

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 6.30pm

Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha, Mike Tisdell, Matt Begg, Alex Ingram, Brian Turpin, Roger Stocker, Cllr Louise Krupski, Jamie Luke, Rosemary Scott, David Chapman, Jorge Martinez Lopez.

*Apologies:* Jane Davis (Coordinator), Iliana Koutsou, John Phillips (Treasurer), Cllr Mark Ingleby.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Tim gave feedback on 8<sup>th</sup> October onsite meeting between Jane, Tim and Will Norman (London Walking and Cycling Commissioner).
  - Meeting was mainly convened to discuss potential improvements on the South Circular through the Catford Bridge area after two very serious collisions involving cyclists over the past couple of years.
  - We walked Will through Mark's document which covers some suggested short-term safety-related improvements. Will said he would get these reviewed by a Highways Engineer when one is available.
  - Regarding TfL/DfT Streetspace Tranche 2 funding he said this funding was 'stuck with government' but he felt it would be released some time soon.
  - We also talked him through the Catford Bridge cantilevered bridge concept to provide long-term segregated cycle space on the bridge. He appeared to agree with the feasibility of this proposal.
  - Regarding Cycleway 4 in Lewisham, Will wants the original permanent scheme (which is bus time neutral and fully consulted) to proceed, not Lewisham's proposed temporary scheme. Construction start for this is dependent on when TfL's budget position is regularised.
- Topical Items
  - Cycling and the Covid-19 pandemic - temporary cycling and walking plans for Lewisham
    - TfL (links below)
      - A21 walking and cycling improvements
        - We are planning a ride-over of the route in week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> October to assess how well it is working.
        - Cllr Louise requested that we feed back our conclusions to her asap after the ride-over.
    - Lewisham Council (links below)
      - Lewisham Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)
        - The Lewisham Mayor recently announced that the LTN would be 'opened up' on selected roads. We wrote to Mayor Egan on 13<sup>th</sup> October opposing any changes to the LTN at this time as we believe the trial period should be completed to draw coherent conclusions on the effectiveness of the scheme.
        - Cllr Louise commented that the high levels of traffic on Hither Green Lane, Baring Road and South Circular had

forced the Mayor's hand. There was a lot of pressure to make changes from councillors in surrounding wards and beyond. Also TfL were reporting significant bus delays.

- Cllr Louise added that she was supporting the implementation of complimentary measures like traffic calming on the roads that are being re-opened to through traffic. Also the installation of school street(s) which hadn't been planned because of the positive effects of the LTN.
- Cllr Louise also emphasised that the council remains committed to the LTN programme but future implementations will have to take account of the lessons learnt in Lee Green before proceeding.
- Mike very eloquently expressed the group's grave concerns about the Mayor's decision to 'open up' the LTN. It seems very premature given that the LTN had only been fully implemented for a matter of weeks. Despite a series of issues with the implementation many local residents, councillors and officers have worked tirelessly to make the LTN demonstrably successful. The decision just provides fuel to the opposition who, although very vocal, do not represent the majority of people in the area. Worryingly it also compromises the council's ability to fund and deploy similar measures across the borough despite LTNs being one of the council's headline policy commitments.
- Other Department For Transport (DfT) funded modal filters:
  - Silverdale Rd/Bishopsthorpe Rd
    - These filters still seem to be achieving their objective of reduced traffic flows through the area.
  - South Row
    - There have been further rumours that the weight limit on the Kidbrooke Gardens tunnel, which was causing issues for Morden College, may be about to be removed. This should allow the filter to be reinstated but we have no formal confirmation of this as of yet.
- DfT Tranche 2 Covid-19 funding application
  - This is currently held up in DfT (see Will Norman comment above).
- School Streets
  - According to Commonplace (link below) Adamsrill; Deptford Green; Prendergast Ladywell; Ashmead; All Saints CoE; John Ball; Tidemill; Conisborough College; are operational and available for comment on the Commonplace site (link below). Members are encouraged

to respond positively to these schemes and support other positive comments.

- New Bermondsey development project (link below)
  - Tim commented that he considered these proposals to be very out-dated for a modern development with the opportunity to fully re-configure its road system. He feels the public space should have much more of a 'home-zone' feel about it with pedestrian and cyclist priority whereas the graphics appear to suggest a traditional hostile road/pavement configuration.
  - Tim will post his comments on the new Lewisham Cyclists Slack group for members to feed back their ideas.
- Catford Town Centre redevelopment project (link below)
  - Jorge has studied the Framework document and highlighted some flaws in the designs e.g. apparent re-opening of Adenmore Road. On the positive side the Catford Bridge cantilevered walking and cycling facilities do appear in the document.
  - LC to review Jorge's document, collate with other member's views, post to Commonplace and send a full response to Team Catford cc Cllr Louise, Cllr Sophie McGeevor etc.
- Projects & Community Activity feedback
  - Bike Buddies scheme - this has now been formally set up for Lewisham and we are looking for experienced cyclist volunteers to 'buddy' new cyclists.
- Update from LBL Clean Air Champion - Cllr Louise Krupski
  - Given that there may be a short hiatus in LTN deployment Louise is keen for small walking and cycling interventions to be taken forward.
  - The proposed Elm Lane walking and cycling route is an example of one that could be progressed relatively easily. Cllr Sophie Davis (Forest Hill) is apparently currently in communication with Josh Learner about this scheme.
  - Louise would like to hear about other ideas we have for simple schemes that could be readily progressed.
- Attendees News & Views
  - An A21 Development Strategy has previously been commissioned by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the London Borough of Lewisham and is currently being delivered by a team led by muf architecture/art. As a local Stakeholder Group we have recently been asked to comment on the draft Baseline Study. Formal public consultation is planned for Spring 2021.
  - The new Lewisham Cyclists Slack workspace is now operational and the old Yahoo discussion group has been retired. If any members wish to join the new Slack workspace please email [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) and we will send you out an invitation.
- Annual Meeting (November monthly meeting) preparations
  - As Jane was unable to make this meeting we did not discuss this. The Committee will finalise plans over the next few weeks.
- Campaigning priorities discussion
  - Due to the impact of the Covid-19 related council funding crisis and current issues with the Lee Green LTN there is a feeling that we may need to reassess our campaigning approach. A few of the thoughts aired at the meeting were:

- Need to have a more clearly declared public position on key issues.
    - Focus on cycle-beneficial projects e.g. Rolt Street/South row filtering to benefit Quietway 1.
    - There is still a concern if LC are too prominent in broader schemes, like LTNs, that will encourage ‘bikelash’.
  - We intend to continue this future campaigning discussion on the new Lewisham Cyclists Slack workspace.
- Useful links and information
  - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis - Lewisham Council:
    - Overall plans:  
<https://lewishamcovidtransport.commonplace.is/>
    - Residential streets:  
<https://lewishamcovidresidentialstreets.commonplace.is/overview>
    - Main roads:  
<https://lewishamcovidmainroads.commonplace.is/>
    - School streets:  
<https://lewishamschoolstreets.commonplace.is/>
  - Cycling and the Covid-19 crisis - TfL:
    - TfL A21 improvements:  
<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/general/034ec426/>  
<https://lewishamcovidmainroads.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/new-tf-l-route-tile/details>
  - New Bermondsey Commonplace  
<https://newbermondsey.commonplace.is/overview>
  - Catford Town Centre regeneration framework document  
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/catford-regeneration/catford-town-centre-framework>

Meeting ended around 8.15pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be the Annual Meeting and will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm hosted online.

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