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## About Lewisham Cyclists

Lewisham Cyclists (LC) are the local borough group of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) with more than 3000 supporters of whom over 650 are fully paid-up members of LCC. We speak up on behalf of everyone who cycles or wants to cycle in the London Borough of Lewisham and its adjacent local parks; and we speak up for a greener, healthier, happier and better-connected capital.

## Southwark Council Consultation on Cycleway 35 along Peckham Rye – September 2023

Ref: <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/c35-phase1/>

We welcome Southwark Council's intention to address the issues for people cycling along this hazardous stretch of road alongside Peckham Rye park, this action is long overdue.

Lewisham Cyclists are supportive of the concept of segregated cycle lane(s) along here as the current road design with regular traffic islands causes a lot of conflict between cyclists and other road users, particularly in the uphill (southbound) direction. As a general point we find the conflict is much worse in the uphill direction as most cyclists can maintain a reasonable speed downhill on the road, so other road-users tend to stay behind.

This existing London Cycle Network (LCN) route 22 is heavily used by LC members as it is the main route into the West End for people riding in from the West of Lewisham borough, including Brockley, Catford and further south in the borough of Lewisham.

However we do not support the proposed designs for several reasons:

- The bi-directional cycle lane is not wide enough according to London Cycle Design Standards – a width over 3m and preferably around 4m is what is needed. This is a particular issue in this location as northbound, descending, cyclists could be travelling at some speed so a narrow lane increases collision risks.
- Southbound cyclists have to cross the carriageway twice to access the bi-directional lane, as a result many existing riders will just choose to stay on the main carriageway, and the proposed designs will not provide a high quality route to enable newer riders.
- The Peckham Rye/Stuart Road junction seems quite counter intuitive and confusing for both people on cycles and pedestrians.

A general reduction in motorised through-traffic in the area is also very desirable to reduce the risk to cyclists along this stretch of road. We would therefore also support any plans for selective modal filters or Low Traffic Neighbourhood(s) in the South Nunhead Area. This could deliver such improvements for a wider area and lead to further increases in riders on Cycleway 35 beyond Peckham towards Catford Town centre and Brockley corridor.

Regarding the proposed cycle tracks we would ask Southwark Council to consider whether uni-directional with-flow tracks would be a better option. An uphill stepped cycle track adjacent to the highway. A downhill track in the edge of the park following the established 'desire' line there or alternatively one adjacent to the highway with a modest land take from the common to accommodate the pedestrian footway. This would eliminate the collision risk of converging cyclists

on the bi-directional track, be simpler for pedestrians to understand and would eliminate the need for southbound cyclists to cross the highway twice to access the track.

**Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary) & Alex Raha (LC Coordinator). 26/9/23**