LEWISHAM CYCLISTS

Autumn 2026 Newsletter

from the local group of the
London Cycling Campaign (LCC) in Lewisham

Sign the petition for improved access to the Waterlink Way avoiding the South Circular road - deadline 18th November!



We’re campaigning for a new entrance to the River Pool linear park which has the popular cycle and walking Waterlink Way (WW) route running through it. There are currently only two widely separated local access points – from Perry Hill via Winsford Road and from Catford Hill just south of Compton’s bicycle shop. For residents in the roads between Cranston Road and Perry Hill, there's no safe, easy route – they must first go either up or down the busy main road of Perry Hill/Catford Hill.

The WW is part of National Cycle Network route 21 and TfL Cycleway 18, a key cycle route to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel in the north (and on to Canary Wharf), and towards Lower Sydenham and Beckenham in the south.

Apart from easier and safer recreational access to the River Pool Linear Park for local residents this access will enable the east-west active travel route proposed in 2024 by Sustrans (now called Walk Wheel Cycle Trust) between Catford and Forest Hill, which passes four primary schools – Rathfern, Kilmorie, Perrymount and St George’s.

It will also enable cyclists commuting between Perry Vale ward (or beyond, from Forest Hill and further west) and Catford and Lewisham (or beyond, to Greenwich, Canary Wharf, etc) to avoid the busy traffic of Catford/Perry Hill and the south circular. Follow link to petition here or below.

Sign the petition here



Waterlink Way Bridge replacement - opening Mid November

After many years of campaigning, the old wooden bridge over the River Pool on the Waterlink Way is being replaced with a new structure. Sadly the project has been significantly delayed.

Work to replace a bridge at Waterlink Way looks set to finally complete in mid November according to Lewisham Council.

An update on the delayed project states that work on the western side of the bridge is now complete with landscaping underway.

New Cycle Parking outside The Brookmill Pub

We're happy to see new a cycle parking corral in St John's courtesy of funding applied for by St John's Society, topped up by Lewisham Council. If you have locations where you think more parking is needed, let us know via email.



News from our Annual Meeting

Held recently, our Annual Meeting heard reviews on events and campaigns over the past year. Positives included the opening of Deptford Church Street (Cycleway 18) and many more School Streets, contraflows and bike hangars. However there's lots more to be done if Lewisham is to compare with Southwark, Lambeth and other boroughs who are transforming their areas for active travel. We remembered the tragic death of Irene Leardini, which reminded us all of the need to make streets safe for people on bicycles. At the time of writing, the New Cross Gate junction remains unaltered.

More positively we ran a wide range of community based events including rides and Dr Bike repair sessions, and our Bike Buddy scheme is going well. We heard from Councillor Corin Ashwell (Cabinet Member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action) who is passionate about active travel and we hope will pick up the pace of change. We also heard from Cllr Mark Kowalski's incredible adventure, on his record breaking bike ride across 21 countries in just seven days. With his energy and Corin's commitment we're wishing them both well for the challenges ahead.

Thanks to John Phillips

At the Annual Meeting we thanked our recently retired Treasurer John Phillips. John 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.

Autumn Rides and Events

- Saturday 14th November: Deptford Explorer Ride For All: Short easy ride for all the family. Details here
- Sunday 15th November 11am till 2pm: Grove Park Fix and Ride Community Cycle Workshop. Details here
- Sunday 6th December 10am till noon: Dr Bike alongside Lewisham BMX First Sunday session at the Beckenham Place Park BMX. Details here
- Wednesday 16th December 7pm onwards: LC Xmas Social (details TBA)

Hoping to see some of you at one of these events or at our Xmas social or next business meeting in the New Year.

Alex, Jane, Tim & Brian (Lewisham Cyclists Committee)