

## **Meeting record of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at the Civic Centre, Catford Broadway**

In attendance: Alex Raha (Co-ordinator Lewisham Cyclists), Brian Turpin (Secretary Int LC), Cllr Corin Ashwell (Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action), Cllr Laura Sessions (Active Travel Champion), Mario Toraldo, Rosemary Scott (online).

Apologies: Inspector Adrian Hanna (Met Police), Judith Barrett, Jane Davis (Community and Rides Co-ordinator LC), Tim Collingridge (Treasurer Int LC).

### **Agenda items**

#### **Community Engagement & Rides**

Beckenham Place Park BMX Track Dr Bike – Sunday 7th June 10am – 12pm.

Fix & Ride' Grove Park Youth Club Bike Workshop - Sunday, 21 June 11:00am – 2:00pm

Sunday 5 July LCC Women's Freedom ride - feeder ride to and from Lewisham  
10am - 3pm (12 noon at National Theatre Southbank)

Sunday 5 July Beckenham Place Park BMX Track Dr Bike 10am - 12 noon

For details of meeting places and how to join see our Facebook Events for info and LCC Events page to register for rides:

<https://lcc.org.uk/events-calendar/>

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/calendar-of-events/#>

#### **Current issues to be discussed:**

#### **Topical Items.**

#### **Engagement with the new Council**

We will discuss options for engaging with Lewisham Council which has had a change of leadership and many new councillors. We have written to the new Mayor and had contact with some councillors and received a very positive response. LCC is issuing a briefing for all councillors across London urging them to support active travel initiatives.

We had lengthy discussions as follows:

- There was overwhelming support for achieving as much of the Active Travel Strategy (ATS) as possible leading to significant improvements in connecting cycle routes across the Borough by 2030. Current ATS targets are behind and if we are to achieve the pledge of a connected cycle network by 2030 there needs to be a change of pace and ambition.

- There was also support for continuing our regular meeting with officers. This is an effective way of influencing outline and final schemes, and enables us to communicate any changes/improvements to our members.
- The current pipeline of schemes including Healthy Neighbourhoods and traffic reduction schemes (Telegraph Hill, St Johns, Ladywell and Brockley) should be implemented.
- A further strategic priority is to connect the recently completed Deptford Church Street cycle track at Deptford Bridge with Lewisham Town Centre along Brookmill Road. This is a vital part of the “Spine” linking Deptford to Downham following Brookmill Road and the A21 north-south through the Borough.
- We discussed the transformative effect of cargo bikes for families and the accompanying need for on street bicycle parking to be increased.
- Councillors are always welcome at our events, including Dr Bike repair workshops, and also to witness any of the many bike buses going on throughout the Borough.
- We gave a presentation on the key issues for improving safe space and connectivity for cycling which can be seen here..
- LC has been a constructive and critical friend to the Council in the past and there was unanimous support for that relationship to continue
- Traffic and safety issues in Ladywell Village were discussed and it was agreed this should be a priority. LC is happy to support a ride over and join the residents’ groups now in contact with Matthew d’Archambaud at the Council. And this goes for any other emerging scheme where we’d be delighted to lead a ride over for Council colleagues and residents.

**Waterlink Way (WW) bridge replacement** - the route has been closed since before Easter to allow for the replacement of the current wooden bridge. Unfortunately we were told the works had been delayed because an unforeseen water mains pipe has come to light near the west abutment for the bridge. This requires Thames Water (TW) to give approval for works to proceed in proximity to their water main. An estimated completion date cannot be given at the moment as it is dependent on Thames Water. In the meantime work is proceeding on the east-side abutment for the bridge and the crane mat for the bridge installation. The meeting discussed the frustration and inconvenience this will cause to many people on bicycles as this route is well used, and the diversionary route is convoluted, hilly, and potentially brings cyclists into unsafe spaces shared with heavy traffic.

Corin said he would raise with officers/TW to at least see if a timeline notice could be provided at the diversion points so people could at least be aware of any progress.

### **London Mayor's new Walking & Wheeling Plan**

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2026/may/mayor-and-tfl-set-out-major-new-plan-to-boost-walking-and-improve-public-health>

This wasn't discussed in detail but the new TfL plan details a change in focus for improved public spaces to enhance active travel, for all those walking and wheeling. There's also an emphasis on additional safety for women especially after dark, on streets and town centres. Boroughs that support this strategy will be able to bid for funding as part of the Local Investment Plan (LiP) annual grants.

**LC Committee changes** as a result of the recent retirement of John Phillips from the Treasurer role:

Interim Secretary – Brian Turpin

Interim Treasurer – Tim Collingridge

These interim posts will be reviewed and ratified at our next Annual Meeting.

**LC funding options:** LCC Lime Share the Joy fund. Four rounds of funding through 2024/25. <https://lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/> For information, the next submission window is going to open in October.

**Attendees News & Views. (10 mins)**

Opportunity for attendees to raise other issues.

Brian shared an update from Inspector Adrian Hanna (Met Police) on violent robberies in Folkestone Gardens discussed at the March meeting: "Thankfully since then there has been a significant decrease in offending in and around Folkestone Gardens to the point where there have been no reported offences in the last 2 months. This has been one of our priority locations and we have put a lot of police resources in the area which may explain the decrease. The only recent incident of note on the local cycling routes was on 16/05 when a female cyclist was pushed off her bike by a suspect on a red motorcycle and robbed of her phone. This occurred on the cycling route to the north of Millwall. Clearly, local cyclists may have a different experience which is not reflected in the crime stats and I'd be interested in hearing any recent issues they may have had."

Agreed LC will keep alert for any further offences and report them via Adrian and other channels. If anyone sees a live incident in progress it's important to stay safe, and report it via 999 stating a potential violent robbery is underway in this area which has been a crime hot spot recently.

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Brian Turpin (LC Interim Secretary)

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