

August 5th 2026 Lewisham Cyclists Meeting Notes (Civic Centre, Catford)

Attendees: Brian Turpin (Secretary), Tim Collingridge (Treasurer), Jane Davies (Community and Rides Co-ordinator), Alex Raha (Co-ordinator), Judith Barrett, Cllr Corin Ashwell (Cabinet Member Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action)

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Laura Sessions (Active Travel Champion), Nick Torry; Jorge Martinez Lopez.

Community Rides & Events

All are welcome on our rides but you should check the link to ensure the ride is of a comfortable standard for you and book your place. 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.

Beckenham BMX (Downham) Dr Bike - Sun 2 August 10am
<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-and-beckenham-bmx-dr-bike/2026-08-02/>

Grove Park 'Fix & Ride' Bike Workshop – Sun 16th August 11am – 2pm.
<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-fix-and-ride-2-2/2026-08-16/>

Half Day Kent ride - Sat 15th August 9am
<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-half-day-kent-ride-2/>

Jane reported on recent successful rides led by our team of volunteers. LC have also partnered with the Somerville Youth Centre (New Cross) to deliver six skills training sessions to young people who learn to build up and maintain their own bicycle. In addition Jane organised a supporting Dr Bike at the Bellingham Playground opening event on 15th July which was popular and raised our profile amongst the local community.

Feedback from Dunwich Dynamo Unload (26th July) Jane reported this was one of the best unloads we've done over the years and it ran smoothly with over 600 riders happily re-acquainted with their bicycles. Thanks to our volunteers and mechanics for their valued help.

Festival of Cycling 20th September - both the Council and LCC have asked for our support for this London wide event. Subject to getting enough volunteers we will run a Dr Bike at the Kender Street/Cold Blow Lane event. There may be a prospect of further freelance funding from LCC which could be used to support the Council's Kitto Road event.

Judith reported an upcoming event at Elm Lane in October and requested a Dr Bike which Jane will assess.

Current issues to be discussed

Waterlink Way bridge replacement - Corin reported additional works needed to a Thames Water (TW) pipe. Therefore, the already delayed re-opening date of late August is likely to

be pushed back further. He is getting weekly updates and trying to get a meeting with TW management. Elsewhere in the Borough TW are still, after many years, blocking the Waterlink Way at the northern end of Brookmill Park, and more recently have completely blocked Cycleway 4 on Evelyn Street for works on a new development. We'll continue to monitor and highlight issues with Officers. On a brighter note the obstruction near the Vulcan Road filter with Shardeloes Road has been removed after reporting via the Love Clean Streets app.

Topical Items

Annual Meeting (AM) Wednesday 14th October 2026 - we agreed the date and venue (RUSS, Ladywell) for this meeting including venue, and outline agenda. The AM is an opportunity to bring together cycle activists advocating for healthy neighbourhoods, school streets and safe space for people on bicycles. Councillor Corin Ashwell has agreed to attend and we will also invite other councillors, colleagues and supporters for a round table discussion on how we can achieve effective active travel improvements for all communities. Councillor Mark Kowalski has also agreed to attend to share details of his record breaking ride through 21 countries in seven days. Brian will make the arrangements for booking the venue and sending invitations, and Jane and Alex will each briefly (10 mins each) review the past year's activities in community and campaigning respectively. Corin will briefly (10 mins) present his priorities in view of the Active Travel Strategy and any other emerging opportunities and take questions. Councillor Kowalski will complete proceedings.

Attempted bike robbery on C10 (Southwark) - we discussed any further action following this latest disturbing incident on Abercorn Way which is a short distance travelling west from South Bermondsey Station. Adrian Hanna (Met Police) who attended our March meeting to discuss an earlier outbreak of bike thefts including assaults, has been made aware of this latest incident, which has some similarities with previous crimes, albeit the location is slightly different, and is in Southwark. Agreed Brian will post on FB that police are aware, and alert our Southwark colleagues.

Climate Action Connections meeting 22nd July - feedback from Corin and Tim/Brian/Alex: this was a consultation event to help the Council prepare its new Climate Strategy. This will be more focussed on direct action the Council can take to lead change whilst partnering with the many community groups already active in this area including Lewisham Cyclists. Many community groups were involved and already play a crucial role in helping towards Net Zero, including the work we do towards encouraging more sustainable personal transport. The draft strategy will go to Mayor/Cabinet this autumn and will be published April 2027.

Council liaison update

Highlights of our recent meeting with Council officers:

St John's/Deptford Healthy Neighbourhood designs being finalised before being released for further detailed consultation in September/October.

Cycleway 64 - Lewisham - Greenwich via Silk Mills Path - due to be constructed in the next two months. It includes signage and a new tiger crossing across Station Road in Lewisham. Greenwich Council also recently consulted on designs for the extension of the route from Elverson Road to Greenwich Town Centre:

<https://communityconversations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/cycle-walk-and-wheeling-greenwich-park-elverson-road>

Harts Lane - this consists of a new central dropped kerb to improve access to this quieter side road off the A2 in New Cross. Plans also involve removing several parking bays at the entrance to Harts Lane to aid cycle access. TfL are also considering designs for a new crossing of New Cross Road near Jerningham Road. We also discussed that the New Cross Road layout hasn't been improved since the tragic fatality earlier this year despite the follow up site meeting with Will Norman, TfL and representatives from Amersham Gyratory Action Group. Corin will follow up with TfL.

Elm Lane/Vineyard Close (VC) - Judith queried progress of the potential Catford to Forest Hill walking and cycling route in the light of the hiatus over developing a safe alternative route along the South Circular road. Agreed that a Councillor-led consultation with residents of VC leading to opening of the linking path to the Waterlink Way would need to take place in advance of any decision on Elm Lane works. It was noted that some residents have started an opposing petition on change.org.

Brockley Cross Junction - feasibility progressing with several high-level options up for review.

Dockless Bike Bays - we should have 300 by year end but Corin is calling for way more, to enable us to reduce waiting lists and meet demand. To be effective both for riders and the general public they have to become a regular feature on most streets in the Borough.

Bike Hangers - regarding standard bike hangers, in some localities the Council is trying to meet demand by doubling up hanger units where there are waiting lists.

Brookmill Pub Rain Garden - a refined design has now been agreed which will feature the roundabout removal on St John's Vale, a relocated bike hanger, and a corral style bike parking bay in adjacent Cranbrook Road. Thanks to Tim for pushing for this.

LiP funding for 2027/8 - We agreed the Brookmill Road section of the Spine scheme should be added as a priority for feasibility and outline design. This will be classified as Cycleway 18 and link central Lewisham with Cycleway 4 at Deptford Bridge and would add connectivity to the Borough's strategic network. We emphasised that protected cycling facilities are needed along here before construction starts on Lewisham Town Centre and the Matalan Island site which will generate many lorry movements.

Current consultations and planning applications -

Lewisham Town Centre Phase 1 - this has been approved by Lewisham (July 2026) and affects the northern blocks of the new development including Salisbury Yard, and the model market at the southern end of the site. We will liaise with councillors including Cllr Daniel Dream (Regeneration) to explain our recent involvement with the scheme including Landsec's £5m fund for active travel improvements in and around the development, including the Spine project from Deptford to Downham.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Brian Turpin (Interim Secretary)