

## **Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 5th April 2023 6.30pm**

Present: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Jorge Martinez Lopez, Cllr Mark Ingleby, Jane Davis, (Rides and Community Events Coordinator)

Present online: Joseph Lyne

Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Brian Turpin, Tim Collingridge

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Lewisham 'ConnectedHighStreet' project.
  - 24-million-boost-to-revitalise-lewisham-town-centre
  - Total budget £24M. 'Connectivity' budget is £8M. Must be spent within three years.
  - This is a huge opportunity to end the dislocation caused by the Lewisham Shopping Centre and provide continuous cycle routes around & across the centre of the town, linking with the proposed Lewisham Spine segregated lanes on the A21.
  - There is also great potential for an off-road route from Ladywell and Lewisham via the currently closed riverside path between Wearside Road and Molesworth St.
  - Cllr Ingleby advised we present our document to Sustainable Development Committee on 24th April. Alex Raha is available to attend.
  - Meeting repeated need for a stakeholder involvement and Cllr Ingleby undertook to check this was planned and when.
  - LC vision for area here: <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/levelling-up-lewisham-town-centre-massive-opportunity-for-active-travel-enhancements/>
- Cycleway 10 Millwall Path - reports of robberies.
  - Some reports continuing from further west along route. This is Southwark and meeting agreed that there seemed to be a lessening of problems on the Lewisham section, as Lewisham police responsible have taken some action and been more visible around Millwall area.
  - Alex will contact Simon Saville (Coordinator Southwark Cyclists) to communicate this and suggest SNT for area need to be made aware. Also will try and find out the police individuals responsible through LCC office.
  - Cllr Ingleby suggested contacting Cllr Sophie Davis, who is the councillor responsible for matters to do with Crime.
- Cycleway4LowerRoadProgress
  - Alex reported that Southwark Cyclists consider this work now in progress and are letting the council get on with it. Some concerns raised about management of works leading to a very tight pinch point going west for cyclists, at the pedestrian crossing near the Howland Estate, just past Seven Islands Leisure Centre. Photos attached. Alex Raha said he will take this forward with Simon Saville and Michael Barratt, TfL officer responsible for safety during roadworks with a view to looking at issue on next safety patrol, if problem still exists.
- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Ward bids e.g. Catford to Forest Hill cycle route.
  - Judith Barrett and Tim have been leading on this. Judith has been very busy liaising with council, Sustrans and Site Technical Services to get the work moving on the feasibility study. Awaiting a letter from the council to reduce costs of the initial ground utility searches. Hoping this will be in place by end of April.
- Bike hangars. The meeting asked Cllr Ingleby to ensure that a timescale for procurement and installation of the hangars, both the ones funded through NCIL and those council scheduled was produced and communicated to us and those on waiting list and that existing waiting lists be used to inform this.
- The last tranche of the small borough wide award LC received for developing community

projects has yet to be paid. There is some issue with workload in the team responsible and Cllr Ingleby suggested copying in James Lee, in overall charge of whole department, to improve future communications.

- Current consultations and planning applications: Members are encouraged to respond to these:
  - Medina Works building, The Artworks, 3 Creekside, SE8 4SA – where Little Faith bar is currently located.
  - <https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal= LEWIS DCAPR 117706&activeTab=summary>
  - Alex Raha is preparing a response to this application.
- Council liaison update – no further contact reported this month.

## Community Engagement & Rides.

### Community activity update.

- Time was short so no update of past months activities given. Suggest folk look to calendar to check range of activities offered and participated in.
- Grove Park Youth Club plans to rent garage for a year. Storage for bikes and Family Cycling Library equipment plus venue for monthly LC Workshop events. Meeting agreed that Alex Raha could go ahead with Climate Action Lewisham to pay for six months' rent on the garage, as long as we have the option to give notice if further funding and/or sufficient volunteer time can't be found to develop and continue the project. Whilst LC funds are in good order, we already sustain a full programme of events and busiest time of year is coming up. Costs have also increased. It was noted that LCFL was a CAL run project for which we would provide support, and we have indeed kept to that. Jane Davis asked what CAL's future plans for the project would be and Alex Raha informed meeting that, as far as CAL is concerned, they have no plans for it beyond the end of this year. Jane Davis has prepared a brief costing breakdown of what it would cost us to provide a year's monthly LC maintenance workshops, in brief it estimates we would need £6000, as it would have to be paid mechanic led rather than volunteer led. There are local grants available, so this is a possibility. However, this breakdown did not include the cost of maintaining the Family Cycling Library, which, if it is to continue beyond this year, will need further funding. We need to discuss with CAL.

### Upcoming one-off events:

- Love Beckenham Place Park Community Day. Sat 29th April. Jane Davis said that unfortunately we don't have available volunteers or mechanics to run a stall here this year. She will contact organisers to let them know. We already do a Dr Bike every 2 months and will be there on the first Sunday of May, anyway.
- Family Cycle Ride with Janet Daby (Lewisham East MP). Sat 13th May. There is a clash this weekend with a fund-raising family ride being organised by Holbeach School on the Sunday of that weekend to raise money for the Ella Roberts foundation. Holbeach were one of the schools our Community Events Coordinator was about to invite to the Janet Daby ride! The rides would be appealing to the same demographic and also Janet may not want to be involved in something that does this. Events Coordinator also not sure this is a good idea. Meeting felt that LC ride had been advertised already and councillors invited. But agreed that Events Coordinator will write to Janet, explaining the situation and give her the final call.
- Dunwich Dynamo cycle unload. Sun 2nd July. We are still planning to help with this, although Southwark Cyclists have gone very quiet on it, and have not yet advertised coaches. Usual organising committee not responded to emails, so will copy in coordinator.

Attendees News & Views. Opportunity for attendees to raise other issues - Nothing

raised.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Jane Davis, Community Programmes and Rides Coordinator

Photos and map of Lower Rd roadworks safety issue.