

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby (Lewisham Active Travel Champion), Brian Turpin, Mario Toraldo, Judith Bassett, Jorge Martinez Lopez, Rosemary Scott.

Present online: No one.

Apologies: None.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - Upcoming events (see our [calendar](#) for latest info and [LCC Events](#) page to register for rides).
    - Longer Ride to Whitstable - Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Jul 8am - 6pm.
    - Beckenham Place Park Dr Bike - Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Jul 10am - 2pm.
    - Grove Park 'Fix & Ride' Bike Workshop - Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 11am - 2pm.
  - Community activity update.
    - Dunwich Dynamo cycle lorry unload - Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Jul.
      - Jane reported that, to ensure we have enough unloaders, Orlando & Seb have been booked to assist with the lorry unload. Toilets have also been booked.
      - Rosemary reported that 600 coach tickets have been sold. She is coordinating tracker hire (£25/tracker). Lorry drivers will carry trackers in their cabs, and they need to be retrieved at the London end. She also said she would assist in trying to find a coffee van to attend the location.
    - Jane had issues regarding cancellations and managing an offline waiting list for her very popular ride on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jun. It's problematic that the LCC Events system doesn't allow riders to cancel their booking. LCC need to add this functionality.
    - A busy and successful Dr Bike was held at Winsford Rd playground Community Day on Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Jun. In collaboration with Bellingham Play Park team (part of Waterlink Way of Life) and with the support of Friends of the River Pool.
    - Beckenham Place Park Dr Bike is going well in its current location in the Stables Yard. However, Jane suggested we may consider moving it to the BMX track area on the east side of the park if Roy is successful in getting the BMX club going again.
- Topical Items.
  - Lewisham Council Active Travel Strategy (ATS) public consultation - Runs from 9<sup>th</sup> Jun to 20<sup>th</sup> Jul.
    - The consultation is being conducted through a Survey for residents to share their feedback via either the Citizen Space online platform or paper copies made available in three of the libraries:
    - <https://consultation.lewisham.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/lewisham-active-travel-strategy/>

- We are generally happy with the ATS and many of our previous suggestions have been incorporated into the final document. It perhaps could be more ambitious to achieve genuine modal shift, but it represents a good framework for getting future funding for Active Travel improvements from TfL, Developers etc.
- At this meeting we had a useful discussion regarding our Group response. Members with access to our 'Lewisham Cyclists' Slack channel are encouraged to contribute their ideas to the Active Travel Strategy post (from 4<sup>th</sup> June) in the channel 'campaigning\_for\_safer\_cycling'. We will collate these ideas into a detailed LC response before 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- We will also soon be producing a simple advisory guide for members completing the Survey which will be posted on our website and included in a CIVI mailout.
- LC funding options applications:
  - LCC Lime Share the Joy fund. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/> Current round closed on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Alex reported that Grove Park Youth Club (GPYC) had submitted an application with LC as delivery partners for the Fix & Ride Workshop at GPYC. LC have not seen a copy of the final bid yet, **Alex to obtain this from GPYC.**
  - London City Airport Community Fund. Jane submitted an application online on 30<sup>th</sup> May. See document 'London City Airport Draft.docx' in LC Google Drive. **Outcome expected in September.**
- Accessible Railway Crossings (ARC) project with LCC.
  - We recently received a slightly discouraging email from Simon Munk at LCC regarding the ARC project. His main argument was that trying to get funding to make railway footbridges cycle accessible (e.g. Bellingham & Sydenham Park) could divert funding from other cycle-related improvements in areas where there is a higher 'propensity to cycle'. Judith emphasised that she feels strongly about the potential benefits to her ward, Perry Vale, which is 'stranded' between these two bridges. There is particularly strong local support for the upgrade of the Bellingham bridge. We conjectured that there may be opportunities to access different pots of money if the emphasis was more on making the bridges disability compliant, rather than mainly focusing on cyclist accessibility. Also, as mentioned by Simon, it could be worth raising with CyclingUK for more of a 'national' view.
- Council liaison update
  - Cllr Mark reported that he had previously made detailed responses to the ATS Team to ensure the inclusion of Vineyard Close (on our proposed Catford to Forest Hill cycle route), Literary Heritage Trail and Corridor 22 (Hither Green) in the strategy.
  - There was a brief discussion about the LBL Sustainable Streets initiative, and future ones like Healthy Neighbourhoods, and how they could be much better communicated if Officers and Councillors were pre-briefed with evidence-based

responses to typical questions raised by residents. Responses could use recent monitoring data and positive resident feedback from areas like Lee Green.

- Current consultations and planning applications (for information)
  - Apparently these Lewisham College planning applications have been Deferred (Greenwich) and Withdrawn (Lewisham). No further action needed until they are re-submitted:
    - Deptford Bridge redevelopment of Lewisham College (Lewisham & Greenwich planning applications).  
Greenwich:  
[https://planning.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=\\_GRN\\_W\\_DCAPR\\_123660](https://planning.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=_GRN_W_DCAPR_123660)  
Lewisham:  
[https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=\\_LEWIS\\_DCAPR\\_127313](https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=_LEWIS_DCAPR_127313)
- Attendees News & Views.
  - Alex raised an issue about Lewisham Council Capital Funding for the current financial year noting that there didn't seem to be any provision for Highways repairs & resurfacing or contribution to the implementation of the ATS. **Agreed that he would put this detailed question in an email to Cllr Mark.**
  - Mario mentioned that the ATS maps failed to show cycle routes in adjacent boroughs. We agreed that this was a bit misleading and maybe significant routes could have been shown as dotted lines. Our general discussions with LBL Officers suggest they are actually collaborating effectively with other boroughs when planning routes.
  - Judith mentioned Salamander News <https://dev.salamandernews.org/> which is a co-operative media news channel for Lewisham which recently carried a well-informed article on the ATS: <https://www.salamandernews.org/5-key-takeaways-from-lewishams-active-travel-strategy-2/> **Alex said we have been approached by them to write an article giving our point of view, which he will do.**
  - Judith also mentioned that Climate Action Lewisham <https://climateactionlewisham.org/> are planning a 'Net Zero' event soon and would like to involve LC. We agreed that we are potentially interested in being involved.
  - Mario mentioned a local pedestrian cut-through near where he lives where the local residents have been doing planting in the raised beds and made the environment much more attractive, such that people even now pause there to appreciate the flowers. However some people still fly-tip in this area which he finds baffling. Cllr Mark mentioned that the Council is making vigorous efforts to reduce fly-tipping and has fined a number of individuals recently to try to get the issue under control.
- Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm 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>