

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 19 May 2021 6.30pm

Alex Raha (Interim Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Mike Tisdell, Brian Turpin, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Darren Reynolds, Matt Begg, Zaria Greenhill, Mark Chapman, Georgia Smith, Rosemary Scott, Andrew Seeds, John Salisbury.

Apologies: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Eilidh Murray, Cllr Aisling Gallagher, Cllr Louise Krupski.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

Topical Items

- Sydenham Green Group Practice Staff Cycle Project - First event is Friday 11th June from 11am - 3pm. Dr Bike and a general advice stall. Volunteers needed to help run the stall - no experience necessary but please e-mail Jane with your availability if you can attend all/part of the session via lewishamcyclists@gmail.com
Dr Ralph has 8 staff members interested in the Dr Bike session and potentially trying cycling. We will also invite local ward Councillors including Cllr. Chris Best to demonstrate the role cycling plays in improving everyday health.
- Forest Hill to Waterlink Way (via Elm Lane) proposed cycle route update - item deferred
- Community Engagement & Rides - Jane reported our rides programme is now firmly underway with regular first Saturday rides all publicised through the web site <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/calendar-of-events/> All rides to be booked through Eventbrite. Volunteers are needed to help marshall, bike buddies will be approached as we need back markers and helpers rather than leaders. Jane is offering a variety of routes including a London based ride helping people to build up their own knowledge of safe routes, as well as longer rides into the countryside, train assisted as necessary.
- National Bike Week – Sunday 30th May - Saturday 5th June: this starts with LoveBeckenhamPlacePark Community Day - Sunday 30th May 1030am to 430pm in which we have three rides leading to the park from Deptford (Jane), Grove Park (Alex) and Forest Hill (Tim). Helpers needed to assist on rides and at the park, although the overall event is likely to be predominantly local catchment. Again contact us with availability via lewishamcyclists@gmail.com
Tim will lead a Lewisham Peaks ride on Thursday 3rd June at 6.30pm meeting Le Delice, Ladywell.
- Family Cycling Library - Zaria (Climate Action Lewisham) reported a successful launch event on 1st May at Ladywell Fields. As a result CAL is now receiving interest from families wishing to borrow the e-trike purchased through the grant. This is a condition of

the grant. Volunteers now needed to deliver the trike and offer a 20 minute induction on how to operate it safely. Several members volunteered to deliver the trike from its storage (Young Lewisham Project) to recipients. Zaria has also contacted every primary school so there may be further interest in demos as this develops.

- FamilyCycleRoutes - further to our discussions with Louise and Mark, who are interested in promoting safe routes for cycling, we've been developing suggested routes aiming eventually to link them as a Borough wide route. We already have the Deptford route created by Jane - <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/rides/routes/deptford-family-ride/> ...and will add to this in the coming months. The Council may wish to produce this in paper form although we would probably see social media as the major channel. We've advised the Council not to consider signing any of these routes as this is likely to confuse existing Cycleway and LCN signing across the Borough.

Attendees' News & Views

- LiP funding - Mark (Cycle Champion) outlined the priorities for 2020/21 funding which had been significantly delayed due to the pandemic and uncertainty surrounding TfL's own funding. Priorities reported to Lewisham's Sustainable Development Committee (16 March, 2021) indicated bike hangers (29), aspects of the Deptford Park LPN scheme, and a new pedestrian crossing at Mayow Road were included. While these are laudable priorities, concern was expressed that Lewisham has achieved no new cycle lanes over many years compared with our neighbouring authorities, and we are pressing the Mayor's office for a high level commitment to active travel. In addition, we are pushing for a feasibility study on Deptford Church Street, and a replacement Waterlink Way bridge, itself the subject of an upcoming Council question.
- Cycleway 4 - Andrew updated the meeting on the Deptford - Greenwich section which is practically completed. On the ground, construction workers report unusually high levels of support from local people, who are also asking when work will commence on Section 3, from Deptford heading west to Surrey Quays - the Lewisham section. It appears this has been caught in the same funding hiatus between TfL and the Department of Transport, and we hope this will be resolved soon.
- Car Free Day - Jorge reported this is in September and it would be good to have some rides for local families to experience cycling in uniquely low traffic. Zaria reported that Lewisham had a record number of car-free streets a few years ago and Mark agreed to find out what support would be forthcoming from the Council in encouraging participation and messaging a greener and healthier future.
- New Bermondsey planning application has been received and seems OK for cycle parking. We will publish some initial responses and circulate for comments before submitting our response.

- Waterlink Way disruption - further to the last meeting discussions about the roadworks in Central Lewisham we received a helpful response from Lewisham's Highways Department. They acknowledged they hadn't anticipated the impact on people with bicycles and suggested in future we would be alerted. This would help avoid much of the concern and anxiety. The roadworks are still continuing further west along Thurston Road although the Loampit Vale Toucan crossing has re-opened.
- Alex has made contact with Greener and Cleaner Bromley with a view to cross border support. Many of us cycle through Bromley which is not especially cycle friendly but there are some potentially useful safe connections which could be highlighted.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th June at 6.30 pm hosted online.

Lewisham Cyclists (The London Cycling Campaign group for London Borough of Lewisham)
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