

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 8th January 2025 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Brian Turpin, Judith Bassett, Cllr Mark Ingleby (Cycling & Active Travel Champion), Rosemary Scott, Richard, Charlie Fernandes (Wheels for Wellbeing), Beata Podgorska (Wheels for Wellbeing), Darren Reynolds.

Present online: No one.

Apologies: John Phillips (Treasurer), Mario Toraldo, Jorge Martinez Lopez.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
 - Upcoming one-off events:
 - Women's Freedom Ride - After Dark Thu 6th February 1815hrs to 2030hrs Marble Arch. Sign up [here](#)
 - Community activity update:
 - Moving LC equipment out of Deptford Scout Hut. End January deadline for completion. Hoping to get PedalMe trailer to move heavy workbench. Jane will post on Volunteers WhatsApp when she knows date(s).
 - Grove Park Dr Bike continuing on 3rd Sunday each month.
 - Beckenham Place Park (BPP) Dr Bike due to restart in March but may be 4th Sunday. Struggling to communicate with new staff at BPP.
 - The Field in New Cross - Jane planning to do a regular Dr Bike with them up until April.
 - Rides Calendar for 2025 not yet compiled but expecting to be similar pattern to previous years with rides on the first three Saturdays, then an adhoc one on the 4th Saturday.
 - LC Committee need to have a discussion about proposed ride to support Healthy Neighbourhood community engagement in spring.
 - Possible 27th April Dr Bike at Chinbrook Meadows.
- Council liaison update.
 - Tim & Alex met with Cllr Krupski and several Highways' Officers recently. Items raised were as follows:
 - Waterlink Way confluence bridge - scheduled for replacement in April/May 2025.
 - Lewisham Council Active Travel Strategy - this is going out for public consultation in February 2025 with a view to adoption at Mayor & Cabinet in May 2025.
 - Deptford Church Street segregated cycle track and highway rebuild currently in progress and running to schedule.
 - Lewisham Shopping Centre re-development planning application. Attendees to the meeting all agreed that the application was seriously deficient from an active travel point of view. Further discussions will be held with the Developers to remedy these issues in advance of planning consent being given. LC have formally objected to the planning application - our response can be read [here](#).

- Waterlink Way to Vineyard Close walking and cycling path - a proposed 50m path to improve local connectivity (part of the proposed Forest Hill to Catford route). This was raised at this council meeting but Cllr Krupski had left by then. *LC and Cllr Ingleby agreed to follow up with her as Ward Councillor for the area.*
 - Cllr Ingleby reported that in his role as Ward councillor, he and Matthew D'Archambaud (Head of Strategic Transport & Highways) had recently performed an Environmental Visual Audit on the Hither Green corridor.
- Topical Items.
 - Planning for LC Annual Meeting - March monthly meeting.
 - Stef Jones at XO Bikes has agreed to speak.
 - *Cllr Ingleby to book us a larger room.*
 - *LC need to advertise meeting through social media, Civi etc.*
 - *Alex to put the meeting up on the LCC Events website.*
 - *Alex to invite Cllr Krupski and Strategic Transport Officers.*
 - Check for any clash with Council Meetings.
 - LCC London Loves Cycling pledges - see full text of pledges [here](#). Discussion on our role in contributing to the success of these pledges.
 - Make London car free for one day every month
 - Make a bike available to every single Londoner
 - Our current contribution is fixing peoples' bikes through workshops/Dr Bikes and refurbishing old bikes. Keep doing this.
 - Make cycling safe for families and children, especially in outer London
 - Restart monthly 'Rides for All' in spring/summer to give more opportunities for families to ride together.
 - Pursue further hyper-local campaigns like Grove Park Bike Bus and Cold Blow Lane tunnels closure. Encourage and support members to run their own ward-based campaigns.
 - Give London a world-leading cycling city-centre
 - LC future funding options:
 - Possible Future applications:
 - National Lottery Awards for All. LC to reapply. *Jane is still working on getting 'supporting' information from organizations involved in our previous activities.*
 - LCC Lime Share the Joy (STJ) fund. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25. **Round three is open for applications from 10th Feb to 10th Mar.** As WCGL application was unsuccessful we should apply for this in collaboration with GPYC. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>
Alex to coordinate with GPYC and rework WCGL application to apply to STJ fund.
 - Deptford Challenge Trust (DCT). Applications in range £1K to £30K. **Applications close 29th Jan.** <https://londoncf.org.uk/grants/deptford-challenge-trust-open-programme> Lewisham Local will be hosting an online Q&A for the fund on the 16th Jan at 2pm.
Jane to work on this application. Due to Covid our previous DCT

project was delivered differently from the original plan, in agreement with DCT. This also meant it was not fully documented as they seem to require. *She will discuss with them before applying.*

- Applications already submitted:
 - Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) - Ward NCIL Revenue Grant. Application made on 22nd Sept for 'roaming' Dr Bikes in Deptford. *We should hear in March if we have been successful or not.*
- LC Volunteer Engagement
 - *It was agreed to invite all these potential volunteers to the Annual Meeting* and include a list of possible volunteer roles in the email or link to our web page on volunteering [here](#).
 - Discussion of possible volunteer roles and identified areas for involvement as below. Could be itemised in each meeting Agenda. This was not explicitly discussed in the meeting.
 - Social Media
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Website Editor
 - Lobbying
 - Ride Leaders
 - Event volunteers e.g. workshop support and fairs
 - Dr Bike voluntary mechanics (competent at basic bike maintenance)
 - Policing/Community Roadwatch
- 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/>
 - *Tim to prepare and submit LC response.*
- Attendees News & Views.
 - Judith updated us on the inaccessible Railway Crossing Points project she is coordinating for LCC.
 - She has had further correspondence with her MP Ellie Reeves. She asked LC to send a duplicate letter to MP Janet Daby to encourage her involvement as well. *Alex said he would do this as he is in Janet's constituency.*
 - She asked the meeting if she should include railway bridge pinch-points in the study as some LCC groups have already provided this data. There was a concern that assessing an on-road pinch point could be quite subjective. Including them would also add a lot more locations to the project which may make it de-focused from its original objective and hard to sell to Network Rail, TfL and politicians.
 - There was also a discussion about what level of remedy is expected to the inaccessibility e.g. just make bridges disability compliant under the

existing legislation or to go further and enable all adaptive cycles to use them. Wheels for Wellbeing provide guidelines for inclusive design in their [Guide to Inclusive Cycling](#).

- Darren told us about his very positive sounding bike-bus project:
 - It is planned to cover 3 schools in the Lee (Manor House) area. The idea is to seed the project with the schools with a view to the parents ultimately taking over. The project is funded by WCGL and is scheduled to run from Feb to Sept 2024, plus a second year.
 - He has encountered one unexpected obstacle to the project which is opening a Community Interest Company (CIC) bank account. He has an application in progress with the Co-Op Bank but he is not sure it will succeed. He has proposed that WCGL could pay the money to Lewisham Cyclists in the meantime for safe-keeping. WCGL are apparently OK with this approach.
 - We discussed this at the meeting and all were supportive but we made it clear that we would need the OK from John, our Treasurer, before proceeding.
 - If proceeding the following were agreed:
 - There would be very few transactions for us to process as Darren would generally pay expenses up-front and then claim the monies in one invoice, which would need to be itemised.
 - LC and Darren would compile and countersign a document making clear why the monies were being held and for what purpose.
 - LC would get a copy of the original email from WCGL in which they agree to this approach.
 - Cllr Ingleby also suggested that Darren could talk to Lewisham Credit Union for an account.
- Meeting closed at 815pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February 2025 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
www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>
<https://lewishamcyclistsgroup.slack.com/>
<https://twitter.com/lewicyclists>