

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Lewisham Civic Centre, Catford

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015 6.30pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Roger Stocker.  
**Apologies:** Brian Turpin, Alex Raha, Stewart Whitworth, Ian Welsby, Duncan Peterkin.
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed. Responses to Actions not covered in main Agenda as below:
  - a) **'Cycling Champion' councillor.**  
Previously we discussed if London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) should have a 'Cycling Champion' Councillor. Cllr Mark Ingleby indicated he would be happy to fulfil this role. Jane has sent a letter to the Mayor's Office to formally request this. Jane has received an acknowledgement email, but nothing further yet. Jane has again emailed Cllr Smith, Cllr Mark Ingleby and Cllr Joe Dromey to try and move this forward.
  - b) **Quietway Route 1 ('Q1' - Waterloo Station to Greenwich via Deptford).  
LBL managed section (Creekside to Surrey Canal Road).**  
Jane has recently received the raw consultation data for Q1 from Nick Harvey in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. Around 80 responses most of which were generally supportive. However 60 or so were specifically concerned about the point closure of Childers Street.  
Action: Jane still needs to post the spreadsheet of consultation results on LC website.
  - c) **Sustrans proposed bridge linking Rotherhithe & Canary Wharf.**  
There is now a website for this project which has been codenamed the Brunel Bridge:  
[www.brunelbridge.london](http://www.brunelbridge.london)  
Tim contacted Caroline Pidgeon this month and she advised us to talk to Sustrans directly to convene a meeting.  
Action: Tim to follow up with Sustrans to arrange a meeting with them.
  - d) **Proposal to email all LCC members in Lewisham periodically with updates on campaigning, rides etc.**  
Stewart has prepared a draft communication using MailChimp. It was agreed that it looked interesting, readable and contained the right sort of information. Also agreed to aim to send one out every two months.  
We have now received an up to date email list for Lewisham members from LCC. There is a proviso that we should contact LCC each time we use it to establish if we have an up to date version.  
Action: Jane & Stewart to bring the draft communication up to date with the information from the latest 'Lewisham Rider' insert for the LCC magazine and send it out using the email list provided.
  - e) **Molesworth St – TfL initial proposals.**  
TfL have recently released these plans for Stakeholder Consultation. There are some positive elements to the plans e.g. semi-segregated Northbound cycle lane along Lewisham High St from Whitburn Road to Engate St. However the two-way cycle lane along Molesworth St is just 'tidied-up' rather than being relocated to the East side of the pavement, segregated and set at carriageway level as we suggested.  
Jane has made a response to TfL on behalf of the group. A copy of it can be found here:  
<http://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/molesworth-street-improvements-to-cycleway-response-to-tfl-consultation/>
  - f) **CS4 outline plans.**  
Jane attended a LCC meeting recently where she briefly saw some outline plans for Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) - London Bridge to Greenwich via Surrey Quays. LC have been involved previously in evaluation rides on this route with TfL and we believe that a 2 way

segregated cycle lane predominantly on the North side of the main road(s) is a feasible option for the majority of the route. Apparently the outline plans do not take this approach and are quite disappointing in their ambition.

Nick Harvey from LBL recently met with Aaron Rosser at TfL regarding this route but we weren't invited. Nick said there will be another meeting soon to which we will be invited.

Action: Jane to contact Nick and TfL re having a meeting asap before the plans become finalised.

**g) Cycling in Lewisham parks – upcoming meeting with Lewisham Parks User Group (LPUG).**

Tony Rich from the Lewisham Parks User Group wished to arrange a meeting with LC representative(s) and Liz Brooker (LBL Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Manager). Apparently the LPUG is concerned about some instances of inconsiderate cycling in Lewisham's Parks. They are not anti-cycling by any means but wish to discuss ways of improving pedestrian/cyclist interactions. This could involve new signage, leafleting etc.

The meeting is now On Hold until the consultation for the Waterlink Way Quietway takes place in the Autumn. In a reply to Tony Rich, Graham Curtis from LBL Road Safety & Sustainable Transport stated that "at this stage I do not have the resources to directly support you" and requested that consideration of the cycling in parks issue be rolled into the Quietway consultation. A disappointing response seemingly symptomatic of a general shortage of resources in LBL due to budget cuts.

**h) LCC governance Review paper - Public Liability insurance cover requirements & recommended Notification of Meetings best practice.**

Jane has now received a definitive email from Amy at LCC stating that everything we do is covered by their Public Liability insurance. That includes Loan Bikes, Led Rides, Mend & Ride Workshop and Cycle Training.

Some of the issues regarding Notification of Meetings are still outstanding, but it was agreed to wait until LCC issue the Final Draft of the Governance Proposals to see if we still have any objections.

**3) Current issues & projects:**

**a) Lewisham Gateway development issues.**

There are two elements to this issue – 1) Safe management of cyclists during the ongoing development of the new junction layout. 2) The specifically cycling related features of the final design and cycle safety of the road configuration.

No one from the Lewisham Gateway Lewisham Cyclists 'sub-group' was available to attend the meeting so we did not get a status update on this issue. We understand that they are trying to get hold of Katharine Abrahams at TfL to organise a meeting asap, preferably onsite, to review the project.

**b) Quietway Route 1 'Q1' – (Waterloo to Greenwich via Deptford) development progress.**

Work has finally started on the Lewisham section of Q1 with the reduction in height of some of the earth 'mounds' in Folkestone Gardens which has improved visibility across the park. There has also been some activity along the Surrey Canal Path shared path with the removal of some unnecessary low barriers alongside the path. According to Nick Harvey completion of the whole route is targeted for Spring.

Nick Harvey has previously told us that the revised Childers St design may now incorporate a banned right turn from Rolt Street into Childers St to prevent rat-running traffic, while maintaining local resident vehicular access. We are still waiting to see the final proposal.

c) **Brief Finances update.**

John gave us a brief statement on Finances as follows: "Donations are holding up well and M&R mechanics fees are not turning out to be excessive. Two new loan bikes are being purchased for £250 each. Despite these being over the original budget our estimated total outgoings will broadly match our estimated income this current financial year. We are however eating into our M&R consumables and will need to find more income (or less expenditure) next year to finance any necessary re-stocking."

4) **A.O.B**

**Catford Green Development pedestrian/cycle bridge across the railway just north of Catford Bridge station.**

Barratts, the Developers, have submitted a planning application for a revised bridge. The key difference is that there won't be ramped access, but steps (with a cycle 'channel') and a lift on both sides. This is apparently to reduce the amount of space the bridge requires. The planning reference is DC/15/93227. Comments on the application need to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We discussed this at the meeting and agreed that the move away from ramp access was disappointing as it reduced easy accessibility for cyclists, plus with lifts there are always going to be concerns about maintenance and 24/7 availability. It is hard to see why they couldn't at least provide a ramp on the East side as there seems to be easily enough carriageway width to fit in a straight ramp parallel to the railway.

Members are encouraged to respond individually to this planning application.

Action: Jane to prepare and submit a LC Group response opposing the planning application.

**At the beginning of August we received the following Stakeholder Consultation from TfL on Loampit Vale Traffic Signals.**

"Transport for London have proposals that aim to reduce the journey time and increase the journey time reliability of the A20 between Lewisham Town Centre and New Cross, please find below the details of the scheme and the attached plans of the proposal.

Background: Along the above section of highway five pedestrian crossing facilities are located within 600m of each other. This, as well as the existence of a number of bus stops, create high levels of stops/delays to traffic flow between Lewisham Town Centre and New Cross. Corridor VISSIM modelling has shown that changes to these facilities can reduce journey time and increase journey time reliability.

Also included in the proposals are suggestions for safety improvements at the side roads, which have been identified in a recent safety study.

A new development within the locality will see the introduction of a new staggered pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Jerrard Street (not a part of this stakeholder engagement exercise). This crossing will form part of a larger scheme encompassing the above mentioned proposals with the aim of linking (by SCOOT) all crossings to the newly built facilities of the Lewisham Gateway scheme.

Proposed works:

Consolidation of the existing pedestrian crossings with a net loss of two signalised crossing sites.

Upgrading the new and existing signal sites to provide UTC SCOOT control.

Implementation of safety improvements at side roads to reduce conflict of pedal cyclists and motor cyclists with vehicle exiting and entering side roads."

We discussed these proposals at the meeting and agreed that as the changes are liable to increase traffic speeds they are likely to be detrimental to cyclists. Also, though not directly relevant to cyclists, they are liable to increase the inconvenience for pedestrians and may lead to increase pedestrian casualties when people cross what is a very busy road without the protection of a signalised crossing.

Action: Jane to respond asap opposing the reduction in signalised pedestrian crossings.

**LC Annual General Meeting.**

We agreed to make the November meeting the AGM and to hold it in the Civic Centre,

provided they have a suitably sized room available.

We talked about inviting a guest speaker to speak at the meeting - Caroline Pidgeon (Leader of the Liberal Democrat London Assembly Group, Deputy Chair of the London Assembly's Transport Committee and potential Lib Dem Mayoral candidate) or Val Shawcross (Labour London Assembly Member and Labour Transport Spokeswoman).

Action: LC Committee to decide if we wish to invite a Guest speaker or just have a more low-key and simple AGM.

**Meeting closed around 8pm.**

**Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm at Lewisham Civic Centre.**