

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Judith Barrett, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Brian Turpin, Rosemary Scott, Mark Stannard

Present online: Sarah Strong (LCC Link Trustee), Mario Toraldo

Apologies: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Cllr James Royston

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Topical Items.
  - Lewisham Council proposed Active Travel Strategy
    - LC representatives have been invited to stakeholder meetings with Lewisham Council (LBL) next week for a briefing on the draft strategy. We will be attending in ‘listening’ mode and intend to prepare a group response once we have heard the proposals. Tim commented that Cllr Louise had previously suggested that this strategy was quite task driven and would include a prioritised set of projects covering the next seven years. Prioritisation would take into account local deprivation levels when ranking the projects.
    - Comments at this meeting, and *some points to raise at the stakeholder meetings, included:*
      - Will LBL be allocating enough resources to deliver the projects?
      - Have there historically been too many strategies and not enough delivery - will this one be different?
      - Where is funding coming from to deliver the strategy?
      - What metrics will be used to measure success of the strategy?
      - Historically the emphasis has been on N-S cycling commuter routes, will E-W ones also be prioritised to create a true ‘network’?
      - Have other Active Travel groups like Brockley Better Streets, Hither Green West, PATHSE13, Deptford Folk been invited?
  - Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Ward funding - Catford to Forest Hill cycle route Feasibility Report (LC and Friends of Elm Lane (FoEL) collaboration).
    - We have now received the full £15K NCIL Grant monies from Lewisham Council.
    - Sustrans produced a proposal for the Feasibility Work in September, but the cost was more than the available monies we have left after the initial Elm Lane surveys. The additional cost is due to Sustrans including a Pavement Core Sample Survey for Elm Lane in their proposal and the fact that they will add VAT to the invoice, which we can’t claim back.
    - During October we contacted Cllr Louise Krupski and Paul Boulton (LBL Acting Director of Public Realm) to request that Lewisham pay

- directly for the Pavement Core Sample Survey, but Paul has decided not to pay for it.
- We agreed in this meeting that, *in consultation with Sustrans, we would reduce the scope of the proposal* - removing one design sketch, one visualisation and reduce the provision for amendments.
  - We have £12,450 available monies and therefore need to get the Sustrans proposed cost down from £11,600 to £10,375 (Excl VAT).
- Current consultations and planning applications - members are encouraged to respond to these:
    - TfL Healthy Streets - Greenwich to Woolwich walking and cycling changes (closes 12<sup>th</sup> Dec).  
<https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/greenwich-woolwich>
      - *Alex to coordinate with Greenwich Cyclists so we 'mirror' their Group response.*
  - Council liaison update.
    - Several committee members had a meeting with Lewisham Council (LBL) Officers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct regarding the proposed Deptford Church Street segregated cycle lanes. The outline plans look good and we had a constructive discussion about some outstanding issues. Public consultation is expected to take place this year. Expectation is that construction work will start in Autumn 2024 when Thames Tunnel contractors plan to go offsite. LC have started planning promotional activities for this consultation to make sure there is a very positive response, as there was for Cycleway 4.  
*Members who wish to be involved in promotional activities please email us at [lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com)*
    - Judith mentioned that she had again raised the issue of Sydenham Park/Dacres Road railway footbridge with Cllr Louise Krupski and local Councillors. The bridge deck was refurbished in 2023 and at the time LBL committed to develop plans for 'stepped' ramps to make the bridge more accessible. The first phase in the plan development was to perform a utilities survey, but we have not had anything further about progress on this.
  - Community Engagement & Rides.
    - Family Cycling Library - last event was 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. No activity yet planned for this winter. Jorge said we really need more volunteers to be involved as logistics are challenging.  
*LC Coordinator(s) to discuss with Climate Action Lewisham regarding their involvement going forward. Add to January LC Meeting Agenda to discuss plans for next year.*
    - Upcoming one-off events:
      - Ride Leaders 2024 Planning Meeting Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Nov at 630pm. Online meeting for all prepared to assist with the LC ride programme:  
<https://meet.google.com/zqm-ztqr-jcw>
      - Deptford Second Sunday Workshop, Xmas Fayre and Social - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1030hrs to 1430hrs - planning to have bike jumble.  
*Looking for volunteers to bake cakes and to staff the refreshments*

*& jumble stalls.*

Head to the Dog and Bell pub afterwards.

- Attendees News & Views.

- Jorge mentioned that a 'Greening of A2 Group' had apparently been formed - he will investigate and report back when he knows more.
- Jorge also raised TfL's recent consultation for Blackheath Hill and Lewisham Road junction improvements. No benefits to cyclists. TfL are proposing banning the right turn from Lewisham Road into Blackheath Hill to allow the introduction of a signalised pedestrian phase across Blackheath Hill. This is proving controversial.
- Jorge also reported back on the C4 construction works through Surrey Quays in Southwark. Most of the works have been completed with the one remaining worksite being outside Surrey Quays station.
- Brian mentioned that Landsec are having an exhibition regarding their latest plans for the redevelopment of Lewisham Shopping Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November.

*Members are encouraged to attend and emphasise again that E-W connectivity for people on bicycles needs to be improved as the Centre currently severely dislocates the whole town centre.*

- Mario raised their local campaign for the 'filtering' of Cold Bloe Lane. They have a walking meeting with MP Vicky Foxcroft at 0830hrs on 17<sup>th</sup> November to illustrate to her the safety issues with this narrow tunnel, particularly when parents are taking children to school.

*Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to show support for this campaign.*

- Judith mentioned that she had sent in a motion for the LCC AGM regarding railway footbridges across London. Apparently there is an LCC Sub-Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov where proposed motions are scrutinised. This is the text of the motion:

- "Many of London's cycling routes include bridges across railways - especially those going east-west which are particularly useful to encourage general cyclists, rather than those commuting in/out of central London. However, these are inaccessible to cyclists with heavier bikes/less upper-body strength (as well as to wheelchair users and parent/carers pushing buggies). In many cases, the local council is the body responsible for the bridge's maintenance, and government cuts to local council budgets ensure that currently no council has the money to revamp the bridges and make them accessible.

We propose that LCC should (a) identify all such bridges across all the London boroughs (b) lobby local councillors and MPs to, together with LCC, lobby Network Rail, to set aside capital funding for the upgrading of the bridges and make them fully accessible."

- Sarah agreed it could be a good subject to discuss at the AGM to establish if this is an issue right across London or confined to a few boroughs.

- Meeting closed at 745pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre in Catford. **N.B. No monthly meeting in December but please do come along to our 'social' on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

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

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