Notes of Lewisham Cyclists (LC) meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at Civic Centre, Catford

Present: Mario Toraldo; Rosemary Scott, Jane Davis - Community Engagement and Rides Coordinator; Judith Barrett - Local Campaigns Lead; Tom Campbell; Tim Collingridge - Treasurer: Alex Raha - Coordinator; Cllr. Laura Sessions - Active Travel Champion (online); Brian Turpin (Secretary); Alan Malarkey - Croydon Cyclists.

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

Agenda items

Community Engagement & Rides

Upcoming rides (see our Facebook Events for info and LCC Events page to register for rides).

Upcoming Community Events (see our website calendar for latest info and also LCC Events page):

Radicals and Revolutionaries Ride Sunday 8th November 2026 @ 10:00 am Thurston Road
https://lcc.org.uk/events/lewisham-cyclists-radicals-and-revolutionaries-ride/

We discussed how best to attract new people on our rides and agreed Jane would raise with ride leaders on the potential for weekend lunchtime rides or other introductory sessions. We will also publicise more widely through our Civi newsletter which is distributed to Lewisham members of LCC periodically.

Fix & Ride Grove Park Bike workshop Sunday 15th November 11am - 2.00pm
Grove Park Youth Club Marvels Lane
https://lewishamcyclists.org.uk/calendar-of-events/

Volunteers are needed at all our workshops to liaise between customers and mechanics. Please contact us at lewishamcyclists@gmail.com or social media.

Current issues to be discussed:

LC Campaigning priorities to 2030

We had a wide ranging discussion on the campaigning priorities until 2030. The Council has pledged to complete the core cycling network in this term, and has indicated the priorities in the Active Travel Strategy (ATS) will remain the basis for much of its improvement programme.

Future proactive campaigning is often aimed at Cabinet Members and Local Councillors who ultimately determine the priorities for staff to deliver and decide which budget sources can be used for funding projects. But other politicians and staff can also be relevant to particular campaigns as indicated below:

Key people in the current Council:

- Mayor Liam Shrivastava
- Cllr Corin Ashwell (Cabinet member for Environment, Nature, Transport and Climate Action)
- Cllr Daniel Dream (Cabinet member for Inclusive Regeneration, Planning and Housing Delivery)
- Cllr Laura Sessions (Active Travel Champion)
- Cllr Robin McGhee (Co-Chair of Sustainable Development Committee)
- Local Ward Councillors where appropriate
- Council Officers in Highways & Strategic Transport and Road Safety.

Regional politicians are also sometimes relevant to specific campaigns including the Mayor of London, GLA, TfL representatives and the three local MP's.

We also need to engage with our own members to build support for specific campaigns and encourage them to communicate with Cllrs etc. Also other community groups that share our objectives across the Borough or in specific wards e.g. Solve the School Run, local 'societies', street-level environmental pressure groups etc.

Campaigning opportunities include meetings with Cllrs; "walkarounds" and "ride overs" organised by LC; community Events e.g. Telegraph Hill festival; Dr Bikes; LC Events e.g. Spring into Cycling; LC rides; social media campaigns; consultation responses communicated to LC Members.

We discussed ATS cycle routes not in the pipeline where we want to influence priorities e.g.

    - Lewisham Spine cycle tracks – Brookmill Road
        - Molesworth St - we need to keep actively campaigning on these sections especially by lobbying TfL to give their support
        - Lewisham Library to Lewisham Hospital.
    - Catford to Forest Hill walking & cycling route - some progress has been made but sections nearer Catford remain undecided
- Safer routes to schools - these should link to HN's, and connections to the wider network
- Cycle contraflows on one-way streets - our working assumption is that all one way roads should be contraflowed unless there are safety issues that can't be mitigated
- Healthy Neighbourhoods (HN) that are already in the pipeline i.e. St John's, Kinder, Telegraph Hill, New Cross Gate and Creekside. As HN projects are generally politically sensitive, proactive campaigning activities may be needed to maintain momentum. These should connect with the wider cycle network, and safe routes to schools.
- Further HN's – pushing those with local support/most cycling benefits
- Town Centres – need to continue to engage with local councillors and Cabinet Member for Regeneration to ensure cyclist needs are built into future plans

    - Lewisham e.g. measures to eliminate dislocation caused by Shopping Centre. The planned redevelopment has stalled but we still need to lobby for improved access across the town centre working within the existing road layout
    - Catford e.g. including improved cycle crossings of South Circular, cycle permeability and the cantilevered walking and cycling bridge on Catford Bridge. The gyratory replacement has also stalled, but we still need to lobby for the cantilevered bridge to make this junction safe. Fatalities here and at New Cross mean we should continue to push TfL for action at these blackspot junctions.
- Cycle training – LBL are doing the bare minimum funded by TfL. Could commit extra resources from their budgets.
- Cycle parking – dockless cycle bays, cycle hangars, visitor cycle parking.
- Inclusivity - we discussed the need for lighting on quieter cycle routes which are needed for all riders to feel safe

Reactive campaigning mainly involves interacting with Officers to optimise designs in development. With recourse to Councillors if proposals are being implemented despite not meeting quality standards.

Reactive:
- Many ATS cycle routes are under development e.g. C64, C66 and Officers are working through them methodically. We need to respond to Stakeholder Engagement and sometimes engage with other local Community Groups.
- Other projects that are ongoing in the implementation phase, provided adequate progress is being made.

We will rework the Google Objectives Map to reflect planned new cycle routes, Healthy Neighbourhoods and other improvements.

We also discussed the need to include active travel hubs within our campaign priorities - they enable multi-mode journeys by providing secure bike storage near stations and transport interchanges. Additionally, better destination signage around the emerging cycle network will enhance navigation and signal that local journeys can be easily undertaken without a car.

Since the meeting the following summary of our priorities has been produced which will be used online as a series of headlines to focus on selected key targets:

- Comprehensive interconnected cycle route network
    - Strategic cross-borough route network (from Active Travel Strategy)
        - Direct, and protected on busy roads where necessary
    - Local safe routes
        - To schools, community facilities, transport hubs, shopping areas
    - Both enabled by safe crossing points on busy roads, contra-flow cycling on one-way streets etc.
- Healthy Neighbourhoods
    - Residential areas without through traffic
    - Still need some vehicle speed suppression measures
    - Safe for cycling (aged 8 to 80s)
    - Enhanced public realm with more greening

- Cycle-friendly Town Centres
    - Cycle to the door – residential & shops
    - Fully permeable to cyclists designing out conflict with pedestrians
    - Plentiful cycle parking – some covered (green roofs)
- Cycling enabling measures
    - Cycle training – Bikeability at schools, one to ones, holiday courses
    - Dockless cycle hire schemes
    - Cycle parking
        - Secure cycle parking
            - Hangers for bicycles and cargo cycles
            - Cycle hubs at transport hubs
        - Dockless cycle bays
        - Visitor parking
            - Particularly around community facilities, cafes, supermarkets, stations etc.

Local Campaigns lead: Following on from the above item Judith Barrett has generously offered to take on this remit, in support of local active travel groups in the community. This will be helpful to make sure that emerging local groups concerned about road safety and active travel will be encouraged to build community and political support for their aims. Judith will join Alex, Tim, Jane and Brian on the Lewisham Cyclists co-ordinating committee (LC3).

Other volunteers are still needed especially for roles in communications and social media, fund raising and inclusivity.

Topical Items:

Council liaison update
Any contact with Officers/Councillors/Committees/Questions to Council.

Current consultations and planning applications. Members are encouraged to respond to any active consultations:

St John's Healthy Neighbourhood - consultation now live deadline 29th November, follow the link below to St John's on the landing page:
https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/healthy-neighbourhoods
Please support the scheme which we'll also be supporting with leafleting in local streets.

Petition for opening new entry point to the Waterlink Way - deadline 11th November
We've been campaigning for improved access to the Waterlink Way for many years. This would significantly improve local residents' access to nature through a low impact shared use path towards the River Pool. Also it offers connectivity to a safe quiet route towards Forest Hill, passing several schools, and avoiding the hostile road route along the South Circular. There are now 120 signatures but more are needed
https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx

Attendees News & Views.

Opportunity for attendees to raise other issues.

Rosemary - Gillian Street filter has been delayed and will be chased up with officers. (Subsequently we learned should be done next few weeks)

Tom was thanked for offering help with updating the web site and will be briefed by Alex and Tim.

Mario mentioned redevelopment plans to re-shape and future proof the Albany, Deptford and will keep a watching brief as plans develop. He also reminded us of the need to continue to press the authorities on making the New Cross Gate section of the A2 safer, following the two fatalities earlier this year.

Alex is supporting two walk overs (Walworth and Brixton) for councillors and other residents to see best practice examples of Healthy Neighbourhood schemes in other Boroughs.

Brian is seeking reassurance that the mobility hubs for Lewisham town centre are on track. Nothing has been heard for many months.

Laura urged us to keep discussing issues with her and her colleagues enabling ongoing dialogue.

Christmas social - will be at the Catford House on 16th December from 7pm, all welcome.

The meeting closed at 8pm.
Brian Turpin (Secretary)