

## **Minutes of Lewisham Cyclists meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**In attendance:** Alex Ingram; Councillor James Rathbone; Jane Davies (Co-ordinator); Brian Turpin; Michael Tisdell; Alison -- (Lewisham Park); Peter Logan Park; Councillor Mark Ingleby (Cycling Champion); Owen xx (XR); Matt Begg; John Phillips (Treasurer).

**Apologies:** Roger Stocker; Rik Andrew; Iliana Koutsou; Alex Raha; Tim Collingridge (Secretary); Councillor Patrick Codd.

### **Topical Items**

**Waltham Forest visit** – this took place on Saturday 18th January, 2020, and was well attended. Cllrs Dacres, Slater, McGeevor and Rathbone joined Jane, Alex, Brian, Emma and Ethan with Paul Gasson from Waltham Forest Cyclists expertly hosting. All were impressed with the transformative changes made to some of WF's residential areas, and evidence of play and recreation areas added in partnership with local community groups. Increasing data from the mini-Holland project shows reducing traffic levels (including neighbouring main roads) and improved air quality throughout. Returning visitors could see how the scheme is incrementally being extended across the Borough. Over lunch the group discussed Lewisham issues around the Lee Green HN and how these might be addressed.

Noted that Climate Action (Lewisham) are visiting WF on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

### **Lee Green and East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood schemes update** (links below)

Cllr James Rathbone outlined recent developments on the Lee Green HN scheme. This included a second phase of consultative meetings and events over the preferred final scheme layout (version 11) which includes filtering of Manor Lane and Manor Park, which we strongly support. There has been widespread debate about the scheme with concerns over access for people with limited mobility, the potential effects of displacing existing traffic to already congested neighbouring roads, and the perceived lack of information as the scheme went through earlier iterations. This is a challenging area for the Council as they tend to be criticised for not releasing information early enough, but this can be problematic as schemes go through multiple refinements before anything substantive can be distributed for comment. These are complex issues and widespread messages on social media tend to fuel a negative backlash. In our view local councillors have done well in keeping to their core messages, and moving forwards to get the scheme to trial. TfL are now modelling the impacts of the scheme to ensure buses are not significantly delayed in the area. Once modelling is completed, the scheme will hopefully be trialled, although a date for this is reliant on TfL.

It was noted that the East Sydenham cell may be more complex than Lee Green due the three wards partially included within the area. We have offered a discussion workshop for councillors from the three wards, but are waiting for confirmation from Cllr Sophie McGeevor, on timings due to the delay with Lee Green.

In order to minimise further delays, the process needs to be streamlined. Lewisham's HN programme originally envisaged three "cells" being completed annually, until the scheme had effectively covered most of the Borough. However, at the current rate of progress it

seems unlikely that more than one cell could be achieved in a year. We are urging the Council to lobby TfL for a quicker process whereby the trial itself can be permitted to test the scheme, rather than wait for laborious modelling. We will also ask our colleagues at the London Cycling Campaign if a pan-London group of HN representatives can meet to share best practice, learn from each others' experience, and persuade TfL to speed up the process. Lee Green councillors are due to meet colleagues and officers in the near future to review progress of the roll out, which hopefully will address some of the underlying issues, including commissioning, resources, and timescale.

**Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Local Assembly priority definition** (link below) – updates from members' attendance at Local Assemblies. Our members have made many comments on the Commonplace map of the Borough in suggesting active travel investments that could be made from NCIL funding. We have also participated in many Local Assembly discussions that set overall priorities, and transport issues usually emerge as one of the most pressing priorities for local residents. Noted that pins can continue to be dropped on the Commonplace map in advance of the relevant Assembly.

**Update from Cycling Champion** – Cllr Mark Ingleby reported that Judith Barrett had been active in gaining support for improved walking and cycling access to Catford Town Centre along Elm Close. Her initial consultations with local residents has been positive, and Josh Learner is getting figures to improve the road surface and repair potholes. This could be funded from LiP.

On the A21 spine project Mark reported Lewisham officers including Alex Krush have been attending a series of workshops with TfL on three different routing options, an ongoing process but thought to be within the timescale envisaged for the outcome definition report to go to TfL's health board meeting in March.

**Lewisham Cyclists Vision and Aims / Effective Campaigning** – our round table discussion item featured the Vision and Aims of Lewisham Cyclists. With so much going on it is crucial we focus on a limited number of priorities to ensure we continue to be effective.

The draft vision of: "Our borough will be a place where people of all ages and abilities feel safe and happy to make local journeys by foot or bicycle. We want to see a more diverse population of people on bicycles in Lewisham, including more women, ethnic minorities, children, elderly people, and disabled people" ..... was discussed and recommended to be summarised as:

**"Our Borough will be a place where everyone of all ages and abilities can easily make safe and pleasant journeys cycling or walking."**

Our desire to see our ambition to work towards a larger and more diverse section of Lewisham's population choosing to cycle should be incorporated into an aim that supports the vision as below:

Similarly the draft aims of: "To facilitate cycling for all ages and abilities, Lewisham Cyclists will support: low traffic neighbourhoods in every ward; installing physically protected space for cycling on main roads including the A21 Lewisham Spine and gyratories such as Gateway, New Cross; a joined-up network of safe direct walking and cycling routes; roads outside all schools should be 'School Streets', which means traffic free space for people walking and

cycling during school drop off and pick up hours” – was discussed and recommended to be summarised as:

**In every ward:**

- **Low traffic neighbourhoods**
- **School streets**
- **Secure cycle parking**

**Across the Borough:**

- **Segregated space for cycling on main roads**
- **Safer junctions**
- **A network of safe direct walking and cycling routes**

**Resulting in:**

- **A more diverse population choosing to cycle in Lewisham, including more women, ethnic minorities, children, elderly people, and disabled people**
- **A greater awareness across all communities of the health and well being benefits of cycling**

This will be circulated for wider comments from our members and be incorporated into our campaigning aims in future.

**Projects & Community Activity feedback**

**Volunteers needed to assist at Dunwich Dynamo** (which helps our funding!) – we need helpers to assist in unloading bikes from lorries that meet the coaches in Southwark the morning after this event, if you have a few hours around lunchtime/early afternoon Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July please let Jane at [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) know.

**Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood school run** – this is becoming popular and our next outing is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March meet Hither Green Station 8am

Jane reported a busy calendar of **upcoming rides** which are detailed here:

She is also encouraging more ride marshall volunteers to come forward for the annual programme of family rides which take place on xxxx. If you want to get involved please contact Jane via [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com)

Brian reported that he and Michael had audited signage along the Lewisham section of Q1 to assist Josh Learner in a review and upgrade of new signage.

**Attendees News & Views**

John Phillips gave a brief financial update for the group. Our main account is both solvent and fairly buoyant although year end balances will not be as great as this time last year. Our grant account is under-spending due to the departure of the project manager who would have spent these monies.

Alex Ingram reported his experience on requesting a bike hanger online, which results in an automated reply stating requests are dealt with in May and October annually, with no further outcome, other than a hanger being installed, or not. It was felt that such was the demand for hangers, this would be a full time job, and beyond the resources of the Council to put in place a more responsive system which would meet customer expectations. Alex will send some screen shots through for further consideration.

Government reports on extending Bikeability nationally were not thought to apply to Lewisham where some reductions have taken place.

Peter Logan Park is to attend a Sustrans event on 5 March 6 – 8.30pm on transport equality issues – details at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/does-the-way-we-travel-strengthen-or-divide-communities-in-london-tickets-84747418811>

### **Useful links and information**

Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood draft trial location map:

<https://streetbuilder.io/lewishamandleegreen/blog?share=draft-trial-location-map>

East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood:

<https://streetbuilder.io/eastsydenham>

TfL consultation on future cycling route 11, Greenwich to Woolwich

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/cycling/greenwich-to-woolwich/>

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)

<https://lewishamlocalassemblies.commonplace.is>

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<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>