



Contact: lewishamcyclists@gmail.com



Website: www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk

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.

LC Response to 'Feedback on our plans for Lewisham Town Centre' Commonplace (Mar/Apr 2024)

<https://lewishamtc.commonplace.is/>

Overall comments

While welcoming the public realm enhancements included in London Borough of Lewisham's (LBL) plans we feel that many opportunities to enhance Active Travel connectivity across the centre of Lewisham have been missed. The town centre is currently very dislocated by the Lewisham Shopping Centre and the hostile, for people on cycles, Lewisham Gateway layout and other busy major roads like Molesworth Street and Lewisham High Street.

We would like to see much better connectivity between existing East-West and North-South cycle paths and Lewisham High Street. Ensuring that all paths are directly connected with cycle enabled signalised crossings and that pavements are widened where necessary to accommodate both pedestrians and people on cycles.

Comments on facilities that we understand are included in the plans:

- Plough Bridge pocket park. Adjacent to St Stephen's Grove/Lewisham High Street.
 - The signalised crossing here is a Toucan so it is essential to ensure adequate width is retained through the pocket park for shared use of the pavement approach to the crossing.
 - St Stephen's Grove/Lewisham High St should be filtered to reduce high motor vehicle throughputs. This is an essential link from Plough Bridge park for people on cycles to the existing cycle lane in front of the Police Station on Lewisham High Street.
 - There is also an opportunity here to designate a shared pavement, with dropped kerbs, in front of the Premier Inn allowing cyclists safe access to Granville Park which is a popular route up to Blackheath Common.

There is also regular illegal pavement parking here which needs to be prevented.

- Bi-directional cycle lane in front of Police Station on Lewisham High Street.
 - We welcome the plan to re-configure this lane as a bi-directional one but to be useful the signalised crossing on Lewisham High Street near the Boots shop needs to be upgraded to a Toucan Crossing at the same time.
- Limes Grove Pocket Park and bi-directional cycling to Molesworth St cycle lane(s).
 - We welcome these works but it is essential to ensure adequate width is retained through the pocket park for shared pedestrian and cyclist use.
 - The northbound protected Molesworth St cycle lane should be enhanced by the provision of a dropped kerb to access the shared pavement. This needs to be just before the Toucan Crossing at the north end of Molesworth St giving cyclists easier access to the pavement and onwards to Cornmill Gardens.
 - In our view LBL and Transport for London (TfL) need to urgently take forward plans for the Lewisham Spine segregated cycle lanes from this location. The current southbound uni-directional segregated cycle lane on the A21 from Morley Road past Lewisham Fire Station should be used as the basis for a new bi-directional segregated lane from Morley Road past the Fire Station as far as Lewisham Hospital. Clipper Way could then potentially be used as a link between the segregated lane and Limes Grove. Morley Road being partially filtered (exit only or entry only for motor vehicles) to accommodate the segregated lane.
- Cycle Hub offering secure storage and supporting onward travel at Lewisham Station. In Station Road adjacent to the taxi rank.
 - We are strongly supportive of the idea of having a secure cycle hub on the east side of the station.
 - Due to the difficulty in accessing the station on a cycle from the west side (Waterlink Way) we would question whether there should be a matching facility on the west side under the railway arches opposite Glass Mill Leisure Centre.
- Brompton hire lockers in Station Road adjacent to the taxi rank.
 - These seem like a very good idea to us.

Enhancements we would like to see included in these plans:

- Uni-directional cycle lane on Lewisham High Street in front of the police station should be extended southwards to the Lewis Grove signalised junction leading to an Advanced Stop Line (ASL) for cyclists.
- Toucan Crossing on Lewisham High Street (outside Boots shop). Proposed in the Lewisham Shopping Centre redevelopment project and should be brought forward into this project.
- Silk Mills Path. Enhancements and improved signage for this very useful car-free walking & cycling route which is adjacent to the Plough Bridge pocket park and proposed Cycle Hub at Lewisham Station. Details of our suggestions are in this document:
<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Silk-Mills-Path-upgrades-2023-v2.pdf>
- Ladywell link green walking & cycle route via the existing closed riverside path. Running from Molesworth Street (Mill/Sculpture Park) to Wearside Road (for Ladywell Village & Waterlink Way). See details in this document (pages 4-5):
<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/An-active-travel-vision-for-Lewisham-Shopping-Centre-redevelopment-plans-October-2022.pdf>
- More visitor cycle parking at appropriate locations around the high street i.e. Sheffield stands. These should be covered, this being a good opportunity to introduce environmentally friendly green roofs.
- Widespread provision of geo-fenced drop zone(s) for dockless electric hire cycles and dockless hire electric scooters.
- A last mile cargo cycle distribution depot - in association with local businesses and delivery couriers.
- Charging points for eCycles, also able to host cargo eCycles.

For more details on our ideas see our previously published vision for comprehensive improvements in Active Travel connectivity across Lewisham Town Centre:

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/levelling-up-lewisham-town-centre-massive-opportunity-for-active-travel-enhancements/>

Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary) pp LC Committee 19/4/2024