

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Brian Turpin, Rosemary Scott, Mary King, Matt Begg.

Present online: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Katy Rodda (LCC), Michael Okarim.

Apologies: Cllr Mark Ingleby, Judith Barrett, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Mario Toraldo, Les Robinson, Fiona Mackillop, Anna Moore.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides
 - Community activity update. *See Appendix 1.*
 - *1. Workshops & 2. Community Calendar*
 - Agreed to set up a Management Committee (MC) for Workshops & Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL). Alex, Matt & Jane plus a couple of other volunteers. MC to report back regularly to the Monthly Meeting. Appeal for further help via Facebook and a CIVI mail-out.
 - Significant issue is whether we can financially support three monthly workshops/Dr Bikes. We are committed to GPYC for at least six months (£150/mth). Current available monies are around £5K. GPYC and BPP events are potentially self-funding if only using volunteers, but not if employing mechanic(s).
MC to review funding and consider other potential funding sources.
 - Alex is going to review donations received via iZettle to see how much we normally receive per Dr Bike session vs costs incurred.
 - Katy said she would find out if other local LCC groups use any general donation websites like JustGiving which utilise QR codes.
 - *3. Rides & 4. Other possible events & rides*
 - Alex has had requests to coordinate a 'SE London' Kidical Mass covering Greenwich, Lewisham & Southwark.
First ride could be along C4 from Greenwich (Cutty Sark) to Surrey Quays (Southwark Park) when all of C4 is open. Returning along C10.
 - Jane is going to have further discussions with Roy Ashman regarding running more basic maintenance courses in the New Year. She expects these would be cost neutral or modestly revenue earning.
 - Lewisham Family Cycling Library - taking over from Climate Action Lewisham (CAL).
 - No activity yet planned for this winter.
 - Equipment includes the Cargo Bike, child seats, trailers etc.
 - Equipment has been relocated to the garage at GPYC, most workable option would be to mainly operate out of GPYC, with occasional events elsewhere in Lewisham e.g. Ladywell Fields.
 - Really need a couple of volunteers to take this forward. Several tasks involved - promotion, coordination of bookings, handling deposits & charges, and on the day training.

- Are some significant standing costs involved e.g. maintenance on cargo bike (£200) and insurance (£700), though LCC insurance may cover some of this. To offset this we would receive revenue from the rental of the items. Also need to manage deposits which complicates our accounting.
 - LC Coordinator(s) to discuss with CAL regarding their involvement going forward.
 - Upcoming one-off events:
 - LCC Women's Freedom Ride 3rd March 2024 - Feeder/Marshals needed. Jane to promote via Facebook.
- Topical Items
 - Cold Blow Lane in Deptford - campaign for closure to through traffic. It is currently an intimidating and hazardous route for both pedestrians and cyclists. It is a key access route for many school children. Mary gave us a summary of the campaign to date:
 - Vicky Foxcroft (MP), Cllr Louise Krupski (Cabinet Member for Environment) and Darren Gotch (LBL Principal Engineer, Public Realm) have all recently been on walk-throughs of the tunnels to see the issues firsthand.
 - Cllr Liam Shrivastava has recently presented the local residents' petition to the Council. It contains over 500 signatures. This is the 4th petition in 15 years!
 - Thames Water apparently closed this route for several weeks in September with little apparent impact on local traffic levels.
 - The campaign group are looking at holding a Play Street event in the Spring and are also looking at establishing a 'Bike Bus' to one of the nearby primary schools. Also considering contacting ArtMongers regarding murals: www.artmongersaction.org
 - Meeting with London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) Strategic Transport team regarding Public Realm Technical manual.
 - LBL are developing this manual as a reference for future highway works ensuring Public Realm works, including cycle specific ones, meet modern standards.
 - Activity with LBL Highways/Strategic Transport team.
 - Active Travel Strategy - under development by LBL Consultants. No further news on this.
 - Deptford Church Street cycle lanes consultation - in December we originated a number of social media posts/CIVI emails and did several sessions of leafleting on Cycleway 4. The QR code we used was scanned 450 times so hopefully LBL have received lots of positive responses from cyclists!
 - New Cross Gate to Crofton Park Cycleway - we submitted preferred options to LBL before Xmas, they have acknowledged receipt, but no further meeting is planned yet.
 - Proposed Catford to Forest Hill cycle route via Elm Lane (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Ward funded).

- Sustrans have started work on the Feasibility Report and have done a half-day of door-knocking on Elm Lane and in Vineyard Close. Responses have apparently been positive so far.
 - Disappointing news is that some form of full reconstruction of Elm Lane is likely to be needed which will have considerable costs associated with it.
 - From a campaigning point of view we should promote this route as being complimentary to other local cycle route enhancements i.e.
 - The routing of Cycleway 18 along the adjacent Waterlink Way.
 - The proposed cantilevered bridge at Catford Bridge leading to the E-W cycle lane in the Catford Gyratory replacement plans.
 - This approach may lead to the possibility of future LIP funding from TfL.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - None recorded.
- *The following two items were deferred to the February Meeting as we ran out of time to discuss them:*
 - Discussion on group communications strategy:
 - Group public communications:
 - Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram, 'Civi' mailouts, LC website posts. *Katy mentioned in the meeting that LCC are considering BlueSky as an alternative to Twitter but have not made the decision to move to it yet.*
 - Are we still comfortable using Twitter and is it in line with the group ethos?
 - Campaigning communications to 'activists':
 - Is 'Lewisham Cyclists' Slack working for us or should we move to WhatsApp or GoogleGroups?
 - Rides and Community Events:
 - To members - LCC website events for bookings, Facebook events & LC website calendar for information. Drop Eventbrite? Start charging nominal fee for rides, is that possible via LCC website?
 - To Ride Leaders - seems to be working well through WhatsApp group.
 - How to actively engage with new members for campaigning, community events and rides.
 - One idea is to have focused activities & campaigns - giving individuals direct responsibility.
 - Railway bridges motion to LCC AGM.
 - Brief discussion on ways to communicate with other LCC groups across London.
 - Wording of motion:

Many potential routes for cycling in London are made inaccessible by barriers. These barriers include narrow gates, steep access ranks, rough paths and closely placed railings. These barriers impact particularly badly on people cycling local trips, on people less able to

carry or push their bike, on wheelchair users and on parents or carers pushing buggies or cycling with children.

A particular issue of concern are crossings of railways, by bridge or underpass, which are often inaccessible, and where there may be opportunity to work with Network Rail and local councils to seek improvements.

We propose that LCC works alongside allies to support accessible cycling across London and communicates with borough groups to identify significant railway-related problems such as bridges and underpasses.

- Meeting closed at 805pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre in Catford.

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

Appendix 1 - Community activity update.

1. Workshops

We need a plan of action for the workshops:

Options:

Appeal to LC members for volunteers to staff a kind of management committee, similar to what we did when setting up original one at Grove Park.

Research funding opportunities: Need volunteer to do this.

2. Community calendar – regular monthly workshops

1st Sunday: Beckenham Place Park (BPP) Dr Bike

This has become very popular and busy (Jane plus 1 booked mechanic)

2nd Sunday: Deptford 2nd Sunday

Very busy and popular (Jane plus 2 mechanics, or 3 when Jane not available)

3rd Sunday: Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC)

Can we run this between Jane and Alex for now? I can do a few of them, but occasionally may have to be away from London on that third Sunday. We have made a commitment to them and need to maintain a regular presence. If neither Alex nor I can make it, think it's important we should still run it so need to consider costing implications of booking a mechanic from time to time. Further funding needed if we are to do more than a very basic Dr Bike for them. Transferring excess tools here and storing Dr Bike kit here so can run on this basis.

3. Rides

Amended version of rides calendar – version in the original Agenda was incorrect.

Jane happy to commit as far as is possible so far ahead to leading the majority of the 'Longer' rides and 'London Explorers' listed below. So far, barring unforeseen emergencies etc, they are in my diary as down to me. Generally, I will not be in London for the last week or so of every month.

1st Saturday of the month - Longer rides:

February: 2 counties ride (from Coulsdon Town Station via Farthing Down)

March: Essex Ride from Shenfield (May be affected by engineering work, backup planned)

April: Flat Kent

May: Pevensey Levels and Hastings

June: Eastbourne

July: Dungeness and Folkestone

Aug: Surrey Hills Longer Ride

September: Shipwrights Arms

October: Essex ride from Shenfield

November: Short Surrey Hills Ride from Epsom

2nd Saturday of the month - London Explorer rides:

February: shorter South London Parks

March: East End Ride (Women's day IWD)

April: longer South London Parks

May: Oxleas Wood and Severndroog Castle

June: Coal Drops Yard, St Pancras Churchyard

July: Tower Bridge, riverside and Woolwich Ferry

August: Richmond Park

September Clerkenwell and the City

October: Small London Ride (Central)

November: Lesnes Abbey^[P]_[SEP]

December: Christmas lights (afternoon early evening ride)

3rd Saturday of the month – Half day Kent and Surrey rides:

These have been led largely by Les Robinson plus Rosemary/Alex/Fiona. Think we can continue organising through the LC Rides admin WhatsApp group. I'm going to make a general Risk Assessment available to that group which each Ride Leader can add to if necessary for their particular ride.

4th Saturday of the month:

Open to any member to volunteer to lead a ride. Need to contact me first.

In addition:

LCC Womens Freedom Ride Sunday March 3rd

4. Other possible events & rides

A local Kidical Mass this year?

A Spring Jumble/get together possibly at Grove Park Youth Club to raise its profile.

C4 ride – when it is fully open through Surrey Quays.

Ad hoc Dr Bikes throughout year when possible. Responding to local demand/other groups requests/schools summer fairs etc.

Roy Ashman and I are hoping to run some basic maintenance courses, probably at Deptford. Roy was ill with Covid before Christmas and our planning meeting for these had to be cancelled, so we are behind schedule, but hoping to meet with Roy in next couple of weeks and arrange at least a couple of courses for February. Probably weekday evenings. One of which will be women only.

Plan to use our recommended donation scheme for these which we are hoping might cover our costs plus deliver a bit of income if we are lucky.

Funding: Awards for All funding application was submitted early December. We should hear by end of March. But no guarantees on this, so we need to be looking at other funding streams.

Jane Davis: LC Community Programmes and Rides Coordinator. New Year update 2/01/2024