

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 7th August 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby.

Present online: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer).

Apologies: Brian Turpin, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Mario Toraldo.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Upcoming one-off events:
 - Grove Park Carnival - Sun 1st Sept. Joint stall with Grove Park Youth Club. Alex to attend and provide a basic bike checks service. Jane to post on the Volunteer WhatsApp for someone to help him out.
 - Car Free Days - Fri 20th Sept to Sun 22nd Sept.
 - Jane is leading central London Kidical Mass on the Sunday.
 - Proposal to have a celebratory event at Cold Blow Lane on Saturday, maybe 11am to 1pm. Possibly with a Dr Bike. Jane to discuss with Mario.
 - Community activity update:
 - There was a minor collision on a recent LC ride which highlighted an issue with our Incident Reporting. We need to complete an LCC Incident Reporting online form when these happen, however when you complete it a copy isn't sent to us. At the meeting we provisionally agreed that LC Ride Leaders should complete our Incident Form (in GoogleDocs) then Jane will transcribe the details onto the LCC online form. Jane to finalise the procedure and communicate to Ride Leaders.
- Treasurer's Interim Report to August meeting (also see Appendix A)
 - John's written report:
 - Although as you can see, from the Ongoing Budget for 2024/25, the Bottom Line has improved by £400 as compared with two months ago things are not good for the medium-term future. At our current rates of income and expenditure we may be insolvent by late summer next year.
An Outline Budget at current levels of Income and Expenditure for 2025/26, with a deficit of £2550, would look like this:
Income: b/f from 2024/25 £1900, LCC grant £350, donations £2500, Southwark Cyclists DunRun payment £1000 = £5750
Expenditure: Garage rent at Grove Park £1800, Scout Hut rent £1200, 2nd Sunday mechanics £3000, Dr Bike events £1500. Consumables £700, Google Workplace costs £100 = £8300
With an average income of per month of £320 and expenditure of £700, our brought forward reserve of £1900 would be used up within five months or so by end of August 2025.
Additionally, due to the fact that Southwark Cyclists do not pay us for the DunRun unloading until very late in the year (Oct/Nov), we may well run out of actual cash by say early summer 2025. That additional, immediate cash flow, problem might be solved by either delaying payment to our suppliers or

‘borrowing’ the residual balance on the Grant Account assuming that is were still available. Failing that, our cash reserve would expire by late July. Clearly therefore, unless we can find additional source(s) of income, then our current levels of expenditure needs to be curtained soon or in the near future. I am unaware that any ongoing grant application(s) are being undertaken As a practical step might it be useful to convene a small one-off financial subcommittee meeting soon-ish with Alex, Tim, Jane and myself (and maybe one or two others) (If so I’d prefer it to be held at 39 Broadfield Road for both practical and domestic reasons).

- John was online at the meeting and could hear and see us, but unfortunately his microphone wasn’t working so we couldn’t hear him. We discussed the forecast financial issues and agreed to have a financial sub-committee meeting, as proposed by John, in October.
- Topical Items.
 - Healthy Streets (HS) Scorecard Rankings - brief discussion as to how we want to use Lewisham’s somewhat disappointing results in our public facing communications.
 - The HS rankings are based on a series of key measures e.g. segregated cycle track length, Controlled Parking Zone proportion, School Streets, LTN coverage etc.
 - Although Lewisham are making good progress in School Streets and Sustainable Streets initiatives, in others areas progress is patchy and the borough is being left behind by some of the most progressive inner-London boroughs. The borough is also investing in a number of public realm improvements e.g. Lewisham Town Centre, which although widely beneficial, are not going to directly register on the scorecards.
 - This creates a dilemma for Councillors and us Campaigners, whether to try and focus borough development monies on measures that will register on the rankings or continue with more generalised public realm enhancements. Inevitably the answer is probably a mixture of the two...
 - On the back of these ideas we had a discussion about how to present these disappointing HS outcomes in our public communications. Some of us are uncomfortable with the idea of it being a competition between boroughs and the potentially de-motivating impact of negative campaigning using the rankings. Others feel it is important the Council is taken to task for its disappointing performance in the rankings to spur more focused investments in the future.
 - Our final conclusion was that, in communications, we shouldn’t solely focus on these rankings but use them in the context of the debate around other Council policy developments e.g. their Active Travel Strategy, Lewisham Spine, Healthy Neighbourhoods proposals etc.
 - Future funding options for LC workshops:

- LCC Lime Share the Joy fund. Register for interest now. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25. LC would need to collaborate with a local Community Group. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>
 - Consider applying in 2025 using information from TfL WCGL (see below). Could collaborate with Grove Park Youth Club for the workshop there.
- ChART - Chinbrook Action Residents Team who have National Lottery funding, soon expiring. <https://chartbiglocal.org.uk/>
 - ChART are at the end of their funding period and may not have any money left.
- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Ward NCIL Revenue Grant. Apply by 23rd Sept. <https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/ncil/apply/>
 - Jane looking at make a funding application for this for Evelyn Ward and Deptford workshop. Grove Park Ward does not have much money in their pot.
- TfL Walking & Cycling Grants (Community Ideas £5K 1 year; Walking & Cycling £8K 2 years). Apply by 9th Sept. <https://wcgl.london/>
 - Alex is going to prepare an application for GPYC Workshop to WCGL.
- National Lottery Awards for All.
 - Jane looking to reapply, after initial rejection last year, with additional supporting information.
- Planning for LC Annual Meeting - either March or April monthly meeting.
 - Alex to contact Laura Laker re speaking at this meeting, offering her a choice of the two dates. She is a renowned journalist who wrote the book 'Potholes & Pavements': <https://road.cc/content/review/potholes-and-pavements-laura-laker-308283>
- Agree ongoing funding for Google Workspace subscription (£6/mth) to enable hybrid meetings - this was agreed by the meeting. Payment is now being made by Direct Debit.
- Pending issues:
 - St Joseph's Vale cargo bike inaccessible barrier on LCN28.
 - We discussed this with Darren Gotch last month and he said he would investigate it.
 - Jorge has also raised the issue with Cllr Pauline Dall in Blackheath, and she is following up with other local councillors.
 - Evelyn Street - local parents would like LC to assist in encouraging better 'etiquette' while using C4.
 - Alex is drafting a post for the LC website.
 - Proposed content for next LC 'Civi' mailout.
 - Lead with article on Cold Blow Lane, including 21st Sept event, if go ahead is confirmed. Mention other upcoming events or recent infrastructure enhancements e.g. Southend Lane toucan crossing, Endwell Road contra-flow.

- Council liaison update
 - Cllr Ingleby mentioned that they are still working on taking forward the Waterlink Way access route via Vineyard Close. This is a key link in our proposed Catford to Forest Hill Cycle (C2FH) route.
 - Tim met with Cllr Krupski regarding the C2FH route to look at ways of minimising the amount of highway reconstruction needed in Elm Lane while still enabling the cycle route and maintaining motorised vehicle access to all properties. Cllr Krupski is going to pass these ideas on to Officers to establish a realistic cost estimate for this section of the route.
- Current consultations and planning applications
 - Members are encouraged to respond to these:
 - Cold Blow Lane experimental closure to enable safe walking and cycling. (Consultation closes 31st Jan 2025).
<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/strategic-housing-and-regulatory-services/cold-blow-lane-survey/>
 - Alex is going to prepare an LC response supporting the closure and highlighting the hazards pedestrians and cyclists were previously exposed to (photos). We will post on LC website etc.
 - Lewisham NCIL Capital Funding (Closes 23rd Sept). Choose projects in your Ward to support including installation of additional Cycle Hangers.
<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/planning/lewishamncil/>
 - TfL Lee High Road bus priority scheme (Closes 9th Sept).
<https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/lee-high-road>
 - Alex is drafting a response which is critical of these plans. Tim to review before submission to TfL.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Jane mentioned that the Urban Arrow cargo bike, which we have been storing in GPYC for several months, is actually owned by Lewisham Council. They are now requesting its return but it needs to have a service first. Jane coordinating with Mike McSherry at LCC regarding this.
- Meeting closed at 745pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th September 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 A

Lewisham Cyclists Ongoing Budget for 2024/25 as at 2nd August 2024				
<u>Income</u>				
Received to date				
Bank balance from end March 2024 Main account			5305	
Main Grant ex LCC			357	
Donations April to date			1165	
Payment from Climate Action Lewisham re Grove Park project			1252	8079 < total actual rec'd to date
Estimated or expected				
Donations for August to March 2025			1500	
Payment for DunRun unloading assistance ex. Southwark Cyclists			1000	2500 < total est. August to March
			10579	< total act. + est.inc.
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Paid to date				
Mechanic's costs for 2nd Sunday session in March (i.e. last financial year)			126	
Mechanic's costs for 2nd Sunday sessions April to July			976	
Dr Bike at Beckenham Place Park, Hatcham Gardens			246	
Garage rent at Grove Park for April to July			600	1948 < total actual paid to date
Expected or estimated				
Mechanic's costs for 2nd Sunday sessions August to March 2025			1950	
Scout Hut hire arrears (Jan to March 2024)			300	
Scout Hut hire due April 2024 to March 2025 (12 x !00)			1200	
Grove Park garage rent August 2024 to March 2025 (8x150)			1200	
Further Dr Bike events (say)			1250	
Consumables - as per last year - say			700	
Google Workspace costs			100	6700 < total est. August to March
			8648	< total act. + est.exp.
			Total actual + estimated income	10579
			Total actual + estimated expenditure	8648
			Estimated net worth at end March 2025 (£10579 - £8648)	1931 < THE BOTTOM LINE
Actual Main account balance at 2 August 2024 is £6132				
The Grant account now has a residual balance of £984 after paying Sustrans for the Elm Lane survey				
John Phillips 2nd August 2024 (for August meeting)				