

CAMDEN CYCLISTS

Minutes of monthly meetings held on February 8th, 2010

in Primrose Hill Community Centre

Present Helen Vecht (chair), Jean Dollimore, Stefano Casalotti, James Brander (notes)

Apologies Anne Boston, John Chamberlain, Dominic Tinley, Meade McCloughan, Alex McKinnell

Minutes of the January meeting had been posted on the website and aroused no comment.

Matters arising Stefano asked whether Jean's absence in May should mean the postponement of the AGM. Agreed that the AGM should proceed in May, in Jean's absence.

Dates of Bike Week Bike Week this year is late: June 19th - 27th. The Camden Peripherique led by Paul Braithwaite will be on June 27th. James Brander agreed to do a Dr Bike on June 19th (outside West Hampstead library). Other events suggested included: Cyclists' Breakfast; a ride for senior cyclists; a Parks' ride; a stall at lunchtime in a business centre (last year it was in Fitzroy Sq); and an event to draw attention to the need for 'permeability' for cyclists. (Note added after meeting: this corresponds to LCC's third point in its manifesto for the local council elections to be held on May 6th. LCC call it 'Local Access'.) Agreed to ask the rides coordinator to arrange the senior cyclists ride outside Bike Week. James Brander asked for the list of principal 'impermeable' sites, to see what might be done to link them. Stefano emphasised the need for photo opportunities and press coverage of any event.

The other events will depend on people's willingness to organise them.

Hustings and Cyclists' Manifesto Discussion of these items was deferred until the arrival of Natasha Clayton of FoE.

Other Business Jean agreed to raise with Islington Cyclists the issue of the danger of the Tufnell Park junction, brought to our attention via Josh of the Camden New Journal.

Helen reaffirmed the value of the CTC website for reporting dangerous bits of road surface. Provided the user can pinpoint exactly where the defect is on the site's map, then it will establish which borough and traffic authority are responsible.

Committee members were then joined by a reporter from BBC London, who interviewed three of them.

Following that, Angela Hobsbawm and Paul Braithwaite joined for the second (members) part, for which George Coulouris sent apologies.

Paul confirmed that the cyclist hit by an opening car door in Eton Road last week has died.

PERMEABILITY Paul emphasised the importance of an event around this theme for Bike Week. The recent consultation on creating a cycle lane on the closed section of Great James St (outside the Rugby Tavern) was discussed. It was agreed that the acceptability of the idea had been compromised by the intention to paint the cycleway green. James Brander expressed the view that cycling is already permitted across this space as it was created by closing a road to general traffic but leaving access for narrow and emergency vehicles (as has been done in other locations around the borough). Jean agreed to find out about this.

It was reported that contraflow cycle 'plugs' are being or have been considered for the Kentish Town Road junctions with Gaisford St and Patshull Rd. Both would be very useful.

Election Hustings Natasha Clayton from FoE reported that the environmental group called Transition Belsize has organised a meeting for April 14th at which candidates for the parliamentary seat in the north of the borough will be invited to present their environmental credentials. It is not known who has as yet agreed to appear, or who will chair the event. She proposed that the chances of managing to arrange a second such meeting on the same subject for the candidates for the southern constituency were slight, and that Transition Belsize should be approached with a view to our participating in their meeting, inviting the candidates for both constituencies. Paul Braithwaite agreed to liaise with Transition Belsize. Camden Cyclists would be able to offer a contribution towards the costs and also use their newsletter for publicity. It was thought we should ask for three questions on cycling-related issues to be put to the candidates.

Time and place of this meeting have not yet been identified.

Maintenance Workshops Stefano expressed concern at the low take-up of places for the next course (February-March), despite there being a long waiting list. Natasha offered to publicise the course at her workplace, if Stefano forwarded her the poster.

Tweed Cycle Ride The organisers of this event asked Stefano for help in leading it. Anyone interested should contact Stefano.