

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 20th May 2020 6.30pm

Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha, Ian Welsby, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Cllr Mark Ingleby, Brian Turpin, Mike Tisdell, Mark Chapman, Matt Begg, Cllr Louise Krupski, Cllr Sophie McGeevor, Rik Andrew, Roger Stocker, Johnny Morris, Clare Griffiths, Jamie Luke, Kath O'Reilly

Apologies: Jane Davis (Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Iliana Koutsou,

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Update(s) from Lewisham Council representatives - Cllr Sophie McGeevor (Lewisham Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport). Cllr Sophie briefed us on the latest situation regarding the Covid19 temporary measures in Lewisham:
 - She is expecting action from TfL on the proposed A21 cycle lanes very soon.
 - Because of TfL's financial crisis they recently had to 'pause' all London councils' LIP funding. This has impacted both the Healthy Neighbourhood projects and the Deptford Liveable Neighbourhood project.
 - There is now a pool of £45M funding across London available for temporary Covid19 works to support active travel. Lewisham are applying for a share of this fund. Sophie sees these measures as essential to maintain recent air-quality improvements protecting against Covid19 and long-term respiratory issues in the borough.
 - The council are looking at provision of additional secure parking at Lewisham Hospital - there is some funding in place for that.
 - The recently installed Deptford High St measures have been temporarily withdrawn after some initial teething issues. The council did not have any parking enforcement officers available at the time they were introduced. It is planned to review the measures and re-introduce them soon with enforcement.
 - The broader Covid19 measures the council will be introducing will generally be based on modelling and plans that the council have already in place e.g. Healthy Neighbourhoods projects or previous analysis of potential point closures to reduce unnecessary through traffic in residential areas. The Covid19 commonplace map comments from residents will help to inform these actions.
 - Lewisham and Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood. The council are still planning to implement these measures soon but have been considering the legality of which traffic order to use to implement them - a Covid19 temporary traffic order or a standard six-month temporary traffic order. As the traffic levels are not 'normal' at the moment it may not make sense to start the six month 'trial' under a temporary traffic order, so it seems more likely they will be implemented under the Covid19 legislation.
 - The idea of a Cargo Bike distribution depot providing environmentally friendly local distribution for local businesses, which has been previously mentioned by Cllr Louise, is seen as a future solution and does not currently have any funding. However it has been interesting to see how some local businesses have quickly adopted cycle deliveries as a cost-effective solution in the current crisis e.g. Brockley brewery.

- Members mentioned the concept of ‘side-road’ zebra crossings that are being championed by Chris Boardman in Manchester. These are zebra crossings without belisha beacons and are thus very cheap to implement. The Department for Transport have not yet authorised the installation of these so they do not feature in Lewisham’s current plans.
- Topical Items
 - Cycling and the Covid-19 pandemic - temporary cycling and walking plans for Lewisham and Central London
 - Lewisham Council

LC representatives have had an initial eMeeting with Josh Learner (Lewisham Council Walking and Cycling Programme Manager) mainly talking about the planned provision of temporary cycle lanes on main roads (see link below). We will be having eMeetings every two weeks to assist Josh’s team with the implementation of this and other measures. At this meeting Cllr Louise and Cllr Mark both requested to be included in these eMeetings.

Additionally LC have given the Council a long-list of suggested schemes (link below). Members are requested to review the list and ‘agree’ with the proposed schemes on the Lewisham Covid commonplace map.
 - TfL (links below)
 - We wrote to Heidi Alexander on 21st May in support of the proposed A21 temporary cycle lanes and asking for confirmation that they will run all the way from Lewisham to Downham as per the TfL Streetscape Map.
 - Also requesting that TfL restart Cycleway 4 construction asap and on other TfL roads in the borough make bus lanes 24/7 for buses and cycles only.
 - Cllr Mark Ingleby and Cllr Louise Krupski indicated they have both also written to TfL in support of the A21 cycle lanes.
 - Lee Green and East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhoods scheme updates (links below)
 - Nothing was said about this project specifically.
 - LC proposals for Deptford Church Street 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. (see link below)
 - Cllr Sophie confirmed that she will be sending us a formal response, which is supportive, to our letter the day after this meeting.
- Attendees News & Views
 - Johnny Morris shared his ideas for a car-free day event in Blackheath involving completely closing the centre of the village to motor vehicles (except buses) for the day. Lewisham Council have suggested Tues 22nd of September (World Car Free Day), but Johnny would prefer to go for a Sunday in the summer. Lewisham Cyclists are very supportive of the idea of a car-free day event. Covid temporary measures were also discussed and there was enthusiasm for

- releasing road space for pedestrians to allow social distancing and potential closure of some/all of the roads in Blackheath.
- Cllr Louise commented that the BAME community have been shown to be the group most impacted by Covid19. We should be aware of this when making proposals for temporary Covid19 measures so that the needs of BAME travellers are taken into account. Also that any measures do not result in a significant disbenefit to other transport modes which BAME users may depend upon disproportionately e.g. walking & buses.
 - Lewisham Cyclists have recently been looking for donations of spare parts to allow the rebuild of bikes for key workers. One or two members have very generously also made cash donations to help with this work - email us if you are interested in donating and we will provide bank details. It was also suggested at the meeting that we could set up a crowd-funding campaign for this purpose.
 - Live Consultations - members, please make a personal response
 - Lewisham Council Covid19 plans:
<https://lewishamcovidtransport.commonplace.is/>
 - Useful links and information
 - Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood draft trial v11 location map:
<https://streetbuilder.io/lewishamandleegreen/site/proposals>
 - East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood:
<https://streetbuilder.io/eastsydenham>
 - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis:
London Cycling Campaign advice:
<https://lcc.org.uk/articles/cycling-and-the-covid-19-crisis>
Lewisham Council proposed schemes on main roads
<https://lewishamcovidmainroads.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/map/details>
Lewisham Cyclists' suggested schemes:
<https://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/lewisham-cyclists-covid-response-suggested-schemes/>
TfL Streetspace plans:
<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/streetspace-for-london>
TfL Streetspace map:
<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/emerging-streetspace-for-london-plan-for-cycle-routes.pdf>
 - Deptford Church Street proposals:
<https://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LC-DCS-Letter-to-Mayor-Egan-Final.pdf>

Meeting ended around 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 17th June at 6.30 pm hosted online.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lewishamcyclists/>
<https://twitter.com/lewicyclists>