



Contact: [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) Website: [www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk](http://www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk)

Dear Mayor Egan,

### **Getting Lewisham moving - commitment to active travel**

Lewisham Cyclists would like to meet with you soon to understand Lewisham Council's planned next steps in response to the Covid pandemic from an active travel perspective.

Last April, we felt the Council's emergency proposals were encouraging and could make a significant change towards facilitating more sustainable transport across the Borough. However, three out of the original six modal filters are not working as planned, and the Lee Green LTN, very much Lewisham's flagship scheme, has been made less effective by re-opening selected roads to traffic.

We are not the only Borough to suffer negative publicity generated by the car-driving minority. However, our near (Labour) neighbours in South London have implemented many more modal filters and temporary cycle lanes, across swathes of Southwark, Lambeth and Greenwich. We feel the negativity in Lewisham has been given too much prominence at the expense of the silent majority. As you are aware, just 47% of Lewisham households have access to a car, less in BAME and low income households. This figure drops even more so in the north of Lewisham e.g. in Evelyn ward. Supporting active travel is a social justice issue, as it supports low income households as well as BAME communities to travel safely and affordably. [Lewisham also currently ranks as the worst inner London Borough on the Healthy Streets Scorecard when compared to all other inner London boroughs.](#)

Bearing this in mind, we would ask you to consider the following priorities to significantly increase the number of people travelling by bicycle in Lewisham:

- Commit to a future round of LTNs where there is resident support. We have several such schemes in mind and are aware of ongoing discussions with various residents' groups.
- Commit to a timeline for the design process of the cycle track on Deptford Church Street as recently communicated in our letter to you dated 8/12/2020. This scheme already has local support and will link with the planned Cycleway 4.
- Commit to revisit the designs for protected cycle lanes on Brookmill road and to bring forward plans for cycle lanes there, at Burnt Ash Road and Baring Road as soon as possible for public consultation.
- To set up the *Lewisham Small Cycle Scheme Fund* from a combination of LIP, LCN fines and share of Parking net income to fund small cycle-related schemes such as local modal filters at Rolt Street (which then potentially could host a Community Bike Workshop), more secure bike storage units (bike hangers) and to enable two-way cycling in one-way streets.

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- Make bus lanes on LBL roads 24/7 as TfL have done on the TLRN network. This would benefit cyclists where there isn't enough space for a segregated track e.g Brockley Rise.
- Support TfL to start work on Cycleway 4 - we appreciate TfL are under significant financial pressure but we would like the current missing link between Greenwich and Surrey Quays to be installed as per the original plan.
- Support TfL to improve the current temporary measures along the A21 into a permanent scheme (we've written separately to TfL with our observations on the current scheme), making good on your manifesto commitments.
- Proceed with the replacement of the narrow and hazardous humped wooden bridge on the Waterlink Way south of Catford with the wide, flat one that was about to be procured before the Covid pandemic.

We have prepared a map showing cycle-related schemes to help more people feel confident to travel by bicycle across the Borough, ranging from low cost quick-to-implement ones to major priority routes like the Lewisham Spine. We stand ready to work with the Council to move these projects forward asap and grasp the opportunity to reinforce the recent growth in cycling in the Borough. The map can be found here -

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1--Ve0ZtdCfPYdSEzfiUGglQsPMZqVqdd&ll=51.453789454446174%2C-0.01587220000002223&z=12>

Funding clearly remains an issue for significant schemes which is why we suggest the Council explores contributions from other sources. These include Section 106 (currently under-spent), Community Infrastructure Levy and a share of Parking net income, which we understand has to be allocated to transport expenditure. It may also be fruitful to look to other funding partners in health and equality. For example, Southwark recently secured funding for two LTN's from the Guys and St Thomas's Charitable Trust to meet their aims of reducing childhood obesity and improving air quality. We also note that the Highways budget seems to be predominantly allocated to schemes that secure no active travel improvements and consider this practice out of step with Lewisham's Climate Emergency declaration and transport strategy.

We would very much like to meet you and your team as soon as possible to discuss how we can help Lewisham become a more active travel Borough and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Raha  
Interim Coordinator  
Lewisham Cyclists  
12/1/2021