

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

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Matt Begg, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Judith Barrett.

Present online: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Mario Toraldo, Michael Okarimia.

Apologies: Cllr Mark Ingleby, Brian Turpin, Rosemary Scott.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Upcoming one-off events:
 - London Cycling Campaign (LCC) 'London Loves Cycling' weekend 27th / 28th April.
 - Alex is discussing with Greenwich and Southwark Cyclists a plan to re-run the 'Celebrate Cycleway 4' ride. LCC want us to run ride(s) this weekend to provide lots of positive social media moments.
 - London Freecycle Sunday 26th May.
 - Jane will contact Mike @ LCC about potential feeder ride. Last year LCC employed a Cycle Instructor to run the Lewisham feeder as Jane was away.
 - Dunwich Dynamo cycle lorry unload Sunday 21st July - volunteers needed.
 - Matt & Alex said they would be available for this. Jane will post on Facebook and WhatsApp for volunteers to assist.
 - Community activity update:
 - Bike Week 2024 - 10th to 16th June. Planned events:
 - Lewisham Peaks ride Thurs 13th June. Alex leading.
 - Bike Breakfast - Cycleway 4 @ Grove Street shops. Probably going to be Tues 11th June 7am - 8.30am.
 - Kender School 150th Anniversary Friday 7th June in the afternoon. Jane & Mario to coordinate. Ideally Dr Bike and Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL). For LFCL need additional volunteer(s) and someone to bring eTrike from Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC).
- Treasurer's Ongoing Budget for 2023/24 and Outline Budget for 2024/25.
 - Treasurer's end-of-year report:
 - "Attached please find a modified Ongoing Budget end of year report (Appendix A) - as per compared with last month's version - and a new Outline Budget for 2024-25 (Appendix A).
The Outline Budget for 2024/2025 is rather more gloomy than last month's version - even though Jane plans to run 3 Mechanics courses at a profit and will reduce some of the mechanics' costs of the 2nd Sunday sessions.
As you can see we are likely to spend more than we will receive during 2024-25 and our end-of-year net worth at March 2025 may well be

almost down to zero. Elm Lane monies are, of course, restricted, and are quite separate from the figures.”

- There was concern that we could enter 2025 with close to a zero balance in which case we would have to immediately stop all workshop activities. There is clearly a need to look for additional grant funding (see below) and money raising activities.
- Alex said that LFCL has the potential to be money raising. CAL’s experience was that there was a net surplus of around £500/annum, but this is reliant on hirers making donations. He also commented that we should be receiving the outstanding LFCL balance of around £1,300 from CAL soon.
- John said he would provide a Budget Update monthly going forward as we need to keep a careful eye on the finances over the coming year.
- Potential new Grant Funding sources:
 - Application to Chinbrook Action Residents Team (CHART) for GPYC workshop. GPYC is within their area so potentially possible to get grant from them for this workshop. Alex said he believes they need to spend their grant monies by end 2024. Alex & Jane to prepare application.
 - Jane is considering re-submitting our, previously rejected, National Lottery ‘Awards for All’ application when she has gathered the required evidence base.
 - Lewisham Council NCIL funding. Later this year. Maybe from a Clean Air fund if one is allocated by the Mayor or from Ward NCIL.
- Topical Items.
 - Mayoral election - LCC ‘London Loves Cycling’ election campaign launches Wednesday 3rd April. See Local Group briefing notes circulated in 28/3 LCC Friday Post.
 - Candidates pledge campaign is Live now. Members are encouraged to participate to email the Mayoral candidates, it only takes a couple of minutes: <https://lcc.org.uk/campaigns/london-loves-cycling/>
 - The overall campaign is all about showing how much Londoners already Love Cycling. So will be all about having fun on bikes through rides etc. and sharing the positive vibes on social media.
 - Lewisham Active Travel Strategy - under development.
 - NRP Consultants are producing this Strategy for Lewisham Council. It is currently undergoing initial Stakeholder Consultation and LC has responded with some constructive criticisms.
 - The Strategy has identified over 30 potential Active Travel routes through the borough. Various criteria have then been used to prioritise these e.g. Deprivation index, propensity to cycle. The highest priority routes will then be developed progressively as funding becomes available.
 - Cross-river electric ferry - Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf.
 - This project is apparently moving ahead with planning applications submitted - details of the project and planning are here: <https://www.thamesclippers.com/about-us/cross-river-ferry-consultation>

- We have also heard that the new ferry has been designed and Thames Clippers have gone out to tender for construction.
 - We are hopeful that the travel cost is going to be lower than the current £3.95. More in the £1 to £2 range but this is likely to be dependent on TfL's level of subsidy.
 - Council liaison update - any contact with Officers/Councillors/Committees/Questions to Council.
 - Cycleway 4 is currently temporarily closed for 100m just to the east of the Oxestalls Road junction for works on the adjacent building site. Apparently, no Works Order was registered with the Council. Cllr Kruspski and Will Norman (TfL) have been notified. We are trusting this will only be a short-term closure.
 - Current consultations and planning applications - members are encouraged to respond to these:
 - Designing Streets and Public Spaces in Lewisham (Closes 24/4/24). <https://designinglewisham.commonplace.is/>
 - Alex is preparing a consultation response guide for members for this commonplace. In advance of this it only takes a short time to respond to the pro-cycling elements with a 'smiley face'.
 - We will also put together a detailed Group Response before the closing date.
 - Lewisham Town Centre (Levelling Up funds) Commonplace (Closes 22/4/24). <https://lewishamtc.commonplace.is/>
 - The plans seem to be a bit of a missed opportunity in terms of remedying the inaccessibility of Lewisham town centre for people on cycles.
 - We will put together a detailed Group Response before the closing date.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Michael raised an issue with illegal parking blocking the dropped kerb on the cycle gap in Venner Road in Sydenham. Alex's advice was to report via LoveCleanStreets app with photos to hopefully trigger some enforcement. If not successful contact Jack Lavery, pro-cycling Sydenham Councillor.
 - Mario raised the Hatcham Gardens re-opening event on Sat 25th May. Hoping to have the Lewisham Mayor attending. Could LC provide a volunteer led Dr Bike? Mario would be able to help out. Revisit at next monthly meeting.
 - Judith mentioned the LCC Inaccessible Railway Crossings project. We have heard back from nine other local LCC groups listing their inaccessible railway bridges. Most have only a few of these like Lewisham, but Ealing came up with twelve(!) including level crossings, tunnels etc. Alex, Jorge & Judith are going to discuss how best to map these. The map will then be presented to the next LCC Local Group Forum.
- Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May 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>

Outline Budget for 2024/25

Lewisham Cyclists Outline Draft Budget for 2024/25	
<small>(Please note these figures are for Main account only- the Grant a/c is restricted for the Elm Lane project only)</small>	
<u>Income</u>	
Actual Main a/c bank balance at end of March 2024	5053
LCC grant	350
Payment for DunRun unloading assistance ex. Southwark Cyclists ***	1000
Mechanic's courses x 3- (net of costs)	300
Donations as per 2023-24	2221
	8924
<u>Estimated expenditure (mostly as per 2023/24)</u>	
Mechanics costs for 2nd Sunday sessions (reduced from 2023-24)	3000
Dr Bike events (as per 2023/24)	1453
Scout Hut hire at £100 p.m. for April 2024 to March 2025	1200
Scout Hut arrears b/f from 2023/24	300
Garage rent at £150 p.m.	1800
Consumables	700
Business cards & flyers	75
	8528
Possible Main Account bank balance at end March 2025 £ 396	
Note : *** This has not been confirmed at the present time	
29 March 2024	