

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: Tim Collingridge (Secretary), Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Cllr Mark Ingleby (Lewisham Active Travel Champion), Brian Turpin.

Present online: Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Mario Toraldo.

Apologies: Judith Bassett, Jorge Martinez Lopez.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - Upcoming rides (see our Facebook Events for info and [LCC Events](#) page to register for rides).
    - Ashford Loop Ride, 60 miles - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 810am (All day ride).
    - London Explorer ride to Regents Park & Granary Square - 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Alex leading.
  - Upcoming Community Events (see our [calendar](#) for latest info and also [LCC Events](#) page).
    - Beckenham Place Park Dr Bike - Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am - 2pm. The normal session at the Stableyard has been cancelled due to organisational complexities. Mechanic Seb will instead be supporting Roy at the BMX track on the east side of the park.
    - Dr Bike @ Festival of Climate Action (FoCA) on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 12pm - 3pm (provisional times). Mario and Orlando are staffing this Dr Bike. This South East London Community Energy (SELCE) FoCA event running from 11am to 5pm may be interesting for members, you can register here: <https://selce.org.uk/events/>
    - Grove Park 'Fix & Ride' Bike Workshop - Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 11am - 2pm.
    - Cold Blow Lane Play Street Dr Bike session - Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Sept provisional timing is 2pm - 5pm.
  - We had a brief discussion about enabling easier access to the Grove Park garage so the mechanics can readily pick up tools & parts. Install a key-safe at the Youth Club (**Jane to check with Rob if OK**) or possibly at Alex's house which is nearby.
- Topical Items.
  - Political Party Manifesto influencing for next local election in May 2026:
    - Discussion on proposed 'Asks' for political party manifestos. (See Appendix A for amended 'Asks' following meeting discussions)
    - Mario made several proposals:
      - That the Social Value Platform could be used to promote active travel (e.g. subsidising costs for cycling equipment, or bikes' purchase and maintenance). Contractors could be held accountable to active travel through the procurement process. <https://www.hyde-housing.co.uk/the-hyde-group/our-social-purpose/social-value/the-social-value-leadership-group-svlg/>
      - Once a month, to have Sundays with no cars.

- To find ways to subsidise costs of cycle hire for people claiming Universal Credit (currently estimated 45-50,000 in Lewisham only).
- Alex has sent emails from LC to four of the major political parties active in Lewisham (Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Greens) to initiate a dialogue. We will send a follow-up email including our 'Asks' when we have finalised them. Need to also include Reform at that point.
- Dockless Cycles submission for Lewisham Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. Improvements we proposed in our submission:
  - We would like to see more than one viable supplier of dockless eBikes active in the borough, so would encourage the Council to fully engage with other established providers e.g. Forest, to ensure users have more than one option and there is effective price competition.
  - Another potential improvement would be for dockless cycle providers to offer alternative charging structures more oriented towards distance charging. There is currently a concern that riders may be riding faster than necessary because they are trying to minimise their time-related costs. Distance charging could result in improved rider habits and better compliance with highway code rules.
  - Progressively we believe dockless parking bay provision needs to be extended from one every 300m to more like one every 100m which would improve parking behaviour and increase capacity for storage. Door to door convenience is one of the big attractions of these cycles so to be fully effective the bays need to be much closer together.
  - Dockless cycle providers should make better in-app information available to clarify local borough parking rules for riders.
  - London Boroughs like Lewisham should work together with TfL and Dockless Operators to ultimately provide a standardised service area and parking rules across London.
  - Dockless bike providers should continue to invest in user education and training to improve rider safety and road awareness.
- **Alex will attend the SDC on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept to represent our views and take any questions arising.**
- Alex commented that in one borough they have had parking issues where bays were dedicated to specific providers who originally paid for their installation. In Lewisham it's essential that all bays are available to cycles from all providers notwithstanding who funded them.
- Mario expressed his support for dockless cycles given their contribution to active travel and resultant reductions in motor vehicle use.
- **Alex to provide information, for distribution to members, on charging rates for Lime & Forest highlighting the cheapest way to use the bikes e.g. Lime ridepasses.**

- LC funding applications:
  - LCC Lime 'Share the Joy' fund.  
Four rounds of funding through 2024/25.  
<https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>  
Assist Grove Park Youth Club in making a submission to the next round which is expected to be in February 2026.
  - 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 - we've heard nothing yet.
- Council liaison update
  - Any contact with Officers/Councillors/Committees/Questions to Council.
    - Sculpture Park improvements - Mark to follow up with Ladywell and Lewisham Central Cllrs re his letter from last month.
    - 'Heat' maps for Lime cycle usage in Lewisham - Mark to chase for provision of this data.
    - No meetings with Darren Gotch in July or August due to his or our unavailability.
- Current consultations and planning applications
  - Members are encouraged to respond to these:
    - Lewisham Retail Park development (3<sup>rd</sup> Community Engagement)  
In person events: 5pm - 8pm Thu 4th Sept; 10am - 2pm Sat 6th Sept, at 70 Loampit Vale, London SE13 7SN.  
Or 'Have Your Say' from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept:  
<https://lewishamretailpark.commonplace.is/en-GB/>
    - London Square's Leegate redevelopment.  
Alex agreed at the meeting to draft a response to these revised plans. However the correspondence we received from the Lee Forum suggests 29<sup>th</sup> August was the deadline for submission of planning objections.
    - Eddystone Road Hall planning variation.  
Appears to be a minor variation of no significance to LC.
- Attendees News & Views.
  - After recent emails with Ralph Smyth about Cycleway 35 at Peckham Rye Jane suggested that we need to improve collaboration with Southwark Cyclists and Greenwich Cyclists. **Alex to raise this with their Coordinators at the next LCC Coordinators' Meeting.** Also revisiting the idea of occasional joint meetings.
  - Brian mentioned that Friends of Elm Lane had recently obtained a very reasonable estimate from Conway of around £200K for the resurfacing of Elm Lane. Not up to full Highway standard with drainage etc. but potentially adequate for the current low levels of motor vehicle usage.
- Meeting closed at 8pm.

The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6.30pm at Lewisham Civic Centre in Catford.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>  
<https://lewishamcyclistsgroup.slack.com/>  
<https://twitter.com/lewicyclists>

## Appendix A - Draft Proposed Asks for political parties for May 2026 elections

These are the revised Asks after taking input from meeting attendees

### **Active Travel Routes**

- Deliver 30km of new or upgraded active travel routes by 2030 - Council targets need to be higher than in their Active Travel Strategy to drive modal shift towards Active Travel.
  - 10km of protected cycle lanes on main roads including building on the successful bike tracks in Deptford Church Street to extend the Lewisham Spine along Brookmill Road, Molesworth Street and Lewisham High Street to Lewisham Hospital.
  - 20km network of quieter safe cycle routes, predominantly on back-streets, including safe crossings of main roads.

### **Liveable Neighbourhoods**

- Accelerate the Council's Healthy Neighbourhood programme with six more, additional to the three already planned, by 2030 - current targets are not going to be enough to move into the top 10 boroughs on the Healthy Streets Scorecard. There are issues with excessive through traffic in many residential areas across Lewisham which need to be urgently addressed.
- Build on the Council's successful School Streets programme with genuine Safe Routes to School - ensuring these school streets are not an 'island' but are connected to a network of safe cycling routes e.g. using the successfully filtered Cold Blow Lane and our proposed Catford to Forest Hill cycle route to link to nearby school streets.
- Work with Network Rail and TFL to remove the obstacle presented by stepped railway bridges in the borough - i.e. the Railway Children's bridge, Bellingham Play Park bridge and Dacres Road/Sydenham Park, to put in place a plan for ramps/lifts to make the crossings fully accessible enabling key East-West quiet active travel routes across the borough.

### **Cycle storage and parking**

- 500 new secure Cycle Hangers by 2030 - significant progress has been made in the current electoral term but in most areas demand still isn't being met and the suppressed demand is inhibiting many residents from active travelling. Secure storage is also essential in preventing cycle theft as many of those who lose their bicycle never ride again.
- Every existing community building, pub and supermarket to have two standard 'Sheffield' stands within 10m by 2030 - there are still many gaps in on-street cycle parking which deters people from cycling to the shops, social engagements etc. Cycles end up being locked to street furniture and obstructing footways.

- Develop a programme to roll-out cargo cycle hangers - cargo cycles for business and family use demonstrably reduce motor vehicle journeys. Secure storage is a challenge for all but those with the largest properties.

### **Shared micro-mobility**

We strongly support dockless cycles as we believe they make a significant and growing contribution towards active travel. They are also bringing a much broader demographic towards cycling in Lewisham.

- Establish more than one viable supplier of dockless eCycles in the borough - ensuring riders have more than one option and there is effective price competition. Encourage alternative charging structures more oriented towards distance-charging as there is a concern that riders may be riding faster than necessary because they are trying to minimise their time-related costs.
- Extend dockless parking bay provision from one every 300m to more like one every 100m - this would improve parking behaviour and increase capacity for storage. Extending parking bay provision should be built-in to all new/updated contracts with dockless cycle providers. Door to door convenience is one of the big attractions of these cycles so to be fully effective the bays need to be much closer together.
- Work together with TfL and all Dockless Operators to provide a standardised service area and parking rules across London.
- Support and encourage third party operators providing Cargo Cycle hire schemes for both businesses and consumers. These schemes have clear potential to reduce motor vehicle usage across the borough.

### **Expand Cycle Training:**

Fund significantly more cycle training, particularly for adults for whom training has been very limited in Lewisham recently.

- Going beyond the TfL Local Implementation Plan Cycle Training funds by also using other funding sources within the Council, as has been done by other inner London boroughs.
- Including some targeted outreach to under-represented groups (women, older people, black and minority ethnic communities).
- Request supplementary funding from dockless cycle providers to train riders thereby improving their safety and road awareness. This is urgently needed for Lime riders who are particularly vulnerable in traffic on an unfamiliarly powerful machine.

### **Funding for Manifesto Asks**

The Council has many funding streams, however historically most of the funding for cycle-related improvements has come from TfL Local Implementation Plan funds. Positive progress in expanding funding has been made with the recent creation of the Active Travel Fund, but we believe more could still be done to utilise funds from other sources.

- Allocate higher proportions of capital expenditure for highway and street improvements to projects that stimulate active travel.
- Ensure any public realm improvements include active travel spaces and properly link to adjacent cycling corridors.
- Allocate more funds from the Council's portfolio including Planning developments (Section 106 & Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy), Highways, Regeneration/Environment, Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and Transport for London to the successful Active Travel Fund.