

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6.30pm

Present in person: Brian Turpin, Rosemary Scott, Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator).

Present online: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator).

Apologies: Cllr. Mark Ingleby (Lewisham Active Travel Champion), Judith Barrett, Tim Collingridge (Secretary).

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).
    - Two Counties Ride - Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am
  - Upcoming Community Events (see our [calendar](#) for latest info and also [LCC Events](#) page).
    - Grove Park 'Fix & Ride' Bike Workshop - Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 11am - 2pm. Jane reported a volunteer would be needed for this to support the mechanic as she is not available.
    - Beckenham Place Park BMX Track Dr Bike - Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 10am - 2pm.
- Topical Items.
  - Plans for Vigil for Irene Leardini who tragically died in a collision with a lorry on New Cross Road on January 20th.
    - This was discussed with further details being agreed including exact timings and locations. Brian agreed to contact the ward councillors (the collision site is on the boundary line of four wards).
  - Recent issues to be discussed:
    - Lee Terrace/Belmont Hill speed cushions. Press coverage and misrepresentation of LC views. This was briefly discussed and agreed that we should distance ourselves from negative statements wrongly attributed to LC by the Daily Telegraph and ITV.
    - Waterlink Way confluence bridge replacement - diversionary route. We've raised a couple of points with Lewisham Officers: a) preferring the Rutland Walk/Burford Road route but needs double-yellow lines across the mouth of Rutland Walk on Perry Hill. b) provide some form of protection to northbound cyclists turning right into the small park on Catford Hill.
    - Waterlink Way green section north of Lower Sydenham station. Currently overgrown and uncared for. Should we get involved with local community and Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (WWCT) regarding clearing it up & ongoing maintenance? Agreed we would seek volunteers for this as it's a good opportunity to extend our influence and affiliation with WWCT.
  - Political Party Manifesto influencing for next local election in May 2026.

Overview of any contact with political parties to date:

    - No further contact to report. We do need some further local action e.g. re-releasing our asks before the elections so people can ask candidates

when they come door knocking. Also taking the lead for our campaign from LCC Central Office.

- LC funding options:
  - LCC Lime Share the Joy fund. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>
  - LC GoFundMe appeal - work in progress, not available for donations yet. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lewisham-cyclists-fix-and-ride>  
Jane is going to follow up with John to link the GoFundMe account to our 'Grant' bank account before we start promoting it.
- Current consultations and planning applications
  - Members are encouraged to respond to these:
    - None currently active
- Attendees News & Views.
  - Rosemary highlighted the ongoing issue in Ladywell Village of rat running traffic in peak hours which is dangerous for people on cycles and pedestrians. She cited a recent collision when a neighbour was run over by a car in Gillian Street, and who is still on crutches several months later. There have been three accidents in this area in recent years, with many drivers making illegal manoeuvres to avoid queueing traffic. Improvement options included a bus gate in Hilly Fields/Vicars Hill to filter through traffic, and filter(s) in Marsala Street and Gillian Street. Alex and Tim will discuss with Council officers at their next meeting.
- Meeting closed at 730pm.

Footnote on Vigil for Irene Leardini subsequently held on Friday 6th February:

The event passed off well on with 30 - 40 riders and friends in attendance. We remembered Irene and several moving messages were delivered by Jane and other members of LC, and friends of Irene. Representatives from Lewisham Council also attended and the MP for Lewisham North, alongside colleagues from other cycling groups including the London Cycling Campaign (LCC). We will discuss the issue of campaigning for a safe route along the A2 at our March meeting. Cllr Aisha Malik-Smith (New Cross Gate ward) said she would convene a community meeting to discuss road safety in the area as it was a concern to many residents, and we expressed solidarity. LCC dangerous junctions' data shows 6 serious collisions (not including this fatality) along this stretch of road.

**The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm at RUSS Hub (Note temporary change of venue due to conflict with Full Council Budget Setting meeting).**

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