

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)

held at Catford Constitutional pub, Catford

Wednesday 16th August 7pm

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), John Phillips (Treasurer), Alex Raha, Rik Andrew, Alex Ingram, Aram Abraham Yan.
Apologies: Brian Turpin, Jane Davis (Co-Ordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby.
- 2) **Actions from Minutes of last monthly meeting:**
 - a) **Lewisham Spine (A21) Project.**
Action: Outstanding. Mark to request vehicle count data and air monitoring results for the areas around the A21 from LBL Officers to feed into the justification for the Lewisham Spine project.
 - b) **Cycle Superhighway 4 (London Bridge to Woolwich).**
Will Norman has recently stated that the consultation is now scheduled for Autumn 2017 – further slippage from announcements earlier this year.
Action: Mark to continue to raise CS4 at meetings with Len Duvall.
 - c) **Quietway future developments.**
On 3rd July several members did a ride-over of the section of LCN22 (Crofton Park to Catford) that is due to be upgraded as part of the future Quietway 83 (Q83) recording the improvements that are needed. See <https://www.dropbox.com/s/xpctcr841ipcvsw/Potential%20Qw83%20assessment.xlsx?dl=0> for details of their provisional conclusions.
There is also a link on the LC website here <http://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/campaign-update/quietways/> to Lucia's very good summary of the recent ride-over of the Southwark section of Q83.
A ride-over of the section of Waterlink Way/NCN21 (Greenwich to Kent House) that is planned for Quietway upgrade has been scheduled for Tuesday 12th September at 5pm meeting at Lower Sydenham National Rail station – all welcome.
Action: LC to schedule a ride-over of the other cycle route sections that are expected to be upgraded to Quietway standard i.e. section of Thames Path (Canada Water to Deptford) and a short section of path across Blackheath.
 - d) **Bell Green development.**
This major development involving another supermarket with more car parking and some housing is out for planning consultation. A well-supported petition against the project has been submitted by the 'Save our Gas Holders' campaign group.
LC also submitted a written objection which can be found here <https://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Bell-Green-Development-as-sent.pdf>
Action: Outstanding. Jane to contact Jessica Ormerod at the Save Bell Green (@SaferPerryVale) campaign re providing support to their campaign.
 - e) **Lewisham Cyclists E-Bulletin.**
Ideas for the next bulletin – A21 Motion, Bell Green development, Literary Heritage Trail, Pothole Reporting.
Action: Outstanding. Jane to prepare content, then Tim to prepare final eBulletin.
 - f) **Loampit Vale highway modifications.**
The new pelican crossing on Loampit Vale just west of the Jerrard St Junction has attracted quite a lot criticism from members. For cyclists travelling west the large central island has created a pinch-point which is approximately 3m wide. This issue was discussed in the previous meeting and it was queried why the crossing was not 'straight across' rather than staggered, then this problem wouldn't have arisen.
Brian prepared a letter regarding this issue and sent it to Local Councillors and Len Duvall on 11th June.

We received this response from TfL (via Susan Jeary pp Len Duvall) on 27th July. N.B. This wasn't presented at this LC meeting as I hadn't spotted the email at that time:

"We completed the new crossing on Loampit Vale in early May 2017. All of our designs were safety

audited, and we will continue to monitor the completed crossing closely to assess its impact.

Where possible, we always try to introduce straight across crossings to allow pedestrians to cross in a single stage. However, we also need to balance this consideration with the requirements of other road users, including how long we can hold traffic without causing significant delay to the road network. In this case, as pedestrians would need to cross three lanes of traffic, equivalent to 12.2 metres (two lanes heading east, of which one is a dedicated bus lane, and one westbound lane) it was not deemed safe to introduce a straight across crossing. We therefore chose to implement a staggered crossing, which has proven to be safer for pedestrians on busy roads like this as well as minimising delay to general traffic and buses.

Due to the need to provide three traffic lanes and a central refuge island for pedestrians, we were unable to implement a cycle lane here. The London Cycling Design Standards recommend minimum road widths for including a cycle lane, with cyclists requiring a minimum of two metres dedicated space in order to have a cycle lane implemented. Where a cycle lane cannot be provided, we avoid creating traffic lanes that are 3.25 metres - 3.9 metres in width, as these can encourage cyclists to stay left and drivers to unsafely overtake. On Loampit Vale we have therefore introduced a traffic lane of 3.2 metres to discourage drivers from overtaking cyclists until they have passed the crossing and it is safe to do so.

I hope this helps to explain our reasons for the design of this crossing.”

g) Fact finding trip to Waltham Forest ‘mini-Holland’.

Corin (Lewisham Green Party Coordinator) organised a trip over to Waltham Forest on 15th July with nine people attending. He reported that the cycle and public realm development work there was impressive and inspiring. He said he would be writing up a full account of the trip in time.

Action: Outstanding. Corin to share his account of the trip with LC members. Alex Ingram said at this meeting that he would chase Corin for this.

Matt Barker has, subsequent to the meeting, provided us with this summary of the visit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D9-bbwynEZTKk2uuLiFUXOLByzUo_kcOm4hlgUGk6T4/edit?ts=5997332e

h) TfL Strategic Cycling Analysis document.

The initial results of this analysis have now been published although the modelling is an ongoing process. The Analysis endeavours to identify where cycle routes need to exist to best satisfy demand.

Action: Outstanding. Alex Ingram has written a blog on this. He said at this meeting that he will provide a link to the blog which we can publish on the website etc.

i) Mayor’s Transport Strategy.

This has also now been released for consultation with a deadline of 2nd October for responses.

Action: Outstanding - To be discussed in a subsequent meeting when members have digested the contents.

Action: Tim to create a Shared Document in e.g. Google Docs, for the Group to compile a response. One of the elements we need to capture is an overlay of the routes defined in the Lewisham Cycle Strategy versus the results from the TfL Strategic Cycling Analysis to see where there are overlaps/gaps.

j) Lewisham Gateway.

Action: Outstanding. Mark to raise the issue of Lewisham Gateway when he meets with Will Norman.

k) Lewisham Consultations.

Crofton Park Streetscape (closes 21/8/17) <https://www.pclconsult.co.uk/projects/crofton-park/> also https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/regeneration/regeneration_and_asset_management/crofton_park_streetscape_improvements

This project was discussed at the meeting and the general view was that the proposals were not advantageous for cyclists. One of the main criticisms was that the roundabout (junction of Brockley Grove and Brockley Road) has been retained whereas a signalised T junction and filtering of Eddystone Road would be a much safer and more effective solution.

Members are also encouraged to make their own responses to the consultation.

Action: Alex Ingram to submit a Group response once he has collated recent member comments made online and at this meeting.

l) Lewisham Cycle Strategy.

The Cycle Strategy is going to Mayor and Cabinet on 13th September.

Lewisham Cyclists have been asked for comments on the Draft Strategy which is here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kv80dfvufwsf3ka/AABGBHzl9RB3D2Krg3ShdfKR?dl=0>

Action: Tim to provide link to Draft Strategy via eList

Action: Jane to collate comments and submit a Group response.

m) Local Implementation Plan (LIP).

Roger raised the issue of which projects LBL had spent the 2016/17 LIP money on.

Action: Outstanding. Mark agreed to ask the Officers for a breakdown of the monies

3) Other issues & projects:

a) Hither Green Lane – Streetscape Improvements – apparently shelved.

Local Community Groups are looking for support in reinstating this scheme. We discussed this briefly but did not come to any conclusions as to whether we were fully in favour or not. Some questioned whether it was a cycle-friendly design.

b) Deptford Canal Approach – update on project.

Sustrans have recently taken a strong interest in this project which would provide a car-free walking and cycling route between Quietway 1 at Folkestone Gardens and the Thames Path. The Ramblers are also supporting the project. LC have pledged our continuing support to the scheme being developed by Deptford Folk/Sustrans. Deptford Folk are currently looking to raise funds for a feasibility study.

c) TfL Consultations - A21 Crantock Road (closes 1/9/17).

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/bromley-crantock-roads/>

We discussed this in the meeting. Criticisms were that it had no benefits for cyclists and only limited benefits for pedestrians. It seems it is mainly designed to improve traffic flow. Specific weaknesses were that there are no lead-in lanes to the Cyclist ASLs making them fairly useless and one arm of the crossing has no pedestrian crossing priority.

Also in the future we want to see segregated cycle lanes through this junction so it seems pointless modifying it now without building in these features.

Members are encouraged to make responses individually to reinforce our case.

Action: Tim to make a Group response.

4) A.O.B.

a) A205 re-alignment at Catford.

We agreed to have a meeting to review the cycle-related features that will be needed in the new road layout at Catford. The meeting will be on Friday 15th September from 5pm to 7pm, meeting outside Lewisham Civic Centre. All welcome.

Meeting closed around 9pm.

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