



## 'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: October/November 1999

News for cyclists from the Camden Cycling Campaign (LCC), London.

### Editorial

Delight over swift progress on the segregated cycle route in Royal College Street was tempered by our discovery that the council is raiding £5,000 from the cycling budget to make a nearby street one-way.

We're used to losing arguments with Camden over one way streets (they're more dangerous for pedestrians & cyclists), but not to seeing one way streets being built using government funds dedicated to making cycling safer! This, plus Camden's failure to admit they're in the wrong, has damaged the good working relationship & trust we thought we'd built up.

On balance Camden is still trying harder than it used to, although we can now see signs that it is starting to fall behind its neighbours; both Westminster & the City are embarking on key motor traffic reduction schemes.

However in their excellent Road Safety Plan, the council points out that cyclists are the only road user category where casualties are rising. If Camden genuinely intends to reverse this trend it will require a highly focussed programme aimed at making our roads safer... and it will need us to help push this forward.

*Paul Gasson, Camden Cycling Campaign Coordinator*

### **Regents Park**

We are collecting comments and suggestions from members about improvements for cyclists to the roads within Regents Park. Note that this particular question does NOT include cycling within the green bits of the park, but rather the Outer and Inner Circles and roads connecting to them. Suggestions will be presented to the Park

authorities as part of a traffic review they are conducting.

## **Web Update**

Our **Transport Forum**, a platform for members to have their say, has two recent substantial additions: an **examination of government transport policy**, and a strong case for a **Swiss Cottage gyratory bypass**. Our web page devoted to 'images of motoring imperfection' has many new pictures, such as the lorry sprawled across the pavement, below. And we now have a professional search engine for our site, thanks to the generosity of a company one of our members works for. Finally, to join our free electronic local news service, just send an email to

### **New Meeting Venue**

Our meetings have moved to the Castlehaven Community Centre; its just north of Camden Town, & opposite the Stags Head, Hawley St. **See map**.

New schedule: 6:40-7:20 Committee Meeting (Camden LCC members welcome).  
7:20-7:30 committee  
gives press interviews as required, welcomes the arriving hordes, or refills their glasses. 7:30 Members  
meeting starts with news briefing. 7:45 questions & answers. 8:15-9:00 debate.

## **Members' Meetings**

Monday 11th October, 7.30pm & Monday 8th November, 7.30pm

First a 15 minute briefing on what's been happening & our plans, followed by a discussion on issues which people feel strongly about. Then either a debate on a hot topic, or we decamp to the Stag's Head.

We meet in the Castlehaven Community Centre on the second Monday of each month; you can bring your bike inside.

Be there, if you care! ... Good attendance at meetings = Campaign fuel !

## Cycle Clips

- We've gained unprecedented (& mainly positive) local press coverage in recent weeks, including :  
the Camden Chronicle's front page & a 'News Direct' radio interview due to our newsletter item suggesting that 25 residential roads be closed by 2005,  
a big say in the Ham & High's "Keep Camden Moving" series on transport issues,  
many letters in the Camden New Journal ... one issue sported (by chance) letters from 4 members.
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- Our programme of leisure rides has now finished for this year. A big thanks to David for an inspired set of routes, plus a relaxing weekend July jaunt around the Suffolk/Essex border. Mon 4th October: Public Debate on Transport. Chaired by Radio 4's Sue McGregor, with panel members Glenda Jackson, Cllr. Gerry Harrison, Louise Hudson (Capital Transport Campaign) & Paul Gasson (CCC coordinator). 7pm at South Hampstead High School for Girls, Maresfield Gardens.
- CCC coordinator Paul Gasson plans to relax his iron grip on the Campaign, and scale down his obsession with 'e-cycling', in order to concentrate on providing a stable family environment for his forthcoming baby. Strengthening of CCC's committee is already underway, but new members are still required. Is there anything CCC does you'd like to have a crack at? Call Paul 0207-482-6692.

## Did you know?

- Camden Town & transport: 58% of Camden Town households do not own a car.  
10,000 people live

within a 10 minute walk of the area. 10,000,000 people visit each year.  
Travelling to Camden Town by tube 42%, walk 22.3%, bus 18.8%, car 7.4%,  
cycle 3.7%. UK cyclist casualties in 1998 fell by 7% compared to 1997, but the

casualty rate for cyclists per 100,000 vehicle kms has risen by 24% in the last 15 years. The proportion of primary-aged children walking to school in the UK has declined over the last decade from 67% to 55%, with an increase from 22% to 36% in the numbers being driven to school.

## **On the ground...**

### **...but in the future**

We've been consulted on the following traffic schemes:

Loxham Street Road Closure  
Abbey Rd/Priory Rd junction double yellow lines.  
Replacement of Barker Drive/Camley St road closure with a width restriction.  
The detailed plans for the West Kentish Town Controlled Parking Zone.  
Fitzjohn's Avenue - Zebra crossing to the north of the Belsize Lane junction.  
London Bus Priority Network proposals for South End Green/Malden Rd,  
Clerkenwell Rd,  
Highgate Hill, Roseberry Avenue.

We expect the following cycle friendly schemes to be built over the next few months:

the innovative physically segregated cycle route along Royal College Street.  
cycle lanes along Albert Rd & Avenue Rd  
the East & West Kentish Town, & Camden Square Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ)  
On the down side Camden is installing diagonal parking in 5 W. Kentish Town CPZ streets; 2 of these are on cycle routes, & we argue that spare road space should be used for cycle lanes, not a type of parking which makes our roads more dangerous for cyclists & pedestrians.

## **HAZARD WARNING FOR CYCLISTS**

Pavement buildouts are being constructed in Kentish Town Road as part of the London Bus Priority Network. Whilst this road is an official cycle route, it's one of

the most dangerous in the borough for cyclists. As we've repeatedly warned the council, these measures will make life even more hazardous for cyclists. So watch out!

### **Juggernaut runs out of control?**



No, just a contractor for Camden's Housing Dept. blocking the pavement whilst unloading in Maitland Park Villas.