

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford

Wednesday 17th February 2016 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Stewart Whitworth, Abigail Tripp (Wheels for Wellbeing).
Apologies: Alex Raha, Roger Stocker, Rik Andrew, Ian Welsby.
- 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.**

In the consultation we objected to the removal of pedestrian crossings and in particular the removal of the uphill advisory cycle lane on Loampit Vale.
TfL recently released the results of the consultation which they have interpreted as favouring their plans, including the removal of the advisory cycle lane. Therefore it's looking like they are going to proceed with their plans despite our, and others, objections.
 - b) **Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) provisional plans.**

We've been informed that the TfL consultation on CS4 has been postponed by TfL after feedback from London Borough of Lewisham (LBL). They want to see if more can be done, as we do, on the Lewisham section, including investigating the feasibility of extending the two way cycle track further east along Evelyn Street.
 - c) **Quietway 1 (Waterloo to Greenwich via Deptford).**

Nick Harvey recently provided the following update on the LBL managed section of Q1 – "Route to be operational by May 2016. However the Childers Street scheme is being held until work on the SR house factory on Childers Street development is complete owing to the temporary traffic management they have in Childers Street and the hoardings meaning our scheme cannot be implemented until this has been removed. Current timescales for the completion of the development is August 2016 at which point we can implement the Childers Street element of the design. In the interim the route will still be signed along Childers Street."

He also informed us that the Sustrans managed section (between South Bermondsey station and Surrey Canal Road) was likely to open in late February. The opening being promoted by TfL/Sustrans.

Action: Tim to chase Nick for TfL/Sustrans contacts so we can be involved in the opening event(s).

Action: Tim to post designs for Edward St estate (off-road) section recently received from Nick Harvey to the LC elist.
 - d) **Beckenham Place Park – Heritage Lottery Fund project.**

Jane unfortunately missed the recent 'Discussion Group' meeting on this project due to a mix-up over the location of the meeting. She has asked for any minutes of the meeting, if taken, and has also contacted Bromley Cyclists to see if they were represented at the meeting and could tell us what was discussed.

Apparently a decision is going to be made imminently by LBL as to whether or not to close the golfing facilities at Beckenham Place Park as part of this project.
 - e) **LC Website – set up regular backup using BackWPU and Dropbox.**

Jane mentioned that Stuart, our website developer, had said that plug-ins like this sometimes introduced security vulnerabilities into WordPress websites.

Action: Jane to contact Stuart and check if it is OK for Tim/Jane to install this plug-in.
 - f) **Catford Green development – arrange meeting with Project Manager.**

Jane, Tim and Nick Harvey (LBL) met with Sam Yell, the new Catford Green Project Manager, on 3rd Feb. We specifically discussed the positioning of the barrier in Adenmore

Road and the fact that the remaining gaps were too narrow to be safely navigated by cyclists. Sam said that the reason the large wooden blocks had been installed was that cars had been going round the barrier by mounting the pavement. He indicated that he would look into replacing the barrier with a bollard.

We briefly discussed other aspects of the development e.g. the new bridge over the railway and cycle access to the North end of the site, but he wasn't able to comment on either of these as he hasn't yet seen those plans...

g) Deptford High St (North section development plans)

Jane and Tim met with Sandra Plummer (LBL) who is project managing this project on 3rd Feb in Deptford High St. We discussed at length the plans with her and subsequently provided the following response to the consultation:

"We are supportive of any attempt to reduce the high levels of rat-running traffic in this section of DHS. Although we would have preferred making the whole of the north section one way as it would have reduced traffic and released more road space to people circulating space, we understand your argument about the importance of the continuance of the street market near the station. In the absence of our preferred full one-way option we are OK with the alternative plan to introduce a short one-way section at the north end at Evelyn St provided cyclists are provided with full contra-flow access with a clearly defined cycle path.

As discussed we also very much liked the sound of the proposed 'diagonal pedestrian and cycle' track and traffic light phase directly across to New King Street from DHS. With the Convoys Wharf development it is imperative that a direct and prioritised pedestrian and cycle route is established between Deptford High St (and railway station) and Convoys Wharf.

Where Quietway 1 crosses DHS between Hamilton St and Crossfield St we feel strongly that cyclists need to have a segregated option to avoid the need to ride on the main DHS carriageway. Either a segregated two way cycle lane along DHS (as is being installed in Edward St) or a widened section of shared pavement if the segregated lane is not feasible. Then a 'cycle zebra' for priority crossing of DHS adjacent to the existing zebra crossing.

Provision of cycle parking. Essentially the more the better as far as we are concerned - simple Sheffield stands and those small circular stands attached to lamp posts and street signs."

At this LC monthly meeting Stewart commented that the proposed plans were not going to make that much impact on rat-running traffic through Deptford High St. We briefly discussed the idea of banning some turns in the area but it wasn't immediately apparent how to do this while still allowing adequate vehicular access to the market(s) for servicing etc.

h) Eddystone Road bridge – motorcycles.

At the last LC meeting Roger raised the issue that apparently the police cannot enforce the ban on motorcycles on the bridge due to the signage being incorrect. Nick Harvey said that he would investigate if this is the case.

i) Brockley corridor development project.

Nick Harvey told us that the Crofton Park section of the corridor is in 'early development'.

j) Brockley station – Coulgate St development project.

Nick Harvey told us that work on this project is scheduled to start on site in March. We last saw, and commented on, the plans in October 2015 and they looked pretty good at that time.

Nick also informed us that he is looking into providing further covered cycle storage adjacent to the station just to the South of the street level TfL entry gate building.

k) Route 22 & Waterlink Way Quietway conversions – ensure involved in initial evaluation ride over(s).

Nick Harvey indicated these would be taking place in August/September this year and he would ensure LC and Cllr Ingleby were involved.

l) **Mend & Ride monthly workshop in Deptford Park (replacing one of the Grove Park workshops).**

Jane has discussed this proposal further with Deptford Folk, they are keen and seem to have suitable premises in the park. She has emailed Scott Barkwith with a proposal and is waiting for a response.

3) **Current issues & projects:**

a) **Lewisham Gateway (LG) development – follow up to Lewisham Mayoral Question.**

In response to the Lewisham Mayoral Question last month the Deputy Mayor Cllr Smith indicated he would be open to meeting us to discuss the off-carriageway routes around the new proposed road junction at Lewisham Gateway. He said 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. 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. Due to Cllr Smith, Jane and Brian's holidays, it looks like this will have to be after 8th March.

b) **Lewisham Council formal Motion on cycling facilities in the borough.**

Over the last couple of weeks LC have been collaborating with Cllr Ingleby on developing a formal Motion to be taken by him to the Labour Group and Full Council during the w/b/ 20th Feb.

Action: Jane to get the final agreed text from Cllr Ingleby to post on the LC elist etc.

c) **Lewisham Cycle Strategy.**

This is progressing well and we are aiming to have it completed within the next month or so. Once we see how the above Motion is received by Labour Group, Council and the Mayor we can then decide how to take the Strategy forward.

Action: Jane to circulate the current version asap for final comments.

4) **A.O.B**

a) **Wheels for Wellbeing (WfW).**

Abigail Tripp attended the meeting to tell us about their activities.

WfW is a South London charity helping people to enjoy cycling regardless of disability, health condition or age. Since their founding in 2007 they have supported thousands of people to cycle in London.

They provide:

Regular cycle sessions with a wide range of two, three and four wheeled cycles.

Discovery sessions where they bring their cycles to community hubs and schools.

Advice and assistance.

WfW is funded by grants and donations.

Their website is www.wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk

They hold weekly sessions in Croydon, Ladywell Day Centre (and Ladywell Fields in good weather) and Herne Hill velodrome.

WfW are this year holding an Easter Bunny event where they are looking for organisations who are holding rides over Easter to collect money for WfW and wear bunny ears while riding if they dare! Go here for more details:

<http://www.wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/2016/01/easter-bunny-ride/>

WfW are also always looking for volunteers to help at their sessions. Please go here for

further details: <http://www.wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/jobs-volunteering/>

Action: Jane/Stewart to consider adding WfW sessions to LC email newsletter.

b) **Canal Approach in Deptford (existing right of way from Surrey Canal Road to Evelyn Street).**

There are currently plans for redeveloping the industrial estate that flanks Canal Approach and this potentially provides a one-off opportunity to link Quietway 1 with the Thames Cycle Path via the old canal tunnel under Evelyn St.

Stewart has recently been talking with Deptford Folk about this possibility and is in the process of organising a follow-up meeting with them for one evening in the w/b 29th Feb.

Action: Stewart to organise meeting and keep us informed about the discussions.

c) **Silvertown Tunnel project.**

The meeting agreed that we are wholly opposed to the proposed Silvertown Tunnel road scheme as it will result in increased traffic levels and pollution in the surrounding areas, including Lewisham.

Action: Jane to send a letter to the three Lewisham MPs stating that we oppose the project and encouraging them to do all they can to prevent it proceeding.

Meeting closed around 8pm.

Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th March at Lewisham Civic Centre.