

Meeting Record of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) Annual Meeting on Wednesday 14th October 2026 6.30 p.m at RUSS Centre, 12 Church Grove, Ladywell SE13 7UU.

Present: Brian Turpin (Secretary Interim), Tim Collingridge (Treasurer Interim), Jane Davis (Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator), Alex Raha (Co-ordinator), Judith Barrett, **Cllr Corin Ashwell** (Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action), Cllr Mark Kowalski (Lewisham Central), Rosemary Scott, Bridget Knapper, Mario Toraldo, Alex Ingram, Roy Ashman.

Apologies: Cllrs Robin McGhee, Cllr Laura Sessions, Cllr Ed Sutton.

The meeting opened with an envisioning exercise to reflect what is good about cycling in Lewisham, and what needs to be done for more people to enjoy safe cycling in future.

What we love	What would make it better
The independence of getting around quickly and safely	Protected bike lanes from Brookmill Road to Lewisham Hospital
The segregated bike lanes on Cycleways 4 & 18	If some areas like Brockley were safe on a bicycle
Cycling gives me time to gain a sense of place and notice what is happening in my local area	If Lewisham Town Centre was made safe for cycling
Bays for hire bikes brings cycling to a broader range of people	If there was more safe infrastructure for people on bicycles which is shamefully inadequate
The Evelyn Street bike lane and hills!	Make “pinch points” like mini roundabouts safe for people on bicycles
I can get to some nice places in Lewisham with my kids	More protected cycle lanes (apart from those already in Deptford)
The Waterlink Way to Deptford Creek	Dedicated cycle lane network
Kids being able to cycle to school	More low traffic streets prioritising people

Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator’s Report - Jane Davis gave her report reminding us that fatalities including Irene Leardini (February 2026) tragically remind us of the ongoing need to campaign for safe spaces for cycling.

Jane also outlined the range of activities we undertake including a wide range of rides for everyone, and repair workshops and community sessions designed to get more people cycling safely.

Jane praised the work of our volunteers as we couldn’t do what we do without all of them. We still need general help at bike repair workshops and from time to time with leafleting, and the annual Dunwich Dynamo unload. Also bike buddies and ride leaders/back markers. Also comms, tech and fund raising - all skills welcome. Let us know your details and we will get you on our WhatsApp group.

Jane closed by reminding us how much we valued the work of John Phillips who had been the group's Treasurer for many years. He has recently stood down but is well remembered as an important figure and adviser for LC over many years. He steered the group through some uncertain times, but always remained an approachable and knowledgeable figure in helping us plan financially sound projects. Thank you John for your patience, sound counsel and good luck.

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/AM-2026-Janes-Presentation.pdf>

Co-ordinator's Report - Alex Raha outlined the challenges facing the new Council in implementing the Active Travel Strategy (ATS) and with it, fulfilling the pledge of Lewisham's Mayor to achieve a coherent safe cycle network, delivering the top twelve routes in the ATS, by 2030. The ATS is already behind many of its targets, and although some success has been achieved in the review period especially with the new bike lanes at Deptford Church Street, many more schemes would need to have feasibility and outline designs underway during the current planning year if they are to realistically be completed during the current term of office. During discussions lengthy delays for people on bicycles at some new crossings was considered to be problematic, and it was agreed a list would be provided for Corin to discuss with officers.

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/LC-Coordinator-Report-2026.pdf>

Treasurer's Report & Approval by the Meeting - Tim Collingridge presented LC's financial position.

- Tim also thanked John Phillips for his years of service as Treasurer for the group and for handing over the Accounts in excellent shape.
- This financial year we expect to make a modest surplus, buoyed up by the planned sale of the cargo trike.
- We have economised by reducing our reliance on paid mechanics, but this adds strain on Jane working solo - additional volunteers are needed to effectively operate Dr Bike repair events and maintain donation income.
- Rental of our Grove Park workshop space is higher than our previous one in the Deptford Scout Hut for a much smaller and less flexible workspace. The Deptford Scout Hut is still empty and unused.
- We discussed the prospect of a mobile training workshop operated from a cargo bike to stage events in one-off sites helping more people to learn to maintain their cycles and potentially raising some additional revenue.
- Without the annual income from Southwark Cyclists for managing the Dunwich Dynamo unload, we would not break even without making further cutbacks.
- Next year we are planning to initiate a public fund-raising exercise to avoid a potentially significant deficit.
- The meeting unanimously voted in favour of approving the Accounts.

<https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/LC-Annual-Meeting-2026-Treasurers-presentation.pdf>

Elections to LC Management Committee

The following members indicated they were willing to fulfill the following remits for LC and stand for election to the Management Committee.

Alex Raha – LC Coordinator; Jane Davis – Community Engagement & Rides Coordinator; Brian Turpin - Secretary; Tim Collingridge – Treasurer

In the absence of any other candidates they were duly elected unanimously by a show of hands. We are also actively discussing a new remit with Judith Barrett to help us co-ordinate the growth of local groups coming together to campaign for neighbourhood safety schemes across Lewisham.

The London Cycling Campaign Agreement - this effectively replaces our old constitution and has been adopted with all local groups to ensure we all represent the ethos and values of LCC whenever we undertake activities in Lewisham. Some volunteering work will involve remits being agreed so that policy advice and procedures outlined in the LCC Members' Handbook can be followed. [LCC group governance | Lewisham Cyclists](#)

Lewisham Active Travel - Councillor Corin Ashwell, Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action, reflected on his ambition to make Lewisham much more bike friendly. Borrowing a phrase from Peter Walker, he regards cycling as a miracle pill in terms of the multiple benefits of no greenhouse gases, no congestion, no pollution, and giving health benefits and better connectivity to communities. He expressed a desire to work with LC and other groups like Solve the School Run to transform Lewisham. He welcomes LC as a critical and constructive friend and also intends to gain views (on sustainable transport) from experts outside the Borough as well as internal teams.

Guest Speaker – Councillor Mark Kowalski (Lewisham Central) presented highlights of his record breaking endurance ride across 21 countries in seven days (actually 22 but Kosovo is not currently a recognised state):

<https://www.followmychallenge.com/live/most-countries-in-seven-days-2026/>

Mark gave an account of his remarkable adventure including calculating to the last kilometre the daily target and nutritional and resting plans. These involved a few hours of sleep with the rest of the 24 hours reserved for cycling, and eating a purely carb diet for 7 consecutive days. Mark practiced high speed carbo shopping en route so he could leave each shop after just a few minutes, and also emailed hotels in advance so he could gain rapid entry and exit, asked for any food to be placed in his (ground floor) room, and always stored his bike next to his bed. He cycled across the border into Thessalonika (Greece) with a few hours to spare, not having slept for the previous 36 hours.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Brian Turpin (LC Secretary)

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