

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 19th June 2019 6.30pm

Jane Davis (Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Cllr Louise Krupski, Josh Learner (Walking & Cycling Officer), Mike Tisdell, Brian Turpin, Matt Begg, Rik Andrew, Alex Raha, Alex Ingram, Judith Barrett, Timo Tatzell, Anna Schulenburg.

Apologies: Tim Collingridge (Secretary); Iliana Koutsou; Roger Stocker

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Update from Josh Learner (Lewisham Borough Walking and Cycling Programme Manager)
 - *Major projects:*
 - *A21 Lewisham Spine* - Positive support for this scheme at the recent councillors' ride (15th June). Funding now released for second phase outcome definition, looking at actual designs and widths. Assessing the route from Deptford to Downham. Same team as is working on realignment of A205/A21 Catford Masterplan. Funding from the Tideway scheme will be available to support segregated route in Deptford Church Street. Josh will try to share early designs for our comment, especially crossing points on the A21, an issue where we are likely to have concerns if the route is conceived of as primarily "linear".
 - *CS4 roll out* - construction is expected to start this week with initial work commencing on the western sections before moving east towards Lewisham. Progress is expected during the summer holidays although the Lewisham section will not be completed until March 2020. The currently "missing" section in Southwark, around Surrey Quays, will be consulted in August 2019. Cllr Dacres quoted extensively in media for Lewisham's support for the scheme. In contrast to the angry exchanges between the London Mayor, and Kensington & Chelsea, who are blocking another proposed cycle way between Notting Hill and Shepherd's Bush. Michael Barratt from TfL will attend the next meeting to explain the construction schedule in more detail including interim measures to protect people on bicycles.
 - *Catford Master Plan* - a high level team is now assessing the feasibility of the cantilevered bridge that we advocated to provide sufficient space at this pinch point to enable safe cycling.
 - *Quietways update:*
 - *Southend Lane crossing/Worsley Bridge Road junction modelling results* now completed showing no significant impact on flows. Work to be carried out in January/February 2020.
 - *Quietway 1 consultation re Blackheath section* - Works seems complete although we have subsequently received reports the paths are not sufficiently splayed to avoid potential conflicts. This to be followed up by ourselves with Josh. On the proposed extension along Kidbrooke Park Gardens/South Row we are meeting next week with our counterparts in Greenwich Cyclists, and local councillors to assess how we might most effectively lobby TfL to reduce the traffic. Josh also to attend.
 - *Bike Hangar roll-out* - Josh is currently working on next year's programme. He is allocating 10% of the LIP funding, as demand is very high. Mark Ingleby

was hopeful an apprentice could be secured to support Josh with the administration of the hanger scheme, which is very time intensive when he could be contributing to more strategic improvements across Lewisham.

- *One way to two way cycling conversions* - Watermans Consultants have completed their analyses and Josh will share this report for our comments.
- *Low traffic neighbourhood filtered 'cells'* - Lee Green HN has been launched and was positively received at a recent Assembly. Alex has met with several community groups to explain how the scheme can transform an area making it much more healthy and pleasant and reducing pollution. Josh will be seeking further underspends from TfL to enhance the budget. Although his bid for Air Quality funding was turned down because of lack of tangible designs, this will be re-applied for in future, when designs have been created. East Sydenham will be the next HN cell to be announced in July. Although the initial funding allowed for two HN cells a year for two years, Josh and his colleagues may not be able to resource a fourth cell, and are considering making the final third cell larger, and therefore more efficient in terms of project delivery. Bellingham and Telegraph Hill are the two cells originally identified for 2020/21 and the meeting considered the former to be more of a priority as this constitutes an area in the under provided for south of the Borough, along with its proximity to the A21 spine, which could enable further connectivity. Josh asked for any data on traffic evaporation from schemes such as Waltham Forest to be passed to him, as this was a potential concern for local Lee residents.
- *Periodic review of Lewisham Cycle Strategy* - Josh raised this, and Brian agreed sharing Iliana's review and report to Mark and Josh with a follow up meeting. This would consider any changed priorities for a reviewed Strategy including Healthy Neighbourhoods. Discussion also followed on giving support to Councillor Brenda Dacres (Cabinet Lead on Transport) who has recently tweeted about the benefits of CS4. The Cycle Strategy (review) should be helpful when long term decisions are taken by the Council including influencing stakeholders such as TfL and other funding organisations.
- *Local Ride overs* - following discussion with Tim & Josh these will now take the form of LC group rides submitting suggestions in Josh's format to streamline the process.
- *Deptford North Liveable Neighbourhood* - the meeting agreed we would prefer closure of Rolt Street. Consultation closes at the end of July and we will encourage our members to reflect this. Josh reported that they are hoping to start work on some of the simpler interventions, like the Copenhagen crossings this year, and the closure of Scawen Street under temporary traffic order. General discussion on the approach to Canal Street and links with CS4 which don't seem to be adequately reflected in the designs.
- *Local issues:*
- *Ha'Penny Hatch bridge westerly approach illicit car-parking issue* - Josh has replaced the bollard at the west end of the shared path. This will continue to be reviewed, and LCC's Simon Munk has also picked up some of the angst on this. Trixie mirrors could also be considered to mitigate the blind spots under the railway bridge (western end).

- *Update from Cycling Champion*
 - Mark is discussing with Sarah Walsh (Lewisham Transport) when next to discuss the latest iteration of Studio Egret West's designs. He emphasised this is the designer's project at this stage rather than TfL and he, and ourselves, should be pushing for the best possible active transport solutions.
 - Mark's councillors' ride was very well supported with 8 Council colleagues, including two of the Lee Green councillors heading up the Lee HN project. Also many of us from this group. The ride gave a lasting impression of the hostile environment of the A21, and the need for proper calmed straight across crossing points. The return trip along the Waterlink Way also highlighted the severance caused by inadequate railway crossing points, effectively barriers to cycling. A very worthwhile exercise, which should also be augmented with rides up to central London to see some of the latest infrastructure.

- *Topical Items*
 - *School Superzone* - Louise is following up on this with the Director of Health, Lewisham. The gyratory will not be included within the scheme because of lack of funding. However, we should agree, and forward to her, the next best scheme to mitigate traffic around the school along the lines of our previous group discussions. Josh to supply us with a "heat map" showing rat running traffic compiled from GPS data to help inform our proposal. Louise is also liaising with Bromley to see if HGV restriction signs can be displayed to the south of the zone across the boundary. The group suggested it has contacts in Bromley if needed.
 - Grove Park/Railway Children Walk. Josh has removed the 'kissing' gates and this will be the focus for one of the rides covered below under Beckenham Place Park.

- Elm Lane (Perry Vale) - Judith Barrett was welcomed to the meeting and laid out her group's proposals for improved access to the Waterlink Way from Perry Vale, and west towards Forest Hill. The group considered various routing options to avoid Catford Hill (A212) and cross that road safely at the junction with Elm Lane/Vancouver Road. Mark offered to visit the site later in July as he is on the Board of Lewisham Homes which owns the land and development along the south side of the main road and potentially could enable safer and more pleasant access to the WW through Vineries Close. Residents are already unhappy with the existing pedestrian crossing which could be a Tiger crossing with additional calming. Funding could potentially be sourced through the local assembly initially as a feasibility study. Assemblies are to receive 'Neighbourhood CIL' funding as part of changes coming next financial year 2020/21. Alex Ingram also volunteered to get involved as a local resident. Jane will contact the local ward councillors to express our support. Josh to be requested to provide some outline costings for the scheme, including the tarmacing of Elm Lane, which would be a requirement.

- *Projects & Community Activity feedback.*
 - Jane reported series of events with Deptford Youth Centre which reflected well on our work with young people. This work is much appreciated by the group and we could raise its profile with local councillors.

- Hilly Fields Fair - we are again at this event (22nd June) and Matt, Tim, Mike & Brian volunteered to help Jane and John. All welcome.
 - Railway Children Walk official opening takes place on Saturday 20th July and finishes at Beckenham Place Park which is also launching. Alex will lead ride from the Ringway Centre (Grove Park) and meet other rides at BPP. Mark, as Cycling Champion, will be VIP at the Park's official re-opening which reflects well on cycling in the Borough.
 - RideLondon Freecycle 3rd August - volunteers needed to help marshal rides up to London, back marking etc. Jane can provide training/advice as to what's needed from a ride marshal, please contact her. Will meet initially at 9am at the blue bridge near Bell Green, Sydenham.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Anna asked whether some prompts could be available to help members respond to consultations. Especially if they had no local knowledge of a proposed scheme. Alex agreed to discuss this with Anna to improve our communications, and build feedback.

Important links for members to review and where appropriate respond:

Royal Parks consultation (closes Sun 14th July). Please respond to ask for through motor traffic to be removed from Royal Parks:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/movementstrategy1>

TfL Hackney to Isle of Dogs Cycleway consultation (closes Fri 21st June). Please respond to support this proposed route: <https://membership.lcc.org.uk/hackney-isle-dogs-consultation>

Lewisham and Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood consultation (closing date not defined): <https://www.streetbuilder.io/lewishamandleegreen>

Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood consultation (closing date not defined): <https://deptfordparksproposals.commonplace.is/overview/>

LBL Parking Consultation (closes Fri 26th July). <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/public-services/new-parking-policy/>

Meeting ended around 8.25pm.

Next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 17th July at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre.

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