

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6th April 2022

Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Eduardo Petrilli (Climate Safe Streets Champion), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Mike Tisdell, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Matt Begg, Ksenya Blokhina, Eilidh Murray, Dr Anna Moore.

*Apologies:* Tim Collingridge (Secretary)

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

## **Topical Items**

### **Discussion on progress on Climate Safe Streets (CSS) Local Election campaign.**

The Lewisham campaign is part of a pan London campaign which will gain significant coverage and all members should support as much as possible by telling friends and family, sharing the LCC video, joining rides and other events, and e-mailing candidates during the run up to the Council elections on 5 May. Details of Lewisham's campaign are featured on the London Cycling Campaign website - <https://lcc.org.uk/campaigns/climate-safe-streets-lewisham/>

We have already gained pledges from the Mayor of Lewisham and expect to see this reflected in the Labour manifesto for Lewisham which will be published soon.

Eduardo Petrilli (CSS Champion) updated the group on the latest progress with the campaign. Print of our pledges leaflets is expected shortly and distribution details agreed to include up-coming events and repair workshops, and local drops to cycle shops, cyclist cafes and libraries. Alex will arrange for leaflets to be sent out to those volunteering to distribute our leaflets - link to leaflet here: <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/LC-Pledges-May-22-presentation.pdf>

Link to overall LCC Climate Safe Streets campaign: [Climate Safe Streets | London Cycling Campaign](#)

A Tri-Borough ride has been organised for Saturday 23 April with start locations in Lewisham (Folkestone Gardens), Greenwich and Southwark. A 10 mile circular route will enable participants to join at their local rendezvous with groups merging en route. Volunteers are still needed to help marshal - details on our slack channel or by emailing [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) Event details here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-safe-streets-ride-greenwich-lewisham-southwark-tickets-311697955977?aff=eand>

A webinar with Islington Cyclists on Climate Safe Streets is scheduled for 21 April, all welcome: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/healthy-streets-for-you-healthy-for-the-climate-too-tickets-311680192847?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>

## **Update on Lewisham Centre redevelopment plans:**

The current round of consultation is now closed but an outline planning application from the owners Landsec is not likely to be until after the summer. In the meantime, we should be considering how best to encourage the developer to pursue new shared routes through the development to improve access for active travel north - south and east - west. Outline routes have already been proposed but it will be necessary for us to push for shared use where possible, along routes that are wide enough and designed to avoid conflict. There is also the opportunity to improve connectivity with the area surrounding the centre, including to Molesworth Street and the links to the Waterlink Way and the A21 both north and south. This should be our focus and it was agreed we would set up a Working Group to propose improvements to link with the scheme, and plans drawn up already by both Lewisham and TfL to establish the A21 as an active travel corridor. Realistically it will need the authorities working together to achieve any gains for cycling outside the site plan area, which sadly didn't happen in the Gateway scheme.

Anyone wanting to join the Working Group should contact us through email or the Slack channel.

## **Council liaison update**

Councillor Sophie McGeevor has resumed her role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. School Streets funding has been approved as part of TfL's LIP funding programme. Although funding from TfL remains below previous levels. The Active Travel fund has been approved as part of the Council's support for our election pledges. As have 17 more cycle hangers. More significantly, the Council has moved to area traffic orders for hangers which should streamline the process.

Consultation on the proposed bike lanes on Deptford Church Street are being organised between July - September 2022 with Highways project planning to synchronise with the completion of the Tideway works. This has been one of our major aims for the past five years which we regard as an essential link between the imminent opening of Cycleway 4 in Deptford and a reimaged A21 spine active travel corridor from Deptford to Downham.

## **Community Engagement & Rides**

Jane Davis reported a broad programme of varied monthly rides has fully resumed. Includes a shorter ride for less experienced riders including a cargo bike; cross London rides aimed at those venturing further afield on commute and leisure routes; and longer rides to the countryside at the weekend. All are heavily booked with waiting lists. Second Sunday workshops are similarly heavily subscribed. Volunteers are currently refurbishing the shared space in Deptford which will enable a more permanent and effective home for our operations, to underpin our recent successful NCIL project grant activities.

Volunteers are needed for forthcoming workshops for triaging and general reception activities to enable the mechanics to focus on the bikes. Details of events here:

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/calendar-of-events/>

Highlights are Horniman Fair (16 April), Rides for All (17 April), Forster Memorial Park (24 April) and Beckenham Place Park (30 April).

Next month Kidical Mass on Sunday 15 May is aimed at families and a feeder will start from Folkestone Gardens <https://twitter.com/KidicalMassLond>

To volunteer/marshal contact Jane Davis at [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com) or on our Slack channel.

### **Treasurer's End of Year Financial Report (See Appendix A)**

John Phillips reported a healthy outturn for our finances. This is due to careful stewardship of our resources and successful grant funding to supplement our income from LCC and other events. We are in a position to invest modestly in the refurbishment project at the scout hut which will place us in a more effective position to manage our operations. Income has dipped from LCC as the Council no longer offers free membership for Lewisham residents on the bike loans scheme.

### **Attendees News and Views**

Anna Moore (Barts Health Trust) updated the group on her developing Green Plan for the primary care sector to make cycling an integral part of preventative care. In partnership with Sustrans and Pedal My Wheels, a project is being conceived to promote cycling across a wider region of primary care settings. This is similar to the project we supported in Sydenham with Dr Ralph Mortimer Roome but across a wider area. Activity could include bike buddies, workshops, rides and general advice sessions.

Jorge and Alex are using BetaStreets, which is a new visual design tool to help envision healthy streets with before and after images. This can be used to help convey our messaging quickly without having to resort to technical details.

Meeting ended around 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th May at 6.30 pm hosted online.

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