

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 21st July 2021 6.30pm

Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (Interim Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Matt Begg, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Amanda Nelson.

Apologies: Cllr Mark Ingleby, Cllr Louise Krupski, Brian Turpin.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Topical Items
 - Cycleway 4 construction
 - Good news. Andrew Seeds reports that there are ‘work orders’ now live for the construction of the Lewisham section. Kier are expected onsite next week.
 - Lee Green LTN Consultation
 - Alex reported that the MakeLeeGreen local community group, which supports the LTN, have extensively flyeried the Lee Green area to counter misinformation from opposition groups.
 - We need to encourage as many people as possible to respond to the consultation here: <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/low-traffic-neighbourhoods-ltn/> (Closes on 8th August).
 - LC will be making a formal group response to LBL supporting the LTN in its original form.
 - LC Questions to 21st July Full Council meeting (see Appendix A)
 - Waterlink Way wooden bridge replacement - encouraging news that, after our campaigning, funding has been requested from TfL for this project this year.
LBL didn’t answer the part of the question about costs but Alex recalls Josh telling us that it was around £250K (including contingency).
 - LBL Cycle Loan scheme - the current successful scheme is ending soon, but LBL are apparently planning to replace it with a more comprehensive scheme including eBikes, cargo bikes and assistive cycles.
 - Forest Hill to Waterlink Way (via Elm Lane) proposed cycle route.
 - Proposed Vineyard Close to WW path - Cllr Mark recently informed us that he is waiting for a new Cycling Officer contact in LBL Highways, and also for Cllr Patrick Codd to take over from Cllr Sophie McGeevor as Cabinet Member for Transport, before proceeding with the community engagement exercise with Vineyard Close residents.
 - Council Officers have recently provided indicative costings for the works for the main route as follows: Elm Lane resurfacing £85K, Parallel Cycle crossing on Catford Hill £48K, signage costs not provided as depends on number and type of signs required.
 - Judith Barrett is looking into the possibility of relevant wards bidding for Ward CIL funds in the autumn to cover some of these costs.

- Sydenham Park railway footbridge - Judith Barrett has contacted Len Duvall (Lewisham & Greenwich GLA member) to see if there could be GLA etc. funds available to help make this bridge accessible. Officers also looking at whether there are any S106 funds available.
- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Rides - the rides limit is still 15 according to LCC. On some rides we are getting up to 33% no shows which is frustrating as it deprives others of the chance to ride. Jane is considering reactivating the 'donations' option in EventBrite to see if the use of that reduces the no-show level - people may be more likely to turn up if they have donated?
 - Deptford Scout Hut cycle workshop proposal - LC have been offered use of the old kitchen area as a permanent cycle workshop. Estimated cost to refurbish it is around £3K. Deptford Folk are interested in contributing to the refurbishment. Jane is planning a work party on 28th August to clear out junk from the building & garden area - volunteers welcome.
 - Potential Borough-wide NCIL bid(s) (deadline 25th July)
 - Category A bids up to £10K.
 - Grove Park area - Grove Park Youth Club are re-opening on Monday. They have offered one of their garages to LC as a base for a bike workshop/hub on a peppercorn rent. Not accessible till late 2021 due to ongoing building works. The LBL Community Development Liaison Officer has also raised the possibility of us using the fully-fitted out shipping container at Ringway Centre.
 - Deptford Scout Hut bike workshop - see above.
 - Jane & Alex to discuss further, possible we submit two bids.
 - Jane is planning to hold a Woman and Gender Variant bike fix session at some point in the summer (August?) at the Deptford Scout Hut. Details tba.
 - Update on Family Cycling Library (in collaboration with Climate Action Lewisham (CAL)).
 - Successful sessions have continued at schools - all sessions being fully booked.
 - There is a technical issue with the cargo bike at the moment, which has been reported to London Green Cycles. It's not safety critical but is preventing the bike being loaned out.
 - CAL are planning a further volunteer training session in September to try to increase the number of people who can demonstrate and train others on the bike.
- Attendees News & Views
 - Amanda, a Brockley resident, attended the meeting as she is keen to start a campaign to stop parked vehicles continually obstructing the Ashby Road contra-flow cycle lane. This is a critical link in the cycle network around Brockley e.g. for children cycling to Myatt Gardens school. Jane indicated she would be happy to support Amanda in direct campaigning actions on this issue. Improvements here are one of our campaigning priorities for 2021: <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/campaigning-objectives-for-2021/> We will be following up on Ashby Road, and other potential contra-flows, with LBL Officers soon.

- There have been a couple of key changes in the Council this month:
 - Cllr Patrick Codd has taken over from Cllr Sophie McGeevor as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Cllr McGeevor is now on maternity leave.
 - Cllr Samantha Latouche has taken over from Cllr Louise Krupski as Clean Air Champion. Cllr Krupski is now Chair of the Sustainable Development committee.
 - It was agreed that we would contact both Cllrs in a couple of weeks' time with a view to scheduling familiarisation meeting(s).
- Our monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of every month regularly clashes with the full Council meeting preventing Cllrs from attending our meeting. We discussed the possibility of moving the meeting to the first or second Wednesday of the month. Alex is going to investigate possible other clashes with those days and revert to the Committee on Slack.
- The idea of re-establishing face to face meetings was also discussed, but given UK is entering another peak in the pandemic, it was decided to defer a decision on this until after New Year.
- LCC are currently recruiting for volunteer Climate Safe Streets Champions across London. If you are interested in getting involved in this crucial campaign go here for more details: <https://www.lcc.org.uk/staff-vacancies/>

Meeting ended around 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 18th August at 6.30 pm hosted online.

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 www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>
<https://lewishamcyclistsgroup.slack.com/>
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Appendix A - Questions to Council 21st July Meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 1

Question asked by: Tim Collingridge

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie McGeevor

Question

Can the Council confirm that funding for replacement of the Waterlink Way wooden bridge at Pool River Linear Park will be/has been requested in the 2021-22 LIP settlement, what the estimated cost will be (from the previous tendering exercise) and when the new bridge is scheduled to be installed?

Reply

Funding for the replacement of the Waterlink Way wooden bridge at Pool River Linear Park has been requested as part of the Council's submission to TfL for 2021/22 Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding. The timing of replacing this bridge will be dependent on funding being confirmed and what that funding allocation is.

As a result of the pandemic, there have been delays to the process of replacing the bridge.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 36

Priority 1

Question asked by: Alex Raha

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie McGeevor

Question

In light of the Council confirming they are withdrawing the existing cycle loan scheme, can the Mayor and Cabinet commit to providing an alternative improved scheme (whether run by Council staff or by a third party) in order to meet its own corporate strategy, borough transport strategy, borough cycle strategy and climate emergency action plan?

Reply

We are in the process of launching a new and improved cycle loan scheme. The new scheme will include standard road and folding bikes but will now also offer cargo bikes, e-bikes, and adapted bikes. Following the success of the loan scheme it was felt that we should look to improve the scheme to be more inclusive and offer a wider selection of bikes to a wider audience.

The new scheme also offers the opportunity to offer reduced or discounted loans to particular groups where we would like to offer greater support, for example for inclusivity or health reasons.

