

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) hosted online using Google Meet on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 6.30pm

Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Brian Turpin, Darren Reynolds, Eilidh Murray, Scott Barkwith (Deptford Folk), Judith Barrett.

*Apologies:* John Phillips (Treasurer).

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Topical Items.
  - Update on issues discussed at 6<sup>th</sup> July Project Review meeting with Louise McBride (LBL Head of Strategic Transport), Cllr Louise Krupski (LBL Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate), Cllr James Royston (Chair of LBL Sustainable Development Committee) and Cllr Mark Ingleby (LBL Cycle Champion).
    - Establishment of a dedicated Active Travel Fund. Integrating funding from Highways & Strategic Transport and hopefully some development funding e.g. Section 106. Indication was that Zahur Khan and Louise McBride were supportive of taking this forward.
    - Deptford Church Street cycle lanes. Consultants aiming for a mid-July completion of Feasibility Design, so Stakeholder consultation should be late July.
    - Replacement of Waterlink Way wooden bridge - estimated cost £200K. Recent TfL LIP submission for this funding was unsuccessful. Total awarded LIP funding was less than £200K.
    - Southend Lane signalised crossing. Some recent discussions with TfL modellers, but essentially no progress.
    - Cycle Hangers - more being deployed. Some criticism that in a few locations they are being duplicated but this is due to these being the areas of highest demand.
    - Bishopsthorpe and Silverdale modal filters. Experimental Traffic Orders to extend their trial period were executed in Jan 2022. Expecting community engagement about making them permanent late in 2022.
    - Glenbow Road modal filter. Experimental Traffic Order to extend the trial period expected to be executed soon.
    - Cycleway 14 completion including Grove Street tiger crossing and link to Cycleway 4 via Dragoon road. Funding is S106 from Timberyard development so will be released in the future as the development progresses. Scott also reported that Dragoon Road is intended to be included in the 'Greening Evelyn' project that Deptford Folk are developing along with the National Trust. It is hoped that Dragoon Road can be turned into a substantive parklet.
    - Louise McBride also going to chase TfL for the draft A21 Outcome Definition Report, which LBL helped to fund.
  - Current consultations - members are encouraged to respond to these.

- TfL Ultra Low Emission Zone expansion consultation (Closes Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July) <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/cleanair>
  - Alex to prepare and submit response supporting the ULEZ expansion.
  - Bell Green Neighbourhood Forum establishment (Closes Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July) <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/planning/bellgreen/>
  - Alex to prepare and submit response supporting the establishment of the Neighbourhood Forum.
- Campaigning on improving Railway footbridge accessibility - Forest Hill (Sydenham Park), Bellingham, Grove Park.
  - Judith reported recent correspondence mainly regarding the Sydenham Park railway footbridge. This bridge is LBL's responsibility. The deck is meant to be replaced this year and the stairs are also planned to be refurbished - these works are funded. In Feb 2021 we suggested that at the same time as these works the bridge should be made fully accessible and gave some details as to how this could be done. Apparently LBL have commissioned a consultant to look at options for improved accessibility and their report is due imminently. Ellie Reeves (MP for Lewisham West and Penge) has written supporting accessibility improvements. Local councillors like Jack Lavery (Sydenham) and Sophie Davis (Forest Hill) are also particularly supportive. Network Rail have written to indicate that they would be happy to talk about such improvements with LBL. As to contributing any funding that is unclear but in any case it wouldn't be until their next Control Period starts in March 2024. TfL have indicated that they consider the bridge is wholly the responsibility of NR/LBL. Action is for Tim and Judith to meet in August to consider the best way to take the campaign forward.
  - Alex reported on the Grove Park Railway bridge (which is on the Heritage Literary trail). This bridge is the responsibility of Network Rail, Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum received NCIL funding to perform a feasibility report on creating an Urban National Park from the existing Nature Reserve, which could extend all the way to the South Circular. Initial discussions suggest that a new disability compliant footbridge to replace the existing footbridge may be relatively easy to install as there is a mound of earth on the Downham side and the land level is rising on the Grove Park side as well.
  - The Bellingham railway footbridge is also the responsibility of Network Rail and was refurbished maybe five years ago with no disability compliance improvements - a missed opportunity, particularly given that it is next to the Waterlink Way and is the only railway crossing point for the considerable distance between Southend Lane and Catford.
- Healthy Streets Scorecard 2022 results for Lewisham and other boroughs. <https://www.healthystreetscorecard.london/results/>
  - Lewisham continues to score poorly on the scorecard, being the lowest ranked inner London borough.

- Particular weaknesses are - low Controlled Parking Zone coverage, few Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and lack of protected cycle tracks on main roads. All of which are ongoing campaign objectives for us.
  - Council liaison update - any contact with Officers/Councillors/Committees/Questions to Council.
    - Alex & Matt attended Janet Daby's Clean Air Festival on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June in Catford Broadway. They had a number of useful conversations with councillors about our Climate Safe Streets pledges amongst other subjects.
    - Tim reported that LBL were making a £20million bid to the government's levelling-up fund to support the re-development of Lewisham Town Centre with a 2025 target date. Amongst other elements the bid envisages much improved cycling and walking links in and around the town centre. We sent a letter to LBL confirming that we formally support this bid.
    - Tim also reported that he is having ongoing discussions with Cllr Bill Brown (Ladywell) about the possibility of filtering Marsala Road in Ladywell. This would eliminate the, often aggressive, through traffic on the road, improving the environment for residents and cyclists on the Waterlink Way/NCN21 which runs along that road.
    - Scott (and Alex) recently met Cllr Will Cooper (Evelyn) at the in-progress Neptune Wharf development. They looked at the route of the proposed Canal Approach walking and cycling route. This was part of the Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood project which was de-funded by TfL a couple of years ago. Ultimately the proposed route would run from Folkestone Gardens to Dragoon Road via the subway under Evelyn Street. There is currently a lot of development going on in the immediate area - Neptune Wharf, Evelyn Business Centre and the 'H' Development opposite Folkestone Gardens meaning available NCIL and S106 funding. The key to progressing the route is the purchase of the section of Canal Approach currently being used for skip storage. This land was originally valued at £150K. Cllr Cooper was impressed by the potential of the project and said he would talk further with Louise McBride about it. Scott is proposing that the route down to Evelyn Street is opened initially, then it is subsequently extended under Evelyn St when developments to the north are completed.
- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - Upcoming one-off events - **all volunteers welcome:**
    - Dunwich Dynamo cycle unload - Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July 11am to 3pm, Bolina Road near Millwall.
    - Food & Fun in the Fields (with Dr Bike) - Sat 7<sup>th</sup> August noon to 6pm, Ladywell Fields.
    - Grove Park Carnival (with Dr Bike) - Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am to 5pm, Chinbrook Meadows.
    - Janet Daby (MP for Lewisham East) Family Cycle Ride - Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October (provisional). Our current understanding is that we will be leading the ride, involving planning the route and performing the risk assessment.

This will be in consultation with Janet. Apparently the local Met Police teams also wish to be involved their roles to be determined.

- Attendees News & Views.
  - Jorge reported that the LCC Dangerous Junctions report had just been released. The report can be viewed here: <https://lcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/LCC-Dangerous-Junctions-report-July-2022.pdf>

Meeting ended around 755pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 6.30 pm hosted online.

Lewisham Cyclists (The London Cycling Campaign group for London Borough of Lewisham)  
lewishamcyclists@gmail.com  
www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>  
<https://lewishamcyclistsgroup.slack.com/>  
<https://twitter.com/lewicyclists>