

July 1st 2026 Lewisham Cyclists Meeting Notes (Civic Centre, Catford)

Attendees: Brian Turpin (Secretary - Interim), Tim Collingridge (Treasurer - Interim), Will Umney, Judith Barrett

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Corin Ashwell, Laura Sessions, Robin McGhee, Nick Torry; Alex Raha (Co-ordinator); Jane Davis (Community and Rides Co-ordinator)

Community Rides & Events

Upcoming rides (see our Facebook Events for info and LCC Events page to register for rides): Further details at <https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/calendar-of-events/> and <https://lcc.org.uk/events-calendar/> Other rides will be added in due course.

Sunday 5 July LCC Women's Freedom ride

10.30 am - feeder ride up to central London leaving from Ladywell Fields to join the Freedom Ride from 12 noon. Return to Lewisham independently or ride back with us to return by 4pm.

Feeder details at <https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-feeder-ride-to-lcc-womens-freedom-ride-2/>

Main ride details at

<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lcc-womens-network-freedom-ride-2026/>

Sunday 5 July LC and Beckenham BMX Dr Bike

10am - 12 noon Beckenham Place Park BMX track <https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-and-beckenham-bmx-dr-bike/2026-07-05/>

Sunday 19 July 11am - 2pm LC Fix & Ride Grove Park Youth Club

<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-fix-and-ride-2/2026-07-19/>

Jane to check mechanic availability for the 19th or may possibly be moved to the 12th.

Sunday 26 July - Dunwich Dynamo Unload, Millwall stadium - volunteers will be needed for the annual unload of coaches returning from the Suffolk coast in the afternoon. Details on our Whatsapp Volunteer channel or by emailing us at lewishamcyclists@gmail.com

Sunday 20 September - LCC Festival of Cycling - we discussed our plans to support this London wide event which will add to our profile within Lewisham. Lewisham Council are also supporting the event. Councillors could also be invited to attend any local rides and events. To be advised by the Community and Rides Co-ordinator.

Current issues to be discussed

Waterlink Way bridge replacement - Thames Water have agreed the works can now continue having confirmed the location of their water main. It's expected to be completed by late August including bridge replacement, removal of temporary access equipment and landscaping along the approaches. Thanks to councillors and officers for pressing for urgent completion of this vital active travel link.

Bike Buddy scheme (deferred from previous meeting)

LCC's online application is no longer available and we are now operating our own simplified

application process. This seems to be working effectively with an auto-reply system that generates notifications enabling us to process applicants, which we are now starting to receive.

Family cycling library cargo trike hire. We have concluded we don't have the capacity to run this scheme and will sell one of our cargo bikes. Agreed Jane will make arrangements to sell the newer cargo bike at an estimated price of £1300 which will be useful funding for the remainder of this financial year. Agreed we will communicate this decision to the Council as they have operated similar "try before you buy" schemes with suppliers in the past.

Topical Items

Annual Meeting - our next Annual Meeting is due to be held in October. Agreed this is a good opportunity to discuss our priorities with new councillors and members anxious to see more safe space for cycling in their areas. Agreed we will ask Cllr Corin Ashwell to the AM to talk about Active Travel and join our discussions. Also agreed that Cllr Mark Kowalski be invited as a special guest in the light of his recent record-breaking ride through 21 countries in seven days. Potential dates are 8 or 14 October depending on responses from speakers, and LC officers. Secretary to advise.

We will also consider rides with councillors and proactive travel residents groups, visiting councillors surgeries, inviting councillors to Dr Bikes and other events.

Overview of progress on Forest Hill - Catford active travel route via Elm Lane.

Agreed we would write in response to the Friends of Elm Lane letter to Lewisham councillors. Lewisham Council would need to enable Vineyard Close access from the Waterlink Way. The complete Catford to Forest Hill project costs would be in the order of £2m. This seems practicable when there is no short-term prospect for the development of the, much more expensive, TfL preferred route east/west along the S. Circular, and the cantilever bridge required at Catford Bridge.

Railway crossings - Although local authorities have legal responsibility for maintaining Network Rail's bridges that go over railway lines (e.g Sydenham, Bellingham and Grove Park) they don't have capital funds to replace them with disability compliant accessible modern alternatives. Therefore, there needs to be a London wide decision to include a bridge modernisation programme over a number of years. Otherwise we face the inertia of nothing ever happening despite the everyday obstacle created by out-of-date infrastructure that will continue to act as a barrier for safe cycling and wheeling.

Agreed Judith will write to LCC with a proposal to establish a working party comprising LC members from the Boroughs that contributed to the original map (that has now been sent to Will Norman from LCC), to lobby the GLA and other pan-London authorities. Other potential voices include Wheel Walk Cycle, Active Travel England, Wheels for Wellbeing, and Cycling UK.

Council liaison update

Highlights of our recent meeting with Council:

St John's/Deptford Healthy Neighbourhood designs being finalised before being released for further detailed consultation over the following two months. Traffic Orders should be made by Christmas.

New Cross - Crofton Park cycle route still under design following a site meeting and Lewisham's acceptance of our plan for an uphill cycle lane along Jerningham Road. Designs due to be completed this year, with construction next financial year. A new crossing is also being proposed across New Cross Road (TfL's responsibility) to improve active travel safety.

Cycleway 64 - Lewisham - Greenwich via Silk Mills Path. It will be a useful route from Elverson Road into Lewisham Town Centre and go through one of the railway arches on Lewisham High Street (adjacent to the planned Active Travel Hub provided through Levelling Up). This is being funded through previous year's TfL underspend (see LiP below).

Elmira Street - latest school street will likely open in September end of the summer holidays. Will significantly reduce rat running traffic cutting through from Ladywell to Loampit Vale and make the school environment much better. Other school streets anecdotally are seeing many more children arriving in family cargo bikes, not cars.

LiP announcement - Lewisham's award for this year is just over £2m and includes feasibility and other funding for cycle route developments and bus priority schemes (that can directly benefit cycling). We discussed the current pipeline of schemes including healthy neighbourhoods (see below) and it's crucial that schemes are progressed in line with funding timetables. Sometimes Lewisham benefits from underspends elsewhere across London not being fully committed, so having shovel ready schemes, or at least outline feasibility studies, can be opportunistic.

Climate Action Connections 6-9pm 22 July @ The Blue Garage, Lewisham

Open to everyone interested in climate change in Lewisham includes a presentation from Cllr Corin Ashwell Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action. Bring felt tips and ideas! Get free tickets below

<https://buytickets.at/lewishamcouncil/2252270>

Current consultations and planning applications - None currently active.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Brian Turpin (Interim Secretary)