

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Brian Turpin, Mario Toraldo, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Cllr Mark Ingleby.

Present online: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Judith Bassett, Christopher Mahon, Alex Ingram, Michael Okarimia.

Apologies: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator).

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Lewisham Family Cycling Library (LFCL) plans.
 - We're rationalising LFCL and plan to retain the following equipment - cargo trike, 2 x trailers and 2 x seats. Sell the rest of the equipment to make space at Grove Park.
 - Plan is to hire the cargo trike out once a month for 3 weeks allowing a week for handover and maintenance. Currently the trike is booked until April.
 - Jane will soon be training volunteers to ride the trike so they can train the renters.
 - Aim is for the LFCL to be cost neutral or bring in a modest surplus from donations. Need to cover theft insurance and maintenance costs. Suggested donation is currently £50/month.
 - Transferring LC equipment, spares etc. from Deptford Scout Hut to Grove Park Youth Club. Needs to happen before Xmas as Scouts are vacating the building then.
 - This will need to happen end November/early December. We will need volunteers to help at that time. Jane hoping to make the transfer bike-powered. Judith volunteered to bring her car along if needs be.
 - Rental arrears for Scout Hut are around £1.2K but we hope to not have to pay the whole amount in recognition of the fact that we are having to vacate at short notice having invested a significant amount in renovating the LC room there.
 - Cold Blow Lane Community Play Street on Saturday 21st Sept
 - This was very successful with an LC Dr Bike, Art activities for the kids and a band playing. Mario estimated around 100 people attended with very positive feedback for the event and the experimental closure of the tunnels.
 - Brian congratulated Mario on successfully staging this event and also coordinating the campaign for the experimental closure of Cold Blow Lane.
- Topical Items.
 - Future funding options:
 - TfL Walking & Cycling Grants (Community Ideas £5K 1 year; Walking & Cycling £8K 2 years).
 - WCGL application submitted on 12th Sept in collaboration with Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC) for Dr Bikes there.

- If we get awarded this grant it should pay for the rental on the GPYC garage. Also for mechanics for the Dr Bike events. However monies will be controlled by GPYC rather than LC.
 - Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Ward NCIL Revenue Grant.
 - Application made on 22nd Sept for ‘pop-up’ Dr Bikes in Deptford.
 - Jane applied for £12K. Monies to cover parts, mechanics and potentially venue rental.
 - National Lottery Awards for All. LC to reapply with additional supporting information.
 - No time limit on this, Jane collating community feedback to support revised application.
 - London Cycling Campaign (LCC) & Lime Bikes Share the Joy fund. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25.
 - If WCGL application unsuccessful could apply for this in collaboration with GPYC. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>
 - Finances in general.
 - John informed us that if we don’t get awarded any of the above grants he estimates we will run out of money around September next year.
- Southend Lane bus priority scheme consultation (Closes 8th Nov.) <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/have-your-say-on-current-schemes>
 - We are opposed to this scheme as it does nothing to provide protected space for cycling. The Southend Lane corridor has already been identified in the Lewisham Active Travel Strategy as a key radial cycling route with plans for segregated cycle lanes. The Council should be taking a holistic approach to the route providing segregation for cycling and localised bus priority at key junctions along the route. A bodged bus priority scheme now will make it much harder to introduce segregated cycling in the future. Alex commented that there was no reference to proposed bus lane times of operation, which should be a key part of the consultation, if they are not 24/7 the lane is fairly pointless.
 - Alex Ingram speculated that the plans could have something to do with TfL ‘Superloop’ bus services for outer London. He also offered to contribute to the preparation of an objection to the plans.
 - Follow up with Len Duvall (if TfL Buses are pushing the scheme) and Cllr Rachel Onikosi (Bellingham).
- Deptford High Street Pedestrianisation. Current Stakeholder consultation.
 - Alex to follow-up with the Council Team as per emails in the LC Gmail.
- Planning for LC Annual Meeting - either March or April monthly meeting.
 - Still trying to contact Laura Laker to see if she would speak at the meeting. Jane to follow up via the Women’s Cycling Network.
- Council liaison update

- Cllr Mark reported that there is a new interim Head of Highways & Strategic Transport - Matthew D'Archандаud. Petros also still apparently in post. Mark wasn't sure about the new management structure.
- Cllr Mark suggested we arrange a spring ride with Councillors. Sounded like a good idea as Deptford Church Street construction should be advanced by then.
- Jorge reported that Cllr Pauline Dall (Blackheath Ward) has referred the issues with the poorly designed barriers on St Joseph's Vale (LCN28) to Lewisham Officers.
- Current consultations and planning applications
 - Members are encouraged to respond to these:
 - Lee Terrace and Belmont Hill (Closes 6th Oct.)
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/have-your-say-on-current-schemes>
 - Plans are for an additional zebra crossing and a series of sets of speed cushions. We should oppose on the basis that some of the cushions should be much more effective speed humps.
 - Tim & Brian agreed to coordinate a response to this consultation.
 - Lewisham Retail Park redevelopment (Closes 20th Oct.)
<https://lewishamretailpark.commonplace.is/>
 - Seems like a very superficial initial consultation. Tim to review and prepare a brief response. Main priority is ensuring a significantly widened Waterlink Way/NCN21 cycle path is provided.
 - 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/>
 - Please continue to provide supportive responses right up to the end date.
 - LC to draft a formal response.
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Judith asked if Tim could raise with Darren Gotch the need for traffic counting on Elm Lane.
 - Judith also mentioned the map that has been compiled in collaboration with LCC showing London-wide railway bridge/tunnel barriers to cycling. Each barrier is colour-coded red/amber/green depending on the severity of the dislocation. She will be presenting this to the LCC Local Groups zoom meeting on 22nd October. The aim is ultimately to get a whole range of Councillors & GLA Members engaged with these issues across multiple boroughs. Hoping to put more pressure on Network Rail regarding future budgeting for improvements. Alex Ingram offered to review the map in advance of the Local Groups meeting.
- Meeting closed at 745pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 6th November 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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