

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Brian Turpin, Mario Toraldo, Alex Ingram, Judith Bassett, Stuart Grove, William Cooper.

Present online: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator).

Apologies: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), John Phillips (Treasurer), Cllr Mark Ingleby, Katy Rodda, Rosemary Scott.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - Upcoming events (from Jane in writing):
    - Sat 16th Nov: 40 mile ride to Rochester.
    - Sun 17th Nov (11am to 1pm): Short and simple Dr Bike at Grove Park (possibly family cycling equipment for sale - up to Tim and Alex).
    - Sun 24th Nov (11am to 2pm): Deptford Community Cycle Workshop (rescheduled from the 10th).
    - Sat 7th Dec: Ride - not yet decided where, with Jane leading.
    - Sun 8th Dec last ever Second Sunday Community Cycle Workshop in Deptford with bike jumble, Fixit session, seasonal refreshments followed by Christmas drinks in the Dog and Bell pub. If anyone can donate stuff to the jumble or make cakes, biscuits etc for the refreshments, much appreciated. And help on the day too. Also, share the poster which we have - Jane will make it available in the Slack channel, share the event from FB. She'll put it on Instagram too, so please share when you see it.
    - Sat 14th December: South London Parks ride with mince pies and Christmas hot chocolate.
  - Community activity report (from Jane in writing).
    - Beckenham Place Park Dr Bikes have finished now till first Sunday in March. The one last Sunday was surprisingly busy.
    - Jane recently met with Cllr Will Cooper, a council Officer from Community Development and a couple of Lewisham Scout people. The Scout Hall is definitely closing at the end of December. Councillor and Community Development Officer seemed very keen on us maintaining a presence in Deptford and I will be following up a couple of suggestions with them. Scout Managers said we don't have a hard deadline to clear everything by end of year. They seemed to think we could do it bit by bit into the New Year if needed. The local Scout group people were not at meeting.
  - Cold Blow Lane Community Play Street.
    - Mario mentioned that they are planning another event in Cold Blow Lane before Xmas. Would like us to provide a Dr Bike again. Said he would check with Jane for her availability on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Dec.
  - LCC Volunteer Engagement.
    - Progress on Volunteer Engagement document and identified areas for involvement - Alex said Jane is working on this. This is urgent as LCC have a list of interested volunteers and the Committee is very much in

- need of more assistance, particularly on the community events and campaigning sides.
      - Modifications to website to include a volunteering page based on the engagement document - Tim will do when engagement document is finalised.
    - LCC 'Priority Group' activity.
      - Katy has provided Alex with an initial Action Plan. Alex to share with rest of Committee asap.
  - Topical Items
    - Treasurer's Ongoing Report (See Appendix A)
      - Although the Bottom Line is still insufficient to carry us through 2025/26 without a new grant, it shows some improvement over last month's estimate. This is due to a generous donation of £100 from Phil Anderson, a reduction of the ongoing costs of the 2nd Sunday mechanics fee and a correction of my estimate of the Scout Hut rent costs - John Phillips
    - Funding options:
      - Possible Future applications:
        - National Lottery Awards for All. LC to reapply with additional supporting information.
        - LCC Lime 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/>
      - Applications already submitted:
        - TfL Walking & Cycling Grants. WCGL application submitted on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept in collaboration with Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC) for Dr Bikes there. Outcome not known yet.
        - Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Ward NCIL Revenue Grant. Application made on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept for 'roaming' Dr Bikes in Deptford. Outcome not known yet.
    - Air Quality - open discussion.
      - In the light of the Rosamund Kissi-Debrah settlement on government responsibility for air quality should we attempt a joint statement to LBL from ourselves and Climate Action Lewisham on the urgent need for Healthy Streets etc.?
      - We discussed this at the meeting and although everyone is keen to see renewed activity on the Healthy Neighbourhood programme in Lewisham there was a concern that linking it to this settlement may not be appropriate, particularly as Rosamund opposed the original Lee Green Healthy Neighbourhood. However the settlement does illustrate to Councillors that exposing residents to preventable air pollution could potentially have financial consequences for the Council. LCC also apparently cautioned that we shouldn't focus on this settlement in campaigning. Alex & Brian to prepare a draft statement for further discussion within the Committee.
    - Southend Lane (SL) bus priority scheme (Closes 8<sup>th</sup> Nov).

- We're opposed to this scheme as it doesn't provide any protected space for cycling on a key radial route across Lewisham. We believe the council should be taking a holistic view of this route providing protected space for cycling and localised bus priority. Particularly as there is currently only one bus route along here.  
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/have-your-say-on-current-schemes>
    - This was discussed in the meeting and several useful points were raised. Particularly the need for an uphill cycle lane on SL from Worsley Bridge Road (WBR) junction. Also need for pedestrian and cycling protected crossing on eastern arm of SL/WBR junction. Given it's a TfL bus priority scheme whether we should raise with Len Duvall (GLA member). Sense that TfL have a short-term target to install more bus lanes and locations are not being chosen that logically. Regarding narrow railway bridge on Southend Lane whether when South-East Trains contract finishes in 2027 there may be an opportunity to include improvements in new Community Criteria in any future contract.
  - TfL Downham to Bellingham new bus lane (Closes 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec).
    - This scheme does not take into account LC and LBL aspirations for segregated cycle lanes along this section of the A21.  
<https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/a21-bromley-road/>
    - LC to prepare and submit a group response.
  - Planning for LC Annual Meeting - either March or April monthly meeting.
    - Apparently no progress getting Laura Laker to speak. Alex to contact Stef Jones at XO Bikes as an alternative speaker.
- Council liaison update
  - Alex and Tim had a recent meeting with Darren Gotch. Key points:
    - Plans are being developed for a new Malpas Road/Vulcan Road tiger crossing.
    - LBL have some S106 funding available to start preparing plans for removal of the Bell Green traffic gyratory.
    - Southend Lane Toucan crossing on the Waterlink Way should be implemented within 12 weeks - waiting on TfL Signals Team (end January?).
- Current consultations and planning applications
  - Members are encouraged to respond to these:
    - Thomas Lane Car Park Catford redevelopment (Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2024).  
[https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=\\_LEWIS\\_DCAPR\\_125857](https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=_LEWIS_DCAPR_125857)
      - LC to prepare and submit a group response.
    - Cold Blow Lane experimental closure to enable safe walking and cycling. (Consultation closes 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025).  
<https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/strategic-housing-and-regulatory-services/cold-blow-lane-survey/>
      - LC to prepare and submit a group response.
- Attendees News & Views.

- Mario mentioned the TfL Travel for Life scheme: <https://travelforlife.tfl.gov.uk/> He wondered if LC could assist selected schools in signing up and developing options within this programme.
- Judith mentioned that she had recently presented the 'Railway Crossings' map to the LCC Local Groups forum. This was well received. Several borough groups have already contributed their problematic locations but there's a feeling more groups still need to do this before TfL and Network Rail are approached.
- A new planning application has just been submitted for the redevelopment of the Lewisham Shopping Centre. Closing date for comments is 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. [https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=\\_LEWIS\\_DCAPR\\_125794](https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=_LEWIS_DCAPR_125794)

Brian commented that they don't appear to be solving the East-West dislocation issue for cyclists which we raised with them at previous consultations. Alex Ingram commented that no one seems to be taking on the point that all these new car-free developments mean that better active travel facilities are a paramount requirement, including for families with cargo bikes. It was agreed that we should oppose the application and involve the Lewisham Central Councillors (Cllr Huhne and Cllr Sheikh) and Deputy Mayor (Cllr Krupski) in discussions pointing out that they should not be repeating the mistakes made with the Lewisham Gateway development.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30 pm at Lewisham Civic Centre in Catford. **N.B. No monthly meeting in December.**

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 – Treasurer's Ongoing Budget \(see next page\)](#)

<b>Lewisham Cyclists Ongoing Budget for 2024/25 as at 3rd November 2024</b>			
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<b>Received to date</b>			
Bank balance from end March 2024 Main account		5305	
Main Grant ex LCC		357	
Donations April to date		1530	
Payment from Climate Action Lewisham re Grove Park project		<u>1252</u>	8444 < total actual rec'd to date
<b>Estimated or expected</b>			
Donations for Nov to March 2025		1000	
Payment for DunRun unloading assistance ex. Southwark Cyclists		<u>1000</u>	2000 < total est. Sept to March
			<b>10444 &lt; total act. + est.inc.</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
<b>Paid to date</b>			
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		1379	
Dr Bike at Beckenham Place Park, Hatcham Gardens		246	
Consumables		362	
Garage rent at Grove Park for April to Sept		900	
Google Workspace costs		<u>88</u>	3101 < total actual paid to date
<b>Expected or estimated</b>			
Moving to & refurb of equipment to Grove Park garage		400	
Mechanic's costs for 2nd Sunday sessions Nov to March 2025		1150	
Scout Hut hire arrears (Jan to March 2024)		300	
Scout Hut hire due April 2024 to Dec 2025 (9 x 100)		900	
Grove Park garage rent Oct 2024 to March 2025 (6x150)		900	
Further Dr Bike events - say		500	
Further consumables - say		350	
Google Workspace costs		<u>32</u>	4532 < total est. Sept to March
			<b>7633 &lt; total act. + est.exp.</b>
		<b>Total actual + estimated income</b>	<b>10444</b>
		<b>Total actual + estimated expenditure</b>	<b>7633</b>
Estimated net worth (excluding Grant a/c balance) at end March 2025		<u><b>2811</b></u>	<b>&lt; THE BOTTOM LINE</b>
<b>Actual Main account balance at 30 Sept 2024 is £5349</b>			
The Grant account now has a residual balance of £984 after paying Sustrans for the Elm Lane survey			
John Phillips			
3 Nov 2024			
(for Nov meeting)			