

Meeting record of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at the Civic Suite, Catford Broadway, SE6 4RU

In attendance: Alex Raha (Co-ordinator Lewisham Cyclists), Tim Collingridge (Treasurer LC) Brian Turpin (Secretary LC), Judith Barrett, Claire McDonald (Solve the School Run), Jane Davis (Community and Rides Co-ordinator LC) (online), Mario Toraldo (online).

Apologies: Cllr Corin Ashwell (Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action)

Agenda items

Community Engagement & Rides

The following events/rides were discussed:

Ride to Holland Park Sunday 13th September starts Brockley 10am

<https://tinyurl.com/Ride-to-Holland-Park>

LC Dr Bike Saturday 19th September - Chinbrook Meadows Apple Day. 1.30 - 4.00 pm

LC Grove Park 'Fix and Ride' workshop Sunday 20th September 11am - 2pm

LCC London Cycling Festival Sunday 20th September 11am to 2pm. Kitto Road, Telegraph Hill.

<https://lcc.org.uk/events/lcf-lewisham/>

LC Dr Bike Sunday 20th September - Cold Blow Lane. 2.00 - 4.00pm

Dr Bike Elm Lane Sunday 17th October - Judith and Jane to liaise timings TBC

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/#>

Jane is getting more requests for bikes and with help from a mechanic a number of bikes will be refurbished.

Current issues to be discussed:

School Streets and safe routes to schools - Claire McDonald from Solve the School Run (STSR) presented this campaign to bring more school streets to boroughs including Lewisham and make them more effective in transforming journeys to school. She highlighted the following:

- STSR is a Brixton based charity running for 5 years or so with her co-founder Nicola. There's a London wide perspective but focus is currently on Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Hackney. The campaign is to improve children's safety on the way to and from school. Evidence shows that 5 year olds' health is affected by pollution on the way to school, and in the playground which can be as polluted as the route to school.
- Claire reported how STSR had benefitted from their early learning about campaigning for a school street in a heavily polluted and busy road, by not running a petition at a formative stage. However, a new school street (Rosendale Road) was finally provided which transformed the routes to multiple schools by reducing traffic across an entire neighbourhood. As a result, people have become visible, it's much quieter and more pleasant, and more children are able to make their journeys independently.
- Claire estimates half of rush hour traffic is generated by education traffic. There is no apparent rush hour during the holidays. Therefore school run = rush hour. 85% of children currently walk, cycle or wheel to school, or take public transport. 15% of journeys are by car which by means the majority are being inconvenienced by a minority.
- The Lewisham WhatsApp group has 200 members and is especially strong amongst STSR's focus boroughs. Lewisham's school streets are often not as effective as they could be in deterring drivers who may be responsible for up to 20% of journeys. They are too short to prevent drop offs just outside the filter, which reduces their impact. Claire believes cargo bikes offer a great alternative to cars, although cost, storage and infrastructure can be barriers.
- STSR is running school street demos at prospective schools in Lewisham from 25 September - 12 October and would like to hear from any parents and schools who are interested.
- Claire has also given us details of cargo bike sales channels via Whatsapp and Facebook which we can use for re-purposing our surplus stock. We thanked Claire for her inspiring presentation.

Annual Meeting 14th October at RUSS Hub, Ladywell 6.30pm

Due to time constraints in the meeting the Agenda for this will be agreed by the Management Committee.

LCC Rail Crossings map

The map originally conceived of and progressed by Judith has gained support from a number of Boroughs and was successfully adopted as a motion at the LCC annual meeting. The issue is challenging because of its scale and cost, and the number of different agencies both regional and national that would need to agree to such an extensive capital programme.

Understandably the Group Forum at LCC remains supportive as they understand the active travel restrictions on active travel imposed by outdated crossings but can't commit further already stretched resources. In consultation with LCC it's been agreed that we focus on up to three high profile crossings across a number of Boroughs and focus our time on building support for local campaigns. This is challenging work but more likely to interest politicians in key constituencies who may have influence. Judith to pursue with advice from one of our members who has contacts at GLA/TfL.

Waterlink Way (WW) bridge replacement - the route has been closed since before Easter to allow for the replacement of the current wooden bridge. Unfortunately the project has been beset by recurring delays and slippage. A Thames Water pipe that wasn't on the original site

survey now requires a repair, which is likely to result in a further delay with completion in November:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/update-on-waterlink-way-bridge>

Feedback from the latest meeting with officers on 27th August on progress with various active travel plans:

- C71 Limes Grove (Lewisham Town Centre) to Lee proposed route - Preliminary designs contain some unsatisfactory features. A subsequent in-person group meeting was held which agreed some options for improvement which Tim has co-ordinated and returned to LBL. In future it would have been better if an earlier ride over of the prospective route had been undertaken with officers as this would have clarified route and junction options.
- St Joseph's Vale barrier obstruction - Darren will progress this asap.
- Possible improvements on Deptford Church Street cycle track - we're suggesting changing the signalling arrangements at Coffey Street to reduce unnecessary delays for southbound cyclists, Darren will visit and let us know the outcome.
- Sanford Street crossing in New Cross - part of C14 - Bridgehouse Meadows cycleway funding is available this year and Darren will progress including tiger crossing.
- C18 Catford Bridge underpass enlargement - full design later this month with budget available for construction this year.
- Crofton Park to New Cross route - latest designs should be forwarded to us soon.
- Greenwich Park to Eltham route etc - LBG are now consulting on this route. Members are encouraged to respond directly by 23rd September in support of the scheme, especially the path widening across Blackheath but also highlighting that traffic flows will still be heavy along South Row towards Kidbrooke Park Road at evening peak eastbound:

<https://communityconversations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/transport-and-parking/cycle-walk-and-wheeling-routes/cycle-walk-and-wheeling-eltham-greenwich>

Attendees News & Views.

Opportunity for attendees to raise other issues.

Mario told us that Kender Street is to become a permanent Play Street with a differentiated surface treatment and equipment. As part of the forthcoming Hatcham Festival there will be a bike bus and Will Norman (TfL) is expected to attend (Friday 18th September).

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Brian Turpin (LC Interim Secretary)

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