

The "Camden Cyclists"

December 05/January 06 Camden Cycling Campaign



Camden Cycling Campaign

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Dates for your Diary

Members' meetings:

on the second Monday of each month. Castlehaven Community Centre Hawley Road NW1 at 7.30pm. Bring your bike in for its security.

We hold a Committee/Business meeting from 6.30pm at the same venue.

December 12 Sgt Barry Loader of Kentish Town Police, will speak about 'Cycle Crime in Camden' followed by seasonal socialising and ethnic eats.

January 9 CTUK maintenance workshop.

We might find other venues for future meetings in an effort to attract more members, so check with the website near to the time. Our February meeting will be in Primrose Hill.

Climate Change Ride December 3, 9.30am. Meet at Thames barrier and ride to Lincoln's Inn Fields to join the march at 12 for 12.30pm. www.campaigncc.org

Pedestrians and Cyclists

Barry Mason of Southwark Cyclists, spoke at our October Meeting. He described setting up a local branch of Living Streets and how beneficial this had been when responding to local Traffic Plans.

Parks in Southwark are Council owned, which has allowed cycling to be permitted without the conflicts experienced and predicted in our area.

Jean's full account of the talk is on: www.tinyurl.co.uk/ex5l

Car Free Day

An early morning ride to celebrate Car Free Day

On September 22, 2005 Camden Cycling Campaign organised a ride from Swiss Cottage to Seven Dials (Covent Garden). We left at 8 am and were expertly led by James Brander through both back streets and major intersections so that we could display our placards to passers by, which celebrated International Car Free Day. Throughout Europe and the world on September 22, a number of activities to promote walking and cycling in cities take place. For the last few years LB Camden has used this day to inaugurate a permanent facility designed to enable walking and cycling in Camden. This year it was an enlargement of the pavement in the Seven Dials area in Covent Garden. The street party organised by LB Camden started as planned at 12pm, but when we arrived in the square with our bicycles

just after 8:45 we were welcomed by LB Camden officials and treated to coffee and croissants. The event was briefly reported in the Camden New Journal (but the wrong picture was printed) and Stefano Casalotti was quoted saying "I hope we have done our bit to inspire Londoners and local authorities that there is an alternative to driving cars especially to work. I look forward to the day when the Mayor will have the same courage as his European colleagues and support a full Car Free Day with no private motorised traffic for a day for the whole of London so that we can all reflect on our unnecessary dependency on cars"

Stefano Casalotti

Where are the Women?

Paul Gannon surveyed cyclists riding along Brecknock Road during several morning rush hours. Amongst other facts, men outnumbered women by a ratio of about 3:1. We will try to determine which factors deter women from cycling.

Thief Stopped

The Ham and High told the tale of a cyclist who was reunited with his stolen mount in its 28 October issue. After chasing the thieves, who got away, the victim eventually found the bike for sale on eBay. He then arranged to meet the 'vendor' at Swiss Cottage Library, with the police in tow. Result: cyclist reunited with machine, but mere caution for seller. Hmmm... <http://tinyurl.com/9wbwl>

Haverstock Hill

Following a large number of incidents (total 44, 1 fatal) on Haverstock Hill, Camden Council is proposing to 'improve' the area by installing guard rails, widening the pavement and raising the road surface at junctions.

The proposals can be seen at <http://tinyurl.co.uk/ui6d> These proposals will neither reduce vehicle speeds nor provide any additional safe crossing places for pedestrians. There is no specific provision to improve cyclists' safety despite several cyclists' involvement in the reported collisions.

We object particularly to the guard rails, as these can endanger cyclists and have been shown to increase motorists' speed.

Retrace Your Bike?

IMMOBILISE is a scheme for registering the serial numbers of your property in case it is stolen. It comes

with the backing of TfL, the Home Office and the Met Police Further details on www.immobilise.com Apparently, they can mark your bike with invisible ink and enter its details on a database. For the record, I have had at least two locked Coded (postcode) cycles stolen and been able to give very full details to the Police; I never saw the bikes again.

Baynes Street

The full report of CCC's visits and reports on the site of July's fatal collision is at www.tinyurl.co.uk/19io. (4.8 MB)

There are many ways of using this confusing junction and not all motorists gave way to cyclists as they should.

Unlike many other cycle routes, cyclists must use a push button to get 'their' phase of the lights, which is rather short and often entails extended waiting.

We commissioned Sustrans to report into the area. The report is on: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/zm0z> (3.4MB)

LCN+ is Lagging

The BBC has reported that LCN+ is running behind target on <http://tinyurl.co.uk/q8z9>

It appears some areas lack the political will to implement LCN+ routes!

TfL said the LCN was well on target to be completed on time and said the network was well-designed and was already increasing cycling in London.

There is little doubt cycling in Central London has recently increased massively. The LCN+ contribution to this rise is a moot point.

Problematic Parking

Many thanks to Andrew Conway for pointing out this arrangement outside Waitrose On Finchley Road.



Andrew Conway

It appears whoever designed this facility forgot that bicycles were considerably longer than Sheffield stands.

The stands are also far too close to the traffic to allow double-sided use of the stands and too far from the store for cyclists who might just have done the week's grocery shopping.

Link 27

Meade McLoughan and Jean Dollimore spent a day with Camden Consultants surveying the route between Highgate and Tottenham Court Road.



Jean Dollimore

The day's proceedings can be seen on: <http://tinyurl.co.uk/541w>

Having spent the day pointing out some of the problems associated with the route, we were dismayed to hear that the Camden Town gyratory still featured in the Camden Consultants' recommendations. Our recommendations for the route following the CRIM can be found on <http://tinyurl.co.uk/14ur>