

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 15th April 2020 6.30pm

Tim Collingridge (Secretary), John Phillips (Treasurer), Alex Raha, Ian Welsby, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Cllr Mark Ingleby, Brian Turpin, Mike Tisdell, Mark Chapman, Matt Begg, Cllr Louise Krupski, Cllr Sophie McGeevor (2nd half of meeting)
Apologies: Jane Davis (Coordinator), Iliana Koutsou, Rik Andrew

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Topical Items
 - Deptford Church Street proposed Cycleway (part of the proposed Lewisham Spine).
 - We sent a letter on 15/4 to the Lewisham Mayor requesting the commitment of funds (£106/NCIL) to design and build a bi-directional cycle lane on Deptford Church St. Other local community groups also co-signed the letter. The letter can be viewed here: <https://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LC-DCS-Letter-to-Mayor-Egan-Final.pdf>
 - Beckenham Place Park East consultation (link below).
 - This is a Live consultation closing on 26th April and members are encouraged to respond.
 - Key points are the upgrading (widening, re-surfacing, signposting) of the north-south Greenway that runs through here. Also improvement of the east-west path running from Downham across into the main part of the park, via the existing bridge over the railway line.
 - Cllr Louise commented that we should talk to Cllr Coral Howard, the Downham councillor, who is particularly involved in this project.
 - The north end of Ravensbourne Ave adjacent to the park is an unmade road and would be improved by surfacing, however it is probably unadopted so this may not be possible.
 - Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood scheme update (link below).
 - See Cllr Sophie's comments.
 - East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood scheme update (link below)
 - See Cllr Sophie's comments.
 - Recent Convoys Wharf meeting with Developers.
 - Alex and Mike had an eMeeting with the Developer's representatives who are running local consultations on the first phase of the development. The meeting was not particularly productive and there doesn't seem to be much opportunity to significantly influence designs.
 - Catford regeneration and A21 Spine projects.
 - Brian is currently talking to Zoe Murphy at TfL regarding convening an eMeeting with them so that we can view and discuss the current plans for the A205/A21 junction re-design, the A205 Catford Bridge section and the A21 Outcome Definition Report conclusions.

- Cllr Louise commented that, with pressure from the Rushey Green Councillors, the Catford Masterplanners are pressing TfL on the Catford safe junction design and the Catford Bridge issue.
 - She also commented that the next Sustainable Development meeting should include a 'reveal' of the Catford Master Plan and recommended we attend. This meeting has not yet been scheduled (due to Covid) and may be an eMeeting.
 - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis (link below).
 - While vehicle movements are very low due to lock-down, several other countries have been temporarily widening pavements and introducing temporary cycle lanes as a way of assisting workers to get to work safely. These approaches allow social distancing to occur more readily and will also have significant benefits over the coming months when the lock-down restrictions start to be eased.
 - Also see Cllr Sophie's comments.
 - London Cycling Campaign (LCC) Climate Safe Streets - Delivering Zero Carbon Roads in London by 2030 (links below).
 - This is a major report by LCC describing the essential active travel and low carbon transport projects that need to be taken forward to achieve this target and how many of these projects need to be initiated very soon.
 - There is also a webinar that is a good way to get a summary of the report.
- Comments from Cllr Sophie McGeevor (Lewisham Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)
 - As a result of the Covid crisis Lewisham Council Officers have predominantly been re-assigned to handle 'Critical Services' and non-essential Highways works are currently paused.
 - She also confirmed that Nick Harvey has recently left the Highways Department and a new Head of Transport has recently been appointed.
 - Deptford Church Street (DCS) proposed Cycleway - Sophie is very supportive of this planned Cycleway and cannot see any obstacles to it moving forward. She proposes waiting for TfL's Outcome Definition Report conclusions before proceeding, but sees no obstacles to the development of the DCS Cycleway going ahead notwithstanding TfL's decision on the Spine as a whole.
 - Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood scheme - given the current extraordinary circumstances TfL have agreed to use 'hypothetical modelling' to assess the impacts of the scheme. This should help to keep the scheme moving forward, but there is still likely to be a delay as it may not be an 'appropriate' time to introduce the new scheme, plus Lewisham were planning to have a public exhibition of the plans before implementation. It is hard to see how the exhibition could go ahead in the current situation.
 - East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood scheme - the draft proposals are currently being prepared by Officers. The Public Exhibitions and Consultation are on hold because of the Covid situation.
 - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis - Sophie said that Lewisham Officers are actively looking at measures to filter streets, outside the current two Healthy

Neighbourhood areas, to enable walking and cycling. TfL are also apparently looking at their red routes to see where walking and cycling priority measures could be temporarily installed.

- Some other ways were discussed of enabling people to more readily cycle during the crisis. Sophie is considering including some of these in the Lewisham Mayor's regular borough wide email:
 - Provision of more secure cycle storage on a temporary basis.
 - Remind people about cycle maintenance options - some cycle shops are still open. Lewisham Cyclists also doing some maintenance work for key workers or can point people to their nearest open cycle shop.
 - Are Lewisham Council Loan bikes still available? Sophie to check with Road Safety department.
 - Cycle route advice - Lewisham Cyclists can assist with advice on safe and direct routes.
- Update from Cycling Champion (Cllr Mark Ingleby)
 - Mark said he would raise with Len Duvall whether TfL were looking at Covid related temporary measures on Red Routes in SE London and report back to the group.
- Treasurer's Report and End of Year Accounts (see Appendices A & B)
 - John presented the accounts, making the point that income was expected to be lower this year due to Covid, but our ability to perform events and spend monies was equally limited.
 - Because of Covid we have been informed that our Deptford Grant has been de-restricted to an extent - this assists our financial position. Some has been already been spent on a mechanic providing support for key workers.
 - John commented that Lewisham Cyclists now have the 2nd largest LCC membership level of 693 members versus Hackney at 710.
- Projects & Community Activity feedback (from Jane Davis via email)
 - LC have joined forces with Wheels for Wellbeing and the Lewisham Irish Centre to deliver hot meals weekly to vulnerable older people in the borough.
 - LC have also been using the cargo trike to deliver food supplies to a few people on the at-risk list who aren't supposed to go out at all.
 - LC have also been servicing and loaning out our bikes to key workers, four of them so far (we have 6 bikes). We have also done some repairs to key workers bikes.
- Live Consultations - members, please make a personal response
 - Beckenham Place Park East consultation (closes 26th April)
<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/environment/beckenham-place-park-east/consultation/intro/>
- Useful links and information
 - Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood draft v11 trial location map:
<https://streetbuilder.io/lewishamandleegreen/site/proposals>
 - East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood:
<https://streetbuilder.io/eastsydenham>
 - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis
<https://lcc.org.uk/articles/cycling-and-the-covid-19-crisis>

- LCC Climate Safe Streets
<https://lcc.org.uk/articles/climate-safe-streets-report-launch>
Webinar: <https://youtu.be/cHdl8csvMD0>

Meeting ended around 8.10pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th May at 6.30 pm hosted online.

Lewisham Cyclists (The London Cycling Campaign group for Lewisham Borough)
lewishamcyclists@gmail.com
www.lewishamcyclists.co.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lewishamcyclists/>
<https://twitter.com/lewicyclists>

Appendix A - Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's financial year-end report

This is far from the most pressing of concerns at the present time but while we may have time on our hands and the Annual Meeting is some way off it is best got out of the way.

The 2019/20 accounts summary is attached. As can be seen we had a large surplus - £2794 - brought forward from 2018/19 as a result of three large grants or donations received in that year. During 2019/20 the cargo bike motor replacement ate up £1555 of this but beyond that a larger-than-average number of events were staged resulting in us spending more than we received. In consequence our bank balance at the end of this March is £664.

Turning to 2020/21 it is expected that both our income and expenditure may or will be low. Partly because of the public lockdown which curtails our activities but also because the money will simply not be there to spend. We had hoped to receive a payment of some £1,000 from Southwark Cyclists for assisting with unloading of the Dunwich Dynamo bikes and a further £180 from Ride London for running a feeder ride. It now seems more than likely that neither of these events will now occur.

LCC have confirmed that they will be paying our usual grant of around £400 which, together with the £664 brought forward, leaves us with a spendable amount of a little over £1,000. Since however we can run neither one-off Dr. Bike events nor scheduled sessions at present this problem is currently more apparent than real.

If the lockdown restrictions are lifted in some month's time we will need to re-evaluate our financial position at that point.

A little clarification regarding the Deptford Folk organisation and payments to and from them. For reasons unknown to this author Deptford Folk are unwilling or unable to pay the mechanics directly for their sessions. The arrangement is therefore that we (LC) pay the mechanics and then Deptford Folk reimburse us. They currently owe us a modest £24.

Grant account

Some £1,275 of the original £3,960 grant has been spent on activities in the Deptford area notably at the Riverside Centre and the Woodpecker youth club. After individual donations, interest and bank charges we are left with a net of balance on the account of £2785 as of 31 March.

The original terms of this grant were that these monies can only be spent on youth-club type activities in the Deptford area and not used to supplement our main account. We have recently however been advised by the London Community Foundation / Deptford Challenge Trust that, due to the effects of the lockdown, they have waived the original restrictions. In consequence Jane and I thought it appropriate to pay a retainer of £250 per month for the next three months at least to our regular mechanic Seb Achaibou insofar as he is effectively a salaried employee. Payment of salaries was specifically authorised by the email from LCF/DCT. Under the terms of the revised mandate some of these monies will also be spent on the cargo bike.

If I'm unable to hook up to this April online meeting and you have any comments or queries, I'd be happy to receive them before, during or after the meeting either by telephone (0208 244 2192) or email.

Best wishes

John

11.04.2020

Appendix B - Year-End Accounts

Lewisham Cyclists year-end accounts summary for April 2019 to March 2020			
Main Account			
Bank balance from end March 2019	2794		
Received			
Main LCC grant - £200 block+634 members @ 30p each	390		
Ride London, July 2019 - payment for feeder ride	180		
Donations	531		
Bike jumble and bike sales	219		
Deptford Folk reimbursements (£522, £900)	1423	5537	< Total income
Paid			
Mend & Ride scheme - mechanics fees March to Feb	180		
Mechanic & pitch costs at events - Crofton Pk., Hilly Fields etc.	1666		
Deptford Folk & 2nd Sunday mechanic costs	1447		
Cargo Bike motor replacement	1555		
Van hire for removal of equipment	25	4873	< Total outgoings
		664	< Bank balance end March 2020
Other assets			
Net of receipts less costs by Deptford Folk for mechanic services currently owing to us (£1423 - £1447 above)		24	
		688	< Effective net worth including assets
Grant Account			
Received			
Grant ex London Community Foundation/Deptford Challenge Trust	3960		
Donations	90		
Interest	16	4066	< Total income
Paid			
Mechanics' costs at Riverside, Woodpecker Y.C. etc	1110		
Cycleworks build-a-bike services	165		
Bank charges	6	1281	< Total outgoings
		2785	< Bank balance end March 2020
John Phillips			
Treasurer			
31.3.2020			