

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Judith Barrett, Tom Fyans (London Cycling Campaign Chief Executive Officer).

Present online: Mario Toraldo.

Apologies: Cllr Mark Ingleby, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Brian Turpin, Rosemary Scott.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - Upcoming one-off events:
    - Hatcham Gardens re-opening event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May Noon to 3pm. Mario volunteered to help with LC stall. Jane not available. If Peabody will fund mechanic for Dr Bike (4hrs @ £30/hr) Jane will arrange. Mary King will check with Peabody and revert to Jane.
    - London Freecycle Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Lewisham Feeder Ride. Alex is leading. 2pm return ride. Have some marshals, but additional volunteers welcomed.
    - Kender School 150th Anniversary Friday 7th June in the afternoon. Jane & Mario coordinating. Ideally Dr Bike and Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL). For LFCL need additional volunteer(s) and someone to bring eTrike from Lewisham Youth Project in Forest Hill. Alex said he may be able to help out with LFCL - to be confirmed.
    - Bike Week 2024 - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Planned events:
      - Bike Breakfast on Cycleway 4 @ Grove Street shops. Tues 11th June 7am - 8.30am. Judith volunteered to help. Agreed would be good to have a Sandwich Board or Easel for promotional purposes.
      - Lewisham Peaks ride Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June. Alex leading. Tim to provide GPX file.
    - Dunwich Dynamo cycle lorry unload Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July - further volunteers still needed.
  - Community activity update:
    - Jane ran three bike maintenance classes recently, raising around £300 in donations. Successful, but hard work for one person.
    - We're still doing monthly Dr Bikes/Maintenance workshops at Beckenham Place Park (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month), Deptford Scout Hut (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month) and Grove Park Youth Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month). Volunteers to help out always welcomed.
    - Now days are longer we've just restarted our longer rides to the country (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month).
- Briefing from Tom Fyans (London Cycling Campaign (LCC) Chief Executive Officer).
  - Tom has been a member of LCC for 20 years and has been CEO for 6 months.
  - He shared his views on the 'London Loves Cycling' (LLC) campaign. The thinking behind the campaign was that putting political pressures on the two candidates was of limited value. Sadiq Khan is already committed to most LCC objectives

and Susan Hall was not influenceable given her avowed opposition to many of the Active Travel measures LCC advocates. Therefore, it was decided to go for a more positive form of celebratory campaigning to get the messages across and make the campaign more accessible and achieve a broader community reach. There was a very good response to the 'pledges' email and engagement levels with the LLC video was very high. <https://lcc.org.uk/campaigns/london-loves-cycling/> There was a lot of positive social media coverage for the video and the LLC celebratory rides over the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April.

- Alex mentioned that LC had been involved with another successful collaboration with Greenwich Cyclists and Southwark Cyclists to lead an LLC ride along Cycleway 4 from Greenwich to Southwark Park. Cooper's Lane Bike Bus, a very popular initiative in the south of the borough also celebrated the LLC campaign on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom related that one of his key tasks is to develop a more sustainable funding model for LCC. There is a need to recruit more members and retain existing ones, as well as looking for more substantial donations from individuals. When this has been achieved he hopes that Central Office could provide more support to borough groups, particularly those that have low levels of local participation.
- Topical Items.
  - Proposed Catford to Forest Hill cycle route via Elm Lane (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Ward funded).
    - Judith and Jane recently attended a meeting between Sustrans and Council Officers regarding the final Feasibility Report.
    - At the meeting there was much discussion about Elm Lane re-surfacing and potential adoption. In the Feasibility Report Sustrans had postulated a figure of around £200K for the re-surfacing, but disappointingly they presented different figures in the meeting ranging from £300K to £900K. Lewisham Officers remain convinced the cost would be around £1M. On a more positive note there were discussions about doing some traffic counts on Elm Lane to ascertain the potential impact of filtering the road.
    - There is a further meeting planned for mid-May, which we will be attending, this time involving Sustrans and Councillors to review the Feasibility Report.
  - Council liaison update.
    - Alex mentioned that the next Lewisham 'Sustainable Streets' consultations were due soon. Areas to be covered this time are Hither Green, Lee and Blackheath.
    - Alex also reported that the Lime Hire eBike operational area now covers the whole of the borough.
- Attendees News & Views.
  - Judith raised the LCC Inaccessible Railway Crossings project (see previous meeting records for details). Agreed that Judith, Alex and Jorge would meet soon to finalise the best approach for presenting the data - probably a Google 'My Map'.
- Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre in Catford.

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

[lewishamcyclists@gmail.com](mailto:lewishamcyclists@gmail.com)

[www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk](http://www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk)

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