

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 4th September 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Brian Turpin, Alex Ingram, Christy Troy, Judith Bassett.

Present online: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Mario Toraldo, Christopher Mahon.

Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Cllr Mark Ingleby.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Upcoming one-off events:
 - Car Free Days - Fri 20th Sept to Sun 22nd Sept.
 - Cold Blow Lane Community Play Street Sat 21st 1500hrs to 1700hrs. A free event to bring the community together in the recently pedestrianised tunnels of Cold Blow Lane with an art workshop held by a local artist, live folk music from Flogan and an LC Dr. Bike provided by Jane.
 - Jane is leading the Central London Kidical Mass on Sun 22nd 1100hrs. Tickets [here](#). Jane may also lead a feeder ride from Lewisham around 0900hrs if anyone volunteers to assist in marshalling the ride.
 - ‘Lewisham: Clean Air and Healthy Streets. What can we do?’ Climate Action Lewisham workshop.
 - Sat 21st 1115hrs to 1245hrs @ Deptford Lounge. Tickets [here](#).
 - Community activity update:
 - See Appendix A for more details. Specific points discussed as follows:
 - Grove Park Dr Bike 15th Sept. No one available to run this event, so we are cancelling it. Alex to inform Rob at Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC).
 - Grove Park Dr Bike 20th Oct. Alex & Tim offered to run this event.
 - Cold Blow Lane event on 21st Sept. Mario requested help with flyering in the area on the Tues or Wed mornings beforehand. Alex to put up a request for volunteers on WhatsApp.
 - Forster Park event on 23rd Sept for local Scouts. Jane is providing this by herself. Teaching ABCD safety check, basic mechanicals, play some games.
 - Lewisham Council Deptford High St Pedestrianisation Community Liaison event on 26th Sept. Alex will attend this on behalf of LC.
 - Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL). Tim to arrange meeting to discuss how to take this project forward. Late Sept. or early Oct. Suggested attendees - Brian, Alex, Tim, Jane, Roy.
 - Need to vacate Deptford Scout Hut around year-end. Big effort required to move all equipment and parts to GPYC garage. Also means we need to clear most of the LFCL equipment out of the garage. Potentially reducing scope of LFCL to be solely periodic

hire of the cargo cycle. To be further discussed at meeting above. Jane confirmed that we do not have a mutually-signed tenancy agreement with the Scouts. A while ago we amended and signed their tenancy agreement but the Scouts didn't. We pay the rental on receipt of invoice, not on Direct Debit. Jane to keep an eye on their invoices to ensure our liabilities are kept to a minimum in the light of the probable closure.

- Topical Items.
 - Lewisham Council secures £2.5m to transform Riverdale Sculpture Park <https://lewisham.gov.uk/Articles/News/Lewisham-Council-to-transform-Riverdale-Sculpture-Park>
 - Active travel routes are mentioned in here, but without any further details. There is a closed riverside route from the Sculpture Park to Wearside Road which we have had long term ambitions to re-open as a walking and cycling route. This would greatly improve connectivity between Ladywell Fields (Waterlink Way) and Molesworth Street (Lewisham Centre). Tim to write to Cllr Walsh and other local councillors to highlight this opportunity.
 - Future funding options:
 - Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Ward NCIL Revenue Grant. Apply by 23rd Sept. <https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/ncil/apply/>
 - Jane was planning to apply for further NCIL funding in Evelyn for the Deptford Second Sunday workshop, but we can't do that now the Scout Hut is closing. Alex suggested that instead we apply for periodic Dr Bikes at various locations in Deptford. Jane agreed to investigate this option.
 - TfL Walking & Cycling Grants (Community Ideas £5K 1 year; Walking & Cycling £8K 2 years). Apply by 9th Sept. <https://wcgl.london/>
 - Alex has started drafting an application for GPYC Dr Bike. Alex has spoken with Rob at GPYC, and they are happy to collaborate.
 - 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/>
 - If we fail to get WCGL funding we could apply for this fund in collaboration with GPYC.
 - Katy is going to investigate if there is a deadline on this fund?
 - National Lottery Awards for All.
 - LC to reapply with additional supporting information.
 - Planning for LC Annual Meeting - either March or April monthly meeting.
 - Alex has messaged Laura Laker regarding speaking at this meeting but hasn't had a response. Jane will try to contact her via the Women's Network on WhatsApp.
 - Pending issues:
 - St Joseph's Vale cargo bike inaccessible barrier on LCN28.
 - Alex to raise with Darren at monthly meeting this Friday.

- Evelyn Street - local parents would like LC to assist in encouraging better 'etiquette' while using C4.
 - Alex to draft a post and put on website for LC Committee to review. Katy also taking back to LCC for discussion on appropriate messaging. We want to emphasise that inclusivity and diversity of people on cycles are important areas for improvement. Inconsiderate cycling can impede these improvements. Also highlight that more cycle route capacity is needed to make provision for all manner of cyclists.
 - Proposed content for next LC 'Civi' mailout.
 - Start of work on Deptford Church Street cycle lanes.
 - Cold Blow Lane event on 21st Sept.
 - Endwell St contra-flow cycling.
 - Southend Lane toucan crossing.
- Council liaison update.
 - Any contact with Officers/Councillors/Committees/Questions to Council.
 - At upcoming meeting on Friday Alex to raise with Darren Gotch the issues relating to the now removed northbound cycle lane in Molesworth St. Commitment that it is going to be reinstated after completion of highway works in Lewisham Town Centre and the timing for that?
- 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/>
 - 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 has drafted a response which is critical of these plans. Agreed he should submit it before the deadline.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Katy briefed us on a new LCC proposal to make Lewisham Cyclists a 'Priority Group' for a period of 3 to 6 months.
 - This would involve staff from central office mentoring and resource sharing with LC members. The aim would be to target a number of specific Lewisham projects or activities LC wish to progress and ensure there is buy-in from Lewisham Council. Endeavour to get defined timescales for implementation of the schemes.
 - It's now up to the LC Committee to discuss and decide whether this would be helpful.
 - Several attendees commented that we perceive TfL, more than Lewisham Council, as the main barrier to progress on schemes in Lewisham e.g. the Lewisham Spine. Assistance from LCC in getting access to senior decision-makers in TfL would be a big win for us.

- Meeting closed at 815pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd October 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

Community Events Update August and September

1. 2 rides in August: Longer and a short local ending in South London Cycling group picnic. Longer ride ended up being full. Shorter ride not.
2. Deptford Workshop and 2 Dr Bikes in August: Grove Park Dr Bike was not that well attended. Thanks to Tim for helping out that day. Beckenham Place Park very busy - turned away some folk at the end.
3. Upcoming events: Les Robinson leading the longer ride this month. No other rides on the calendar as yet.
4. Jane away most of this month:
 - a. Seb and Orlando running the Deptford workshop with two volunteers.
 - b. Beckenham Place Park Dr Bike has been cancelled.
 - c. At the moment, Grove Park Dr Bike has been advertised as running on Sunday 15th September. **Is there anyone to cover?** No responses from callout for extra help on the volunteer website. **Decision needs to be made at this meeting and GPYC informed if no cover plus cancelling publicly** (it's already been advertised on the Coopers Lane Bike bus WhatsApp.) **It will also need covering on Sunday 20th October** as Jane is on her first aid course then.
5. Cold Blow Lane play street event. Jane will run a Dr Bike at this event on 21st September (see details in Agenda).
6. London-wide Kidical Mass: Jane is leading this one. IBike London coordinating and organising it alongside the Kidical Mass people (see details in Agenda).
7. Scouts session: Forster Park Monday 23rd September 18.00 to 21.00 Michael McDermott, contact for Holbeach School Parents Committee is also Scout Leader. Contacted us due to us working with them at Holbeach.
8. Public Community Liaison Meeting for community stakeholders re Deptford High St to which we have been invited. In Deptford Lounge on Thurs 26th September 18.30 to 19.30. **Can someone make this meeting?** I would have gone but leave on the sleeper that evening and it would just make all my timings way too tight for my anxious travelling self.
9. Debrief Meeting held on Dunwich Dynamo with Hugh Bolton, Gareth Evans from Southwark Cyclists.
 - a. They are going to discuss the van packing issues with Hamiltons (removal company) as they provide the packing team. They will feedback our comments and hope to get some assurances that those issues will be addressed and will communicate back to us.
 - b. Happy for us to research tagging the bike trucks, make any purchases for which they will refund us. They did say they personally think there is a rental scheme by which you can hire tracking devices. Airtags don't work as well on a moving object as its not a GPS system. Have advised that we should research a hire scheme for proper GPS tracking devices which are much more effective for moving objects. **Could someone take this on as I don't have the time?**
10. Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL): This has pretty much been non-operational since the April handover. We just don't have the volunteer capacity to

run it in its present form, irrespective of whether we have funding for it or not. There are some alternative ways of running a reduced LCFL model which we may well be able to sustain. I suggest we **arrange a meeting as soon as possible of committee members, plus any interested volunteers**, to discuss and sort.

11. This has become especially important as early this week the Scouts informed me they can no longer afford to keep the Scout Hut running and **it will be closing at the end of 2024. So we have a very tight deadline in which to remove everything we have there.** I'm making representations to them to forego our outstanding rent in the light of all the money we have spent on the place and the fairly short notice. And they are arranging a meeting with the council which they would like me to attend as well, to discuss the future of the hall. But the most likely, in fact I would say, certain, scenario for the immediate and foreseeable future is that we have to move all our stuff to the garage in Grove Park. Starting now, really. I did expect this would be the eventual outcome but wasn't expecting it quite so soon. I thought we'd have another year at least. But, it is what it is and we need to really think very clearly about how we are going to work next year, what we can do and who exactly is going to deliver it. And set that out clearly, in writing so everyone knows exactly what is happening when and who is responsible.