

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) held online on Wednesday 5th May 2023 6.30pm

Present: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Jorge Martinez Lopez, Brian Turpin (notes), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Cllr James Royston, Cllr Luke Warner, Martin ??, Mark Chapman.

Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Rides and Community Co-ordinator).

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Catford Town Centre - the South Circular road (A205) is planned to be re-routed through the town centre removing the current gyratory junction and enabling a much improved space for people and enabling improved active travel access. TfL is currently consulting on proposed outline plans and these were the main topic of this meeting.
  - Although we support the removal of the gyratory which is hostile to people on bicycles there were a number of serious concerns about the proposals as follows:
    - This is a once in a generation project and there are issues of failed connectivity both within and outside of the current scheme extent.
    - On the east west axis, the segregated bike lanes along the new road south of Laurence House are welcomed but they don't extend into Plassy Road which seems to leave cyclists with no clear and safe route. Similarly, although bike lanes (plural) are mentioned north south along Rushey Green there appears to be provision only for south bound cyclists while those heading north have no segregated space and are in a bus lane.
    - A number of other former road spaces were discussed as having potential to improve connectivity, but they don't feature on the proposed designs. This may be because TfL is primarily concerned with the TLRN network and the Council may itself have responsibility for the more detailed aspects of joining up the details of the scheme within the town centre itself, but we need to see these critical access details.
    - Previous proposals for a new cantilevered bike track on the south side of Catford Bridge are a long-standing aim of the Council (Catford Master Plan) as this is a dangerous pinch point resulting in several serious accidents and a recent fatality. These proposals suggest a two-phase approach with an initial link being provided as far as the current shared use underpass, and a second phase for the bridge itself which would be contingent on how the proposed redevelopment of the Wickes site progresses. Given the uncertainties and likely timescale of this project we would oppose this approach given the overall capital cost of re-routing the A205. Also the existing underpass is extremely unpleasant for users, and it's hard to envisage this being capable of being brought up to modern day standards.
    - All sets of proposed bike tracks need to be extended beyond the current scheme otherwise people will simply be placed in potentially dangerous situations. It may be there are other plans afoot to take account of this opportunity, but this needs to be stated. It would make sense at this stage to

seek decent active travel links north along the A21 to Lewisham town centre which is already a TfL temporary route with potential for permanent improvements. It would seem ineffective to simply propose changes to Catford without addressing the strategic active travel opportunities presented by the Levelling Up award for Lewisham which has significant funding for town centre active travel improvements concurrently.

- Alex to draft a response to the consultation and circulate for comment.
  - Also the group discussed sending out a Civi e-mail asking members to respond before the deadline of 4th June.
  - Details of the consultation here: [catford-town-centre](#)
- Lewisham 'Connected High Street Project - 24-million-boost-to-revitalise-lewisham-town-centre.'
    - Total budget £24M with active travel 'Connectivity' budget of £8M. Must be spent within three years. Councillors advised we contact local ward members for central Lewisham to ensure they are aware of the opportunities.
    - Link to our vision for Lewisham: <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/levelling-up-lewisham-town-centre-massive-opportunity-for-active-travel-enhancements/>
  - NCIL item - deferred to next meeting.
  - Current consultations:
    - Catford a/a.
    - Medina Works building in Creekside - Alex to draft response for circulation.
    - Jorge raised a future TfL consultation on Elverson Road junction with Blackheath Hill which he will monitor via the Have Your Say website over the coming months.
  - Council liaison update – Janet Daby MP ride will be rescheduled for September because of a clash with Holbeach School who were planning a ride for the Ella Roberts foundation the same day. Details tba.
  - Community Engagement & Rides – deferred to next meeting.
  - Community activity update - Dunwich Dynamo unload at Millwall on Sunday 2nd July needs more volunteers - please email us or let us know if you're available.
  - Attendees News & Views. Opportunity for attendees to raise other issues:
    - Martin Wilson(?) raised the dangerous issue at Bertrand Street caused by Gateway contractors parking around the filter posing threats to cyclists. Note pavement parking goes on all around the Gateway with the Council seemingly turning a blind eye, the area in front on the Premier Inn is constantly blocked with workers' cars preventing active travel from accessing the safe railway arches.
    - Mark Chapman supported the Council's activities on developing School Streets although warned that the standards adopted recently at Sandhurst School are non-compliant, consisting entirely of signage which is cosmetic

and not likely to lead to effective behaviour change. He thanks councillors for attending the meeting, but advised councillors need to ensure standards are maintained with claimed improvements.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

**Brian Turpin**