisham Mayor in advance of the Mayoral Questions meeting on 20th January:

Given that the proposed new junction for the Lewisham Gateway seems unlikely to be improved in line with modern cycling safety standards, can we be assured that the Council are having further discussions with Transport for London and the developer to offer alternative off-carriageway routes around the new junction? Lewisham Cyclists are aware of outline plans for such routes but so far have not been shown any detailed designs showing how these will work in practice, and address the major issue of a safe and convenient east – west crossing of the town centre and direct linkages to all existing off-carriageway cycle routes in the surrounding area. Given this scheme is scheduled to be introduced in 2016 can we see immediately the current state of the designs so we can assess their viability.

The written response from LBL was:

Lewisham Council has worked with the GLA, TfL and developers, Muse, to deliver the Lewisham Gateway development in the heart of the town centre. The main aim of the scheme is to remove the large roundabout, which acts as a barrier to both pedestrians and cyclists, and replace it with a new area of pedestrianised public realm and related development.

Although the physical constraints of the site do not allow for segregated routes throughout the town centre, a number of additional provisions have been made for cycling at the Council's request, including safe cycle crossing points and east-west cycle access through the pedestrianised areas.

The current scheme design has been shared with Lewisham Cyclists, and there are currently no further designs in progress for new alternative routes. However, the Council

continues to work with TfL to promote improvements to cycling infrastructure, including the implementation of Cycling Quietways.

Brian Turpin represented LC in person at the Mayor's Questions meeting on 20th January and asked a supplementary question along these lines:

Lewisham are on the record as having already committed to providing new off-carriageway cycle facilities, and improved connectivity to local routes (promised by the Lewisham Mayor to Darren Johnson in writing in 2015). We did indeed see the outline plans for the road scheme in 2013 but have not seen the final detailed plans for the road and shared use areas that are being implemented in the current works. Can the Deputy Mayor assure us that we will get sight of these detailed plans as soon as possible so that we may comment on their practicality and to enable us to advise local cyclists of the safest way of avoiding this hazard to safer cycling?

In response to this supplementary question the Deputy Mayor Cllr Smith replied he would be open to meeting our representatives to discuss the off-carriageway routes around the new proposed road junction at Lewisham Gateway. He had some more data on traffic modelling that he would share and Cllr Ingleby has a recent map with indicative routes that would help inform our discussions which should be held in early February. Effective joining up of these indicative routes is going to be crucial to allow cyclists to avoid the road junction, especially an east-west route linking the main entry points to the junction.

Action: Brian and Jane to coordinate meeting with Cllrs Smith and Ingleby.

b) **'Cycling Champion' Councillor.**

We're pleased to announce that LBL has recently appointed a new Cycle Champion. Although we are still awaiting official confirmation from the Mayor's office, Councillor Mark Ingleby, one of the Whitefoot ward councillors, has been appointed to the role. We have already had a meeting with Councillor Ingleby on January 6th to discuss various issues, including the development of a clear Cycling Strategy for LBL.

c) **Quietway 1 (Waterloo to Greenwich via Deptford) – general progress report.**

London Borough of Southwark section (Waterloo to South Bermondsey station) – this appears to be roughly 95% complete with both new sets of traffic lights (Tower Bridge Road and Dunton Road) now operational.

Sustrans managed section (South Bermondsey station to Surrey Canal Road). We met briefly with Sustrans before Xmas to discuss progress on this section. They indicated the project was going well and recent visits to the margins of the site suggest this is the case with new paving almost complete at South Bermondsey station. We don't have a definitive completion date but are anticipating completion by March.

LBL section (Surrey Canal Road to Deptford Ha'penny Hatch Bridge). The Surrey Canal Road cycle path is nearing completion with only the build-ups remaining to be done on two road crossings. The Trundleys Road junction redesign is apparently temporarily on hold due to the need to reroute some unexpected cables. Works are proceeding on several other sections of the route e.g. the tunnel from Folkestone Gardens to Childers St, the park at the South end of Childers St and the small estate adjacent to Edward St.

Action: Tim to check with Nick Harvey what the current schedule is for Q1 in LBL.

Action: Tim to check with Nick Harvey what the plans for promoting the opening of the route are, with a view to us being actively involved.

Action: Tim to ask Nick Harvey for the designs for the Edward St estate (off-road) section of the route, which weren't included in the last online consultation. Also results from the Cycle Level of Service (CLOS) analysis and Junction Assessment Tool for the route.

d) **Brunel Bridge (Surrey Quays to Canary Wharf walking and cycling bridge) – meeting with Sustrans brief report.**

Jane and Tim met with the Sustrans project team on the 23th November. At that time they

were just finalising the Feasibility Study for the proposed bridge. The selected design is for a 'bascule' bridge with two lifting sections (like Tower Bridge) with ramped accesses for cyclists and walkers. The bridge needs to be fairly substantial to handle quite high levels of anticipated users in peak periods. Also it needs to have adequate waiting areas for the occasional bridge opening events, which in the case of a large ocean going liner could last up to 25 minutes. The bridge would provide a very direct route from Lambeth and Southwark boroughs in particular, to Canary Wharf, and as such would provide a very useful relief for the already overcrowded Jubilee line. Total cost of the development would be around £100M.

They are now looking for political backing and funding for construction of the bridge to take it forward. We agreed that we would assist in any campaigning efforts to gain support over the next few months.

e) **Beckenham Place Park – Heritage Lottery Fund project.**

There has recently been intense controversy about this project under which the current plan was to close the golf course altogether. Here is the draft masterplan for the park:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/improvements-to-parks/BeckenhamPlacePark/Pages/Masterplan.aspx>

Because a petition of 5000 signatures against the possible closure of the golf course was handed in to the Mayor, the proposals for regenerating the park were taken to the Council's Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 14th January. LC representatives did not attend this meeting and we are yet to hear the outcome(s).

There is though a stakeholders' 'Discussion Group' meeting on Thurs 4th Feb 2pm to 4pm which Jane is intending to attend.

In discussions on the LC elist it was clear that the LC group was somewhat split as to whether the golf course should be retained at 18 holes, reduced to 9 holes or abolished altogether. Therefore it was decided not to take a position on this issue but await the outcome of the Scrutiny Committee meeting and work with that.

The features that we are particularly looking for in the masterplan are: 1) Multi-use cycling circuit 2) Family riding routes 3) Greenway style through cycling routes.

Action: Jane to attend Discussion Group meeting on 4th February.

f) **Email Newsletter – next issue.**

We are aiming to send this out about every two months. The next one is now due.

Action: Jane to send final details for next issue to Stewart.

g) **Lewisham Cycle Strategy.**

At the meeting we looked at some maps of proposed 'flagship' cycle routes to be included in the strategy. Jane suggested members should email the elist regarding their preferences for the 'flagship' routes. In the end we didn't reach any conclusions about the strategy, but it was agreed to have a separate 'working group' meeting on it, followed by a meeting with Cllr Mark Ingleby, before anything is formally presented to LBL.

In the discussions it was noted that Downham is a huge gap in planned provision. Alex mentioned that local community groups are working to get section 106 money from the redevelopment of Downham Fire Station to fund a new cycling and walking bridge over the railway where the 'railway children walk' crosses the railway between Grove Park Community Centre and the old fire station. This would open up a very useful E-W Quietway style route and provide a potential N-S alternative route to Baring Road via Cumberland Place.

Action: Jane to organise working group meeting and subsequent meeting with Cllr Ingleby.

4) **New Year actions**

a) **LC Website – set up regular backup using BackWPU and Dropbox.**

Action: Tim to set this up for the LC website.

b) **Catford Green development – arrange meeting with Project Manager.**

Action: Jane to contact the Project Manager to have an onsite meeting to discuss various issues surrounding this development.

c) **Deptford High St (North section development plans) – arrange meeting with LBL Highways Officer.**

Action: Jane to chase Sandra Plummer at LBL re meeting up asap.

d) **Route 22 & Waterlink Way Quietway conversion – ensure involved in initial evaluation ride over**

Action: Tim to contact Nick Harvey regarding this. Include Cllr Mark Ingleby in any meeting.

5) **A.O.B**

Mend & Ride workshop.

Alex mentioned that Mend & Ride had been a great success at the Grove Park Community centre, but he observed that the 2nd session on Friday afternoon had not been particularly well attended. Jane commented that we have been offered the possible use of a building in Deptford Park which would provide a north of borough location for Mend & Ride. Everyone agreed that was worth following up as a possible alternative to the Friday session at Grove Park.

Action: Jane to discuss this option further with Scott Barkwith and Deptford Folk (the park user group for Deptford Park and Folkestone Gardens).

Evelyn Ward cycle issues.

This month Jane has had some discussions with Scott Barkwith, who is a cycle interested Evelyn Ward resident. As part of the Quietway 1 developments a one-way block and width restrictor is being placed in the east end of Rolt St. He is proposing moving the one-way block from the junction of Rolt Street/Childers Street further westward to be adjacent to the crossing between Folkestone Gardens and the Woodpecker Estate so that a cycle/pedestrian crossing can be installed there.

This proposal was discussed at the meeting and it was agreed to in principle support the crossing, but wait and see with the reduced traffic volumes associated with the one-way block whether it is still needed. We weren't sure that it was necessary or practical to move the one-way block due to the vehicular access needed to the small industrial units adjacent to Rolt St.

Eddystone road bridge – motorcycles.

Roger raised the issue that apparently the police cannot enforce the ban on motorcycles on the bridge due to the signage being incorrect.

Action: Tim to raise with Nick Harvey.

Brockley corridor development project.

Action: Tim to check with Nick Harvey how this project is proceeding and likely schedule(s).

Brockley station – Coulgate St development project.

Action: Tim to check with Nick Harvey how this project is proceeding and likely implementation schedule.

Meeting closed around 8.30pm.

Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 17th February at Lewisham Civic Centre.