

## **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC)**

**held at Catford Constitutional Club, Catford**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 6.30pm**

- 1) **Present:** Tim Collingridge (Secretary), John Phillips (Treasurer), Duncan Peterkin, Roger Stocker, Brain Haines, Ian Welsby, David Mill, Rosemary Scott  
**Apologies:** Jane Davis, Alex Raha
- 2) **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed.
- 3) **Space4Cycling (S4C)/2014 Local Elections Campaign.** LC staged a successful event in support of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) S4C campaign in Ladywell Fields on the afternoon of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The event involved a Dr Bike, a bike 'jumble' sale, a short led bike ride along Waterlink Way and the distribution of information and freebies about LCC and S4C. Thanks to everyone who helped promote and organise the event and those that attended.

LC also organised a feeder ride from Bellingham to (and from) the very well attended LCC Big Ride in Central London on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Regarding the campaign itself (effective 22<sup>nd</sup> May) the percentages of candidates supporting S4C 'asks' in Lewisham was 133 out of 249 or 53%. Encouraging (9<sup>th</sup> highest borough in London) but Hackney topped the bill with 99% signed up.

Across London the figures for the major parties signed up were as follows:

846 of 846 Green = 100%

1077 of 1893 Labour = 57%

753 of 1339 Lib Dem = 56%

384 of 1808 Conservatives = 21%

16 of 451 UKIP = 4%

Thanks go to everyone who has participated in the S4C campaign to date. But the campaign does not end here – over the coming months we will be following up with the elected councillors to see how they are implementing the 'asks' they committed themselves to.

#### 4) **Assorted issues:**

##### a) **Catford Greyhound Stadium redevelopment and temporary closure of Adenmore Road and re-routing of Waterlink Way (NCN Route 21).**

At the time of the meeting the temporary diversion of the Waterlink Way via Ravensbourne Park had not yet been implemented. A new set of traffic lights has been installed at the junction of Ravensbourne Park and Westdown Road but they have not yet been commissioned. Roger commented that the lights did not have cycle Advanced Stop Lanes (ASL).

Action: Tim to contact Lewisham Council to establish whether ASLs can be provided at this set of lights.

##### b) **Somertrees Avenue 'improvements'.**

This is a rat-run near Grove Park where the council have implemented traffic calming works which consist of a series of 'pinch-points' that narrow the road to a single traffic lane. Tim, Jane and Alex met Claudia Lynch and John Bishop from Lewisham Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May on site to review the measures.

The measures do seem to have been successful in significantly reducing traffic speeds. However we repeated our view that speed tables or humps may have been preferable (apparently TfL, who were funding the measures, were not prepared to see any 'vertical deflection' measures in the project). Alex also commented that it

would be better to close roads in the area to prevent widespread rat-running, but the Lewisham Council representatives considered this was a much bigger and more controversial project that was well beyond the scope of these particular works. Leaving a cycle gully inside the pinch-points was also discussed, but Claudia said that from an engineering point of view, with a 1.5m cycle lane, the resultant 'island' would have been too small. It was left that Alex, as he lives in the road, would monitor the effects of the works and report back on any particular safety issues or incidents for LC to follow up with the council.

c) **Brockley 'corridor' study.**

Lewisham Council have recently commissioned the consultants SKM to produce a study on streetscape and public realm improvements for the 'corridor' running from Stanstead Road (the South Circular) down to Brockley Cross i.e. along Brockley Rise and Brockley Road. As well as wishing to see general improvements along this route there are also Air Quality issues due to traffic pollution that need to be resolved – some funding has been provided by the Mayor specifically for this.

Jane and Tim attended a working meeting with the consultants and other local representative on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We were given an opportunity to review, discuss and comment on the initial very schematic plans. In essence the consultants are looking to reallocate road space to pedestrians in the shopping areas e.g. Crofton Park, and enhance the public realm, which will also benefit cyclists as traffic speeds should be reduced. Outside the shopping areas they are looking to provide continuous cycle lanes, which we suggested should be segregated or semi-segregated. The plans were encouraging and we hope and expect that LC will continue to be involved in the project on an ongoing basis.

5) **Campaigning updates:**

a) **Lewisham Gateway - Thurston Road works**

Group members have previously commented that the Northern most bus stand in Jerrard Street has been sited too close to the junction with Thurston Road. This means that cyclists travelling North on the Thurston Road cycle lane and continuing down Thurston Road (rather than NCN21) have poor visibility of vehicles coming up Jerrard Street.

This was raised with Lewisham Council and Peter Stunnell replied stating that the buses are only meant to use that bus stand occasionally at weekends when the bus storage area is full e.g. when rail replacement services are being run. He also said this would be reiterated to the bus companies. We are continuing to monitor the situation, but recent experience suggests it is still being used occasionally on weekdays.

6) **A.O.B**

**Ladywell shared space** – as part of the Ladywell streetscape improvement works a shared use Toucan crossing was provided across Ladywell Road. In addition two short sections of pavement have been designated as shared use (between Algernon & Malyons Roads and the crossing). However because of statutory width limitations on the section from Malyons Road to the Toucan crossing retailers on that section have been instructed by Lewisham Council not to place objects outside their frontages e.g. tables, sandwich boards etc. As the pavement is apparently owned by the council they are within their rights, but this has upset the local retailers who have raised a petition opposing the instruction. The issue was discussed at this meeting and it was agreed that LC should, in a non-combative way, continue to support the designated shared use for these sections of pavement as they provide a safe and necessary link in the Waterlink Way (National Cycle Network route 21). This is particularly important as ultimately we wish to see modifications to the south-side pavement over Ladywell Railway Bridge so that NCN21 shared use can be extended from the Toucan all the way to Ladywell Fields.

**Brockley Fair Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June** (12pm – 5pm) – LC will have a stall at this fair. We will be running a bike jumble and a Dr Bike. We would welcome help any time in the day from setting up around 11am through to 5.30pm. Also if anyone has any bike jumble they can donate, please bring it along on the day or to the next LC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Roger raised the issue of the council strategy for new **cycle parking** in the borough. He noted that new parking seemed to be often provided where there already was provision, whereas areas that don't have any parking are overlooked. He highlighted Sydenham High Street North side having much parking, but the South side little. The Brockley Barge pub also seems to have excessive parking, while the Brockley Jack pub has none.

Action: Tim to ask Lewisham Council what criteria they are using for installing extra parking hoops.

**Meeting closed around 8.30pm.**

**Next LC Meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm**