

Record of Monthly Meeting of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) at Lewisham Civic Centre on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 6.30pm

Present in person: Alex Raha (LC Coordinator), Tim Collingridge (LC Secretary), Brian Turpin, Mark Chapman, Andrew.

Present online: Jane Davis (LC Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Ruth Persian (Green Cllr candidate for New Cross Gate), Rosemary Scott.

Apologies: Cllr. Mark Ingleby (Lewisham Active Travel Champion), Mario Toraldo, Mary King, Judith Barrett.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Community Engagement & Rides.
  - LCC (London Cycling Campaign) London Cycling Festival (LCF). Lewisham Council are keen to collaborate on an event marking Car Free Day (22<sup>nd</sup> Sept) and the LCF. Jane is going to contact Adeola (Events Officer at the Council) to discuss options. LCC are also hosting a organisers' meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April which Jane is planning to attend. Hatcham Festival (HF) is also on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> Sept with a Play Street planned for Sun 20<sup>th</sup>. HF have already raised the possibility of having an LC Dr Bike on the Sunday. Maybe we could bring these events together and have a family-friendly ride from Bell Green over the new Waterlink Way bridge to the HF? We also discussed the possibility of involving Sergeant Rachael Hardie (Met Police Cycling Lead for the Borough) to provide a bike marking session at HF.
  - LC 'Spring into Cycling' event scheduled for Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May in Ladywell Fields. Volunteers needed to help on Dr Bike, bike jumble sale, cargo trike try-out sessions, volunteer engagement stall.
  - Jane & Orlando ran a busy Dr Bike for Telegraph Hill Festival on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Mar at Somerville Centre on Queens Road. They also have some funding for an 'Upcycling Academy' for a bunch of second-hand cycles they have accumulated. Jane has agreed to do six sessions through the summer for which we should be recompensed. She may also get Rachael Hardie involved to hold bike marking session(s).
  - Upcoming rides (see our Facebook Events for info and [LCC Events](#) page to register for rides).
    - Les may be planning a ride for April. Jane expects to lead some rides in May. Keep an eye out on the pages above for details.
  - Upcoming Community Events (see our [calendar](#) for latest info and also [LCC Events](#) page).
    - Grove Park 'Fix & Ride' Bike Workshop - Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Apr 11am - 2pm.
    - Beckenham Place Park BMX Track Dr Bike - Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10am - 2pm.
- LCC 'Streets for Cycling' Election Campaign for local elections on Thu 7<sup>th</sup> May.
  - Members are encouraged to take the action asking for 'a safe local cycle network right across the borough' by emailing their local candidates: <https://action.lcc.org.uk/streets>
  - Alex reported that Liam Trivastava (Green) has already pledged support. Whereas Amanda de Ryk (Labour) would like to meet with LC to discuss before

- committing. We haven't yet heard from other parties' candidates (LibDem, Conservative, Reform).
- LC agreed group activities are as follows:
    - Alex to email all the Mayoral candidates (we currently have contact details for all the major parties apart from Reform) asking them to pledge support for a safe local cycle network across the borough.
    - Alex to draft CIVI newsletter this week sharing the requested action with our members.
    - Also see LCC briefing pack for blog post, press release and social media ideas. We agreed that the CIVI newsletter was the first priority and the website blog post and social media could follow that.
    - Alex said he is already updating the LCC weekly group tracker (Excel spreadsheet) with any interactions with party leaders.
    - Brian has 200 leaflets for on-street distribution - volunteers needed to assist. The first session was scheduled for 8am-9am on Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr outside Glassmills. However this session may be deferred as 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr is Good Friday so there won't be many commuters. Other suggested locations for leafleting were Ladywell toucan crossing, Southend Lane toucan crossing and Deptford Church Street at one of the sets of traffic lights.
  - Topical Items.
    - Waterlink Way confluence bridge replacement.
      - Work is well underway and the old rickety bridge has been removed.
      - We've emailed the Council strongly criticising the signed diversionary route which is essentially designed for pedestrians. We've requested a cycle-specific diversion which keeps cyclists off Perry Hill for as long as possible plus other measures to aid cyclist safety.
    - Future plans for the Family Cycling Library cargo trike - we have one more rental scheduled for May. The booking form is currently closed, do we want to continue with the scheme or close it down?
      - Jane related that the scheme takes up a fair amount of volunteer time and some cost as we need to pay Roy the mechanic to check over the trike after each hire and resolve any issues. We have also had a couple of last-minute cancellations recently which have been frustrating and lowered the utilisation level. Having said this the feedback from renters has always been positive and four have gone on to buy their own cargo cycles. We agreed to reopen bookings, run the scheme through until Autumn and review the position again then.
    - Treasurer's Interim Report - deferred from previous meeting but included budgets are latest versions (see Appendix A - Ongoing Budget for 25/26 / Outline Draft Budget for 26/27)
      - John commented as follows: "Our overall financial position remains the same. We are OK this financial year but are likely to be stretched in 2026/27 unless the soon-to-be-launched GoFundMe appeal comes up with the more-than-expected budget estimate of £500".
      - This conclusion was noted and Jane committed to work with John to link the GoFundMe to our bank account on her return to London.

- John has recently given us notice that he is planning to stand down soon as Treasurer due to family commitments. We all owe him a massive debt for his tireless, patient and always thorough efforts in the role going back to 2007(!). We'd like to put on record a massive Thankyou to John.
    - At the meeting Alex paid tribute to John's incredible efforts on behalf of Lewisham Cyclists over nearly 20 years of service.
    - If anyone would like to take on the Treasurer Committee role please talk to us. John has committed to giving full assistance in the transition.
  - LC funding options:
    - LCC Lime Share the Joy fund. Multiple rounds of funding through 2026. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/>  
Discuss whether we have any plans to make or support a submission to the next round when it opens. Current submission window is 15<sup>th</sup> Mar to 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.
    - The Beckenham Place Park BMX Track organisation, where one of our monthly Dr Bikes currently takes place, is in the process of establishing itself as a Community Group with a Committee which will include Roy and Jane. They are planning to affiliate with British Cycling. In the future they may apply for Share the Joy funding in part to fund our Dr Bike activities on their behalf.
    - LC GoFundMe appeal - work in progress, not available for donations yet. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lewisham-cyclists-fix-and-ride>  
Once the appeal is linked to our bank account we can proceed with promotion of it.
- Council liaison update
  - Tim & Alex briefed members on their recent meeting with Darren Gotch. Issues covered were as follows:
    - Collision reported between pedestrian and cyclist in Deptford High Street during a recent Saturday market. Market Traders have apparently requested 'cyclist dismount' signs. We expressed our opposition to such signs preferring 'pedestrian priority' signage which we believe would be more effective.
    - We showed members preliminary plans for Cycleway 64 between Elverson Road and Lewisham High Street via Silk Mills Path. Generally positive with construction works due to be start soon.
    - In contrast preliminary plans for Cycleway 66 between Crofton Park and New Cross Gate are unsatisfactory with little protection for cyclists along some busy roads e.g. Jerningham Road and Avignon Road. We have informed the Council of our concerns about this route.
    - Construction of the proposed Vineyard Close to Waterlink Way path has been delayed waiting funding of the £50K cost in the new financial year. It will be a 'no-dig' path to avoid damaging trees in the vicinity.
- Attendees News & Views.
  - Andrew mentioned an issue with restricted cycle access to Chinbrook Meadows due to the design of the gates. Although it is on an LCN (London Cycle Network) cycle route it is difficult to get bicycles through the gates and impossible for a cargo or adaptive cycle. Alex to follow up with the Council.

- Meeting closed at 8pm.
- The next Monthly Meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm at RUSS Hub (**Note temporary change of venue** due to conflict with Local Council elections).

Lewisham Cyclists (The London Cycling Campaign group for London Borough of Lewisham)  
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www.lewishamcyclists.org.uk  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/72380106728/>  
<https://lewishamcyclistsgroup.slack.com/>  
<https://bsky.app/profile/lewishamcyclists.bsky.social>  
[https://www.instagram.com/lewisham\\_cyclists/](https://www.instagram.com/lewisham_cyclists/)

Appendix A - Ongoing Budget for 25/26 / Outline Draft Budget for 26/27

<b>Lewisham Cyclists Ongoing Budget for 2025/26 as at 25 March 2026 ( for Main account)</b>						
<b><u>Income</u></b>						
<b>Received to date</b>						
Bank balance from end March 2025						4733
LCC grant						345
DunRun Ex Gracia 2025						956
DunRun Ex Gracia 2024 true up (inc. arrears from 2022/24)						1125
Bike sale						300
Donations (April to date)						2391
Cargo Bike hire						100
						<b>9950</b> < total rec'd to date
<b>Estimated or expected</b>						
Donations for late feb to March 2026 (say)						25
				Plus actual income to date		9950
				Total actual + estimated income		<b>9975</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>						
<b>Paid to date</b>						
Mechanics costs for 3rd Sunday sessions at Grove Park April to October						760
Dr Bike events at The Field, Telegraph Hill festival & Beckenham Place Park etc						1135
Grove Park garage rent March to Jan						1800
DunRun unloading assistment						276
Consumables						55
Purchases for Grove Park -Toilet .table,chairs, banner						286
Cargo Tribike maintenance						124
Google cloud						82
						<b>4518</b> < total paid to date
<b>Expected or estimated</b>						
Grove Park garage rent March 2026						150
Grove Park 3rd Sunday mechanics costs March 2026						135
Further Dr Bike events						0
Consumables						0
Google Cloud & misc (say)						7
				Total estimated future expenditure		292
				Plus actual expenditure to date		4518
				Total actual + estimated expenditure		<b>4810</b>
				Estimated net worth at end March 2026 (£9975-£4810)		<b>5165</b>
John Phillips				Actual Main Account bank balance at 21 Feb 2026		
25 March 2026				£5,285		
(for April meeting)				Grant account bank balance is a residual £115		

