

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre

Wednesday 19th April 2017 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Brian Turpin, David Mill, Rik Andrew, Emma Ogunmade.
Apologies: Roger Stocker, Alex Raha, James Soteriou, Paul McQuillen.
- 2) **Actions from Minutes of last monthly meeting:**
 - a) **Quietway 1 (Q1) Post Implementation Review.**

On Thursday 27th October we did an on-street survey of 51 riders passing through the Trundleys Road junction on Q1 to ascertain how they find the new junction design compared to the old one. Jane then produced the questionnaire as an online Survey Monkey to give further users an opportunity to respond. The survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WJC9PSB>
Action: Tim to close Survey Monkey.
Action: Tim to collate additional responses for further discussion at the next LC meeting.
 - b) **Lewisham Spine (A21) Project.**

Mark reported that in discussions with Cllr Smith it was clarified that the A21 project must be a TfL project for budgetary purposes as it is their road and the monies would come from their budget. In contrast Liveable Neighbourhoods will be funded by TfL, but via LBL, so the council would not want to spend those monies on the A21 project.
 - c) **Cycle Superhighway 4 (London Bridge to Woolwich).**

TfL (who are preparing the design on behalf of LBL) have prepared outline designs for the Lewisham section of CS4 apparently including a two-way cycle track on the North side of Evelyn St – our preferred solution. However we have not been given access to these designs. Despite our, and Mark's best efforts talking to LBL and LCC it seems that TfL aren't prepared to allow access to the designs until the Consultation scheduled for later this year.
Action: Mark to talk to Len Duvall about the issue of viewing the designs in advance of the Consultation.
 - d) **Quick Wins – Grove Park/Downham 'Literary Heritage Trail' comprising 'Railway Walk' in Grove Park and 'Woodland Walk' in Downham.**

Mark & Alex have sent photos of the improvements needed on this route to Nick Harvey for 'Quick Win' action given some spare 2016-2017 LBL budget. The interventions are generally straightforward e.g. dropped kerb installation, enhanced signage and removal (or substitution with cycle friendly designs) of impractical 'kissing gates'. Nick is actively working on the project. Mark reported at the meeting that they have agreed the signage, which will be blue and that Nick has put out work order(s) for the kerb dropping.
Action: Tim to check with Alex if appropriate designs for cycle friendly barriers have been agreed with Nick Harvey.
 - e) **Response to Len Duvall's office's letter to Cllr Ingleby after meetings in Dec/Jan.**

See the March LC Minutes Appendix A for the original letter from Susan Jeary, on behalf of Len Duvall: <https://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Minutes-20170315.pdf>
Jane has recently sent a response back to Susan.
Action: Jane to post the response up in the 'News' section on the LC website.
 - f) **Lewisham Cycling Programme presentation by Nick Harvey at LC Annual Meeting.**

On 24th March Tim emailed Nick Harvey to ask for a map of the proposed Quietway routes that were mentioned in his letter (16/11/16) and were presented to the Annual Meeting. Also to establish a timescale for LBL/LC 'ride-overs' of the routes.
Action: Tim to chase Nick Harvey regarding these issues.
 - g) **Thames Sewer works – Ha'Penny Hatch passage.**

As a result of these works the Ha'Penny Hatch path to the east of the bridge (part of Quietway 1) is having to be temporarily moved northwards for a period of around 4 years. The path is currently being constructed and is narrower than the existing path with a dogleg in it. Jane has discussed this issue with Greenwich Cyclists representatives who do not seem too concerned about it. Agreed to wait and see how it works in practise and if lighting etc. is adequate.

h) **Brockley Fair – Saturday 24th June.**

John has booked our triple pitch for Brockley Fair.

Action: LC to discuss volunteering and organisational issues for the event at the next meeting.

i) **Gellatly Road Action Group.**

Local residents are apparently pushing a project to transform Drakefell Road with the establishment of a Cycle Hub on Gellatly Road.

Jane contacted Cllr Luke Sorber recently about this project and this was his response:

'We are at an early stage but have got the attention of Will Norman from the London Mayor's office. What we are proposing is a small neighbourhood exemplar scheme to deter heavy goods vehicles, stop parking on the pavement and reduce traffic volume on a stretch of road in the ward. All this would make cycling more attractive locally. We are also seeking cycle storage to be included in the plan should it go ahead.

If you want I can put you in touch with the local action group who initiated the scheme and you might wish to pass on your ideas to them.'

Jane has replied to say that we would like to be put in touch with the local action group.

3) **Other issues & projects:**

a) **'Awards for All England' Application for funding for Deptford cycle maintenance project and cargo bike.**

Jane has put together an application for funding to support other Deptford Community Groups e.g. Deptford Folk, in increasing the proportion of local leisure journeys made by bike. The application is currently on hold due to perceived issues in the relationship between LC and central LCC. Awards for All England are going to get back to us on this when they have reviewed it internally.

In the meantime LC have acquired a second-hand power-assisted cargo bike for around £2K. This was possible thanks to the generous donation of £1K from Joseph Davis last month and a similar generous donation from one of the LC Committee Members.

b) **Bell Green development.**

This major development involving another supermarket with more car parking and some housing is currently out for planning consultation. The general view of the meeting was that the project was totally car oriented and did nothing to improve walking and cycling routes in the area which are already heavily dislocated by the gyratory.

Action: LC to put in a brief initial objection to the development before the closing date of 19th April.

Action: LC are having a meeting onsite on May 3rd at 6pm (meet by the blue bridge over the river on NCN21) to discuss more positive development options for the area which would improve the walking and cycling environment and also be in line with the proposed LBL Cycle Strategy and the London Mayor's Walking and Cycling Strategy.

c) **LCN22 Quietway conversion.**

We haven't seen or heard about any of the plans for the Southwark section of this Quietway which is heavily used by cyclists from Lewisham and beyond. LC feels strongly that a segregated path is essential for the section running down the East side of Peckham Rye Park. Also want to see significant improvements in central Peckham.

Action: Jane to contact Southwark Cyclists (Sally/Andy) to ask for a meeting to review any plans for the Southwark section of LCN22 Quietway. Aim to agree a joint strategy.

d) **2017-2018 Budget update (See Appendix A below).**

John commented:

We consumed about a third of our accumulated reserves last year and may consume much of the rest this year.

In broad terms we're spending around £500 more each year than we are receiving and our £1300 at the start of last year may have shrunk to £300 by the end of this one.

I think we ran seven events last year so if we run say six this year that would reduce our net expenditure, after donations, to a level whereby we would have only a few hundred pounds surplus come March 2018. If these estimates become a reality we would then be running an unsustainable deficit in 2018-19.

We also need to try and achieve a balancing act between not spending more than we have and not having so much left over that come March 2018 LCC will try and for some of it back.

Jane commented that Deptford Lounge will be paying for Seb's time and Deptford Folk are paying for most of the costs on the activities there, so potentially the financial exposure may not be as bad as John thinks.

The general view was that it was unlikely that LCC would ask us for money back as our reserve levels are pretty low compared with several other local groups.

e) Lewisham/LCC Membership Numbers (See Appendix B below)

John commented:

Lewisham's current total LCC membership has fallen by about 15% compared with last year (down to 714 from 838) and thus our grant will be slightly lower than 2016-17. Speculatively, Lewisham Council (or possibly LCC itself) is no longer offering one year's free LCC membership to those who complete Lewisham Councils' cyclist training scheme.

f) Lewisham Cyclists E-Bulletin.

Ideas for the next bulletin in next month or so – A21 Motion, Bell Green development, Literary Heritage Trail, Pothole Reporting.

Action: Jane and Tim to prepare next eBulletin.

4) A.O.B.

a) Spring Bike Event @ Lewisham Youth Project – Thursday May 11th 6.30pm.

We are holding a promotional event at the next LYP Mend & Ride session to help to promote the monthly session locally. Volunteers on the evening will be very welcome.

b) Deptford Folk are hosting an open air bike-powered showing of the film 'Breaking Away' on Friday 28th April 8pm in Folkestone Gardens.

See www.deptfordfolk.org for further details.

c) Quick Wins

It was agreed that we need to review the Quick Wins on a regular basis with LBL. Resurfacing of cycle routes e.g. Woodpecker Estate is something that should be in the Quick Wins.

d) Pothole reporting.

It was agreed that we should encourage members to report potholes via consistent routes so that the volume of responses triggers repairs. The two suggested were <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> and emails to highways@lewisham.gov.uk which members have found to work in the past.

Action: Tim to put these details on the website. Also include them in the next LC eBulletin.

Meeting closed around 8.15pm.

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

Appendix A

Lewisham Cyclists outline budget for April 2017 to March 2018 (at 18 April)

Income

Bank balance from end March 2017 892

Received to date (18 April)

Donation 200

Expected or estimated

Main LCC grant - £200 block+714 members x 30p each 414

*Donations (as per 2016-17 less 15%) 900

Ride London, August 2017- payment for feeder ride 180

2586 Total estimated income

Expenditure

Paid to date (18 April)

Refund of Xmas deposits 150

Expected or estimated

Hilly Field pitch booking 60

*Payment for balance of cargo bike purchase 200

Mend & Ride scheme - mechanics - (as per 2016/17) 647

Mend & Ride scheme - consumables re-stocking (estimated) 300

*Dr Bike costs at events (as per 2016-17 less 15%) 940

2297 Total estimated expenditure

Estimated total funds at end March 2018 : £ 289

***Estimates re Donations & Dr Bike costs**

These are always a matter of guesswork .

Although we received a combined total £1141 in 2016-17 for the General and the Cargo Bike funds and expended £1107 on Dr Bike at events it seems likely, given our overall financial position, that that we may not be able to run the same number of events this year and thus will collect and spend less. The estimated figures have therefore been pitched at 15% below last year's totals.

Cargo Bike Purchase in April (£2,200)

This has been funded by two donations of £1,000 each plus £200 drawn from our accumulated Cargo Bike Fund which stood at £331 at the end of last year. The remaining £131 has been re-allocated to our General Funds.

Appendix B

LCC MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

	<i>Mar-16</i>	<i>Mar-17</i>	<i>gain/loss</i>	<i>gain/loss %</i>
Lambeth	942	1002	60	6.4
Hackney	885	808	-77	-8.7
Lewisham	838	714	-124	-14.8
Southwark	824	690	-134	-16.3
Islington	609	561	-48	-7.9
Wandsworth	602	557	-45	-7.5
Haringey	522	489	-33	-6.3
Camden	470	460	-10	-2.1
Ealing	379	370	-9	-2.4
Tower Hamlets	363	336	-27	-7.4
Richmond	343	325	-18	-5.2
Waltham Forest	317	306	-11	-3.5
Enfield	272	301	29	10.7
Barnet	259	246	-13	-5.0
Westminster	211	229	18	8.5
Bromley	222	226	4	1.8
Greenwich	241	226	-15	-6.2
Hammersmith	236	223	-13	-5.5
Merton	230	223	-7	-3.0
Brent	201	189	-12	-6.0
Kingston	192	188	-4	-2.1
Croydon	180	166	-14	-7.8
Hounslow	156	153	-3	-1.9
Newham	139	143	4	2.9
Kensington and Chelsea	146	139	-7	-4.8
Redbridge	144	120	-24	-16.7
Sutton	96	86	-10	-10.4
Harrow	59	55	-4	-6.8
City of London	51	50	-1	-2.0
Bexley	45	43	-2	-4.4
Hillingdon	49	41	-8	-16.3
Havering	53	34	-19	-35.8
Barking	57	21	-36	-63.2
	10333	9720	-613 *	

* A loss of 613 members equals ~£25,000 hence perhaps their request for excess reserves