

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 15th September 2021 6.30pm

Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (Interim Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Andrew Seeds, Rosemary Scott, Mike Tisdell, Cllr Mark Ingleby, Jorge Martinez Lopez.

Apologies: Cllr Louise Krupski.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Topical Items
 - Active Campaigning discussion
 - Jane presented a couple of PowerPoint slides highlighting the failure of LBL to deliver against their own Cycle Strategy over the last five years. Then floated the idea of the setting of some solid infrastructure targets for the next Lewisham Mayoral Term, for example:
 - 10km of new protected cycle lanes on main roads e.g. Deptford Church Street (DCS), Brookmill Rd, A21, Catford Gyratory (i.e. Lewisham Spine), Baring Road and Catford Bridge cantilevered cycle track.
 - 5 new safe main road crossings e.g. Southend Lane, Mount Pleasant Road, Catford Hill, Canadian Avenue.
 - 20 additional one-way street conversions for contra-flow cycling.
 - 300-400 additional secure on-street cycle hangar storage units.
 - The exact numbers for the targets are open to discussion, once agreed we could use them now in an active campaign as catchy ‘wants’ as well as putting them to Mayoral and Council candidates for their commitment in the next election campaign in May.
 - It was also proposed that the LC Annual Meeting should be our February one at which we would also launch our election campaign.
 - Lewisham Air Quality Action Plan consultation
 - The Consultation can be found here and closes on 28/9. Members are encouraged to make their own responses.
<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/environment/air-quality-action-plan-survey/>
 - Jorge has prepared a draft response. His view is that the plan is weak with too much emphasis on electric vehicles. Lacks a clear emphasis on alternative zero-Carbon transport options like cycling and use of cargo bikes. Also lacks urgency and without clear targets despite LBL declaring a Climate Emergency.
 - Cllr Mark Ingleby report.
 - Mark attended the first half hour of the meeting.
 - He is chasing up on the Lewisham Spine Outcome Definition Report with TfL. TfL staff who worked on this were furloughed but LBL are keen for it still to be finalised and published, particularly as they contributed financially to its development.

- Mark and LC agreed that Deptford Church Street segregated cycle lanes is a top priority providing a clear opportunity for LBL to demonstrate that they can deliver a high-quality cycle infrastructure scheme.
 - Mark said he would also get back to us soon on plans for the proposed Vineyard Close to Waterlink Way walking and cycle path, when he has had a chance to speak with Officers.
- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Volunteer recruitment online event - after our appeal for volunteers last month a number of people have responded but we need a way of contacting them as a group when opportunities arise. Alex suggested we should set up a Google form on the website that can capture basic details about people who want to volunteer e.g. email address, skills. From that we can build a distribution list of supporters we can contact when there are relevant activities they could participate in. Once the Google form is established we should promote it via social media channel & Civi mailout.
 - Update on Family Cycling Library (FCL) - in collaboration with Climate Action Lewisham (CAL). Alex reported that:
 - The cargo trike still needs to be serviced.
 - FCL now has a child-carrying trailer which is also being loaned out and is proving popular.
 - Further sessions are planned for November meaning that FCL will have then more than met its grant requirements.
 - Still looking for more volunteers to help with outreach sessions.
 - LC has recently been donated a 'tag-along' which can also potentially be used for FCL.
- Attendees News & Views
 - John, our Treasurer, gave a verbal quarterly financial report. Current balance is around £4,750, very healthy due to high levels of donations via Cycle Maintenance sessions etc.
 - Jane reported on the Deptford Scout Hut cycle workshop plans. LC and Deptford Folk volunteers skipped a lot of junk from the Scout Hut on 28th August. The proposed workshop room has quite a lot of damp which needs treating before the room can be fitted out. Estimated treatment and fit-out cost is £2,500, which should be shared with Deptford Folk. John commented that this expenditure should be affordable and it was agreed to proceed with works provided quotes were around this cost.
 - Andrew Seeds commented that there was good construction progress on Cycleway 4 (Lewisham Section) with new kerb-lines established in parts of Evelyn St. Evelyn Street is currently closed eastbound from Bestwood Street to Oxestalls Road. Diversion for vehicles is via the Old Kent Road (nearest 'A' road). No diversion is currently signed for cyclists and some are apparently riding down the pavement causing conflict with pedestrians. We agreed that cyclists should be signed to divert via Trundleys Rd and Cycleway 10. Promote this route via LC Facebook & Twitter and ask the Kier Construction team/TfL Roadworks Patrol if they could signpost.
 - Our monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of every month regularly clashes with the full Council meeting preventing Cllrs from attending our meeting. We

are proposing moving the meeting to the first Wednesday of the month starting after Xmas.

Meeting ended around 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th October at 6.30 pm hosted online.

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

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www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk

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