

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford

Wednesday 16th March 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), Brian Turpin, Stewart Whitworth, Rik Andrew, Sandra Roling, Cllr Mark Ingleby.
Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Alex Raha, Roger Stocker, Ian Welsby, Matt Barker.
- 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.**
Jane emailed Stuart, our website developer, on 14/3 to check if it is OK to install this plug-in into the WordPress website.
Action: Jane/Tim to install this plug-in when, and if, Stuart gives it the OK.
 - b) **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 3/2. We 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.
The barrier configuration has not yet been modified.
Action: Jane to contact Sam Yell again regarding the barrier re-configuration.
 - c) **Eddystone Road Bridge – motorcycles.**
At a previous 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 has said that he will investigate if this is the case.
Action: Tim to check with Nick what progress he has made on this point.
 - d) **Brockley corridor development project.**
Jane attended a stakeholder consultation meeting on 16/3 regarding the Crofton Park Streetscape element of this project. The draft plans seem to be a bit disappointing in its lack of ambition with carriageway narrowing, inset parking bays and tree planting, but the absence of a real focal point for the locality. They also don't seem to be treating the whole Brockley corridor in a continuous and consistent way as originally intended, possibly due to a lack of money.
 - e) **Silvertown Tunnel project.**
The previous 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.
Jane has recently sent 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.
- 3) **Current issues & projects:**
 - a) **Lewisham Council formal Motion on cycling facilities in the borough**
Cllr Mark Ingleby took the Motion below, developed co-operatively between Cllr Ingelby and LC, to the Lewisham Labour Group of Councillors recently. It was passed unanimously. The intention is to put the Motion before full Council and the Mayor soon, but this will be a bit delayed as the next Council Meeting is the AGM (which is only ceremonial) and the subsequent one is impacted by the London Mayoral election. However Mark indicated that as it has been passed by the Labour Group the Deputy Mayor should still initiate work on the motion with a view to getting money from TfL for a Feasibility Study on the A21 project.

“Motion: Improving Cycling in Lewisham – Strategic focus on the A21.

One of the key findings of the 2015 Sustainable Development Select Committee Modern Roads Review was that cycling should play an important role in delivering a modern roads network for Lewisham in the 21st century. Yet only 2% of journeys in Lewisham are made by bicycle at the moment – lower than comparable boroughs - because LBL lacks high quality cycle routes along any of its main distributor roads, and our one existing through route, the Waterlink Way, will not support or deliver greater numbers, especially at peak times.

The report's recommendations included several promoting cycling in the borough, including:

- That any future re-design of the Catford Gyratory (A205/A21) incorporates the needs of cyclists and pedestrians from the beginning of the process
- That the Council considers the full range of different cycle-friendly road designs that radically improve the safety and environment for cyclists including recently implemented exemplar junction schemes in other London boroughs.
- That officers investigate proposals outlined by Lewisham Cyclists in relation to improving cycling conditions across the borough

In the light of these recommendations, and of the acknowledged need to increase significantly cycling's modal share in Lewisham it is proposed that the council work on a plan with TfL for the development of a safe segregated cycle route through the borough along the A21, running from Downham to Deptford, connecting to the Cycle Superhighway 4 on the A200 (and Quietway 1).

This route will help to link up existing cycle routes through the borough to the east and west, such as the Waterlink Way.

This single route would not only provide a fast and effective link for those cycling to central London, but would also better connect the communities of Lewisham to its main town centres, as well as neighbouring boroughs of Greenwich, Southwark and Bromley. The consideration of the route will provide the strategic focus and backbone necessary for delivering a cycling vision for Lewisham, based on place-making.

Both the A21 route and A200 (CS4) can seize the opportunities where available to incorporate the latest ‘best practice’ designs now found elsewhere in London - e.g. floating bus stops and major junctions which prevent left hooks and right hooks. But, primarily, the opportunity is to consider creatively and deliver effectively the best use of existing public space which the cycle segregation challenge offers in all current and future locations along the A21.”

Action: Jane to post the text of this motion to the LC website.

b) Lewisham Gateway development – follow up to Lewisham Mayoral Question.

This Mayoral Question was specifically about the off-road cycle routes around the Gateway development and their connection with existing cycle routes in the area e.g. NCN21.

Brian and Tim had a follow-up meeting with Cllr Alan Smith (Deputy Mayor) on 11/3. Cllr Smith showed us the animated TfL traffic model for the Lewisham Gateway and we also reviewed plans for the development – the same ones as we had seen previously.

Encouragingly Cllr Smith indicated that he believed all the signalised pedestrian crossings around Gateway were being installed as Toucans i.e. dual pedestrian/cyclist use. However the plans we were looking at do not have the level of detail or define the shared use pavement areas to verify his understanding for sure. Cllr Smith agreed to support us in convening another meeting with TfL to get access to the definitive up to date detailed

plans. He mentioned that if the meeting is after 21/4 he won't be able to attend because of 'purdah' associated with the London Mayoral election.

He also mentioned that the Lewisham Gateway road system is not now due for completion until September due to over-running Thames Water works.

Action: Brian to follow up with Cllr Smith to organise a meeting with Catherine Abrahams, et al, at TfL.

c) Lewisham Cycle Strategy.

This is progressing well and we are aiming for completion by 4/4.

As part of the development of the Strategy it was agreed to ride over the A21 to do an initial assessment of what sort of segregated route would be appropriate for each section and review potential issues. This ride will take place on 22/3 meeting at 08:30 in Coffee Addict in Rennell St.

We intend to take photos on the 22/3 A21 ride-over and the 'New Infrastructure' ride on 2/4 for subsequent insertion in the Strategy document.

Actions were agreed as follows:

Jane and Brian agreed to work on finalising the text in the Strategy over the next week or so.

Stewart said he would look at the document with a view to inserting place-holders for photos to be subsequently inserted.

Rik said he would look at developing a schematic diagram of the main proposed cycle routes across the borough.

d) Quietway 1 – general update on progress and schedule.

The Sustrans managed section of the route between South Bermondsey station and Surrey Canal Road appears to be complete, but the access gates at the station are still locked.

The section through the tunnel between Folkestone Gardens and Childers St is now open.

The section through the park at the South East end of Childers St is also now open.

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

Action: Tim to chase Nick again for TfL/Sustrans contacts so we can be involved in the opening event(s) for the Sustrans managed section (between South Bermondsey station and Surrey Canal Road).

Action: Tim also to email any relevant Sustrans contacts we are already aware of regarding the opening.

e) Deptford 'Surrey Canal Approach' meeting – summary.

'Canal Approach' is a currently closed section of path that runs along the line of the old tow path of the Surrey Canal between Folkestone Gardens and the Blackhorse Bridge on Evelyn Street. It would make a great pedestrian and cycling link between Quietway 1 and the Thames Path via the new 'The Wharves Deptford' Lend Lease development to the East of Evelyn street. This development is making a feature of the previous Surrey Canal route <http://www.thewharvesdeptford.com/>.

The route could go under Blackhorse Bridge so avoiding roads entirely.

When the London Overground station opens on Surrey Canal Road it would also provide a route directly to/from that station via Q1.

Deptford Folk, Deptford Working Histories and Lewisham Cyclists had a meeting recently to kick off a joint effort (provisionally dubbed 'RediscoverDeptford – CanalLink') to get this route re-opened and protected from future development.

There is a current development (Neptune Wharf) at the west end of Canal Approach which is opening up the route under the railway between Folkestone Gardens and Deptford Park. However at the same time they have permission to install gates across Canal Approach creating a secure 'mews' area in the eastern part of the development. This permission has the caveat that it should be possible to re-open the route when surrounding areas are re-developed...

Stewart commented that the joint working group could follow a similar approach to the Peckham 'Coal Line' project which has made progress using a crowd-funding approach to fund a feasibility study.

The working group is convening another meeting in the near future.

f) **Spring Cycling Event in Deptford Park.**

Deptford Folk (User group for Deptford Park and Folkestone Gardens) have invited us to participate in this event on 23/4. We will do a Dr Bike and probably Bike Jumble. Any volunteers welcomed.

Action: Jane to reply that we will attend and organise a Dr Bike mechanic.

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

Lewisham Council has agreed to remove the golf course entirely from the park thus enabling the project to move forward. The cycling related developments that we would like to see in the park include:

- Preserve and improve the two existing cycle routes through the park.
- Establish a gravelled circular family cycling route.
- Establish an 'all-ability' cycling circuit – would probably need to be in the westernmost part of the park as that is the flattest area.
- Establish some mountain biking routes in the hillier forested parks of the park. Ensure these are properly separated from pedestrian routes.

Action: Rik to attend the next consultation on 19/3 to reiterate our preferences for this project.

4) **A.O.B**

a) **Blythe Hill Festival.**

This is being held on 2/7. We agreed at the meeting not to participate in this Festival as it is not the ideal location for cycles, being on the top of a steep hill, and we will be attending the Hilly Fields Festival which is in the same part of Lewisham.

b) **Hither Green Festival.**

This is taking place over a week from 14/5 to 22/5. They have asked us if we want to make a proposal for organising an event during the week. Jane wasn't sure what sort of event they are looking for.

Action: Jane to get back to them to see what they had in mind so we can decide if we wish to be involved or not.

Meeting closed around 8pm.

Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th April at Lewisham Civic Centre.