

Notes on a CC Committee meeting, Monday 17th September 2012

Present: Helen Vecht (chair), Jean Dollimore, Geoff Stilwell, Angela Hobsbaum (note-taker), David Arditti.

Apologies: Stefano Casalotti; John Chamberlain, Alex McKinnell, Alexandre Santacreu, Meade McCloughan, James Brander.

1. Minutes of the last meeting, 20 August 2012, were circulated and agreed as correct.

2. Matters Arising:

(i) Camden Car-free day: It was agreed that CC would not attend; Jean would inform Camden.

(ii) Objectives for 2012 – 13 were now on the web.

(iii) Cards: Jean shared out both the remainder of the old cards and some new ones. She clarified that we retain the name 'Camden Cycling Campaign' in correspondence with Camden, but use Camden Cyclists on the website.

(iv) Meeting on 19th November: likely to be at Sidings Community Centre (150 Brassey Road, West Hampstead, NW6 2BA); Geoff would confirm room at venue later and advertise it locally.

3. Report of meetings with Camden Officers: Jean reported on a meeting she and John Chamberlain had attended with a number of Camden officers at which they had discussed

- Crogsland Road crossing – no progress yet.
- Russell Square SE corner – suggestion that different phasing of lights would help traffic from Guilford St because they'd get a clear run to enable them to turn R.
- Cycle parking at St Pancras – there was secure cycle parking (for a fee) in the station on GF inside the car park but there was no easy way for cyclists to access it. Jean isn't sure how much it is used; will go and observe. Other bike racks on upper level, but often full?
- Policy on segregated cycle lanes – paper prepared by John Chamberlain presented.
- Tottenham Court Road – there would be separate meetings in future on this scheme, to be implemented in 2018.

See minutes at <http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/info/meetings/meetings-with-lb-camden/Minutes%201%20Aug%202012.pdf>

4. Regent's Canal towpath: not discussed because of upcoming meeting with Dick Vincent (Canal & River Trust).

5. Geoff's poster: considered at members' meeting.

Camden Cyclists Members' Meeting, 17 September 2012, Minutes

Present: Helen Vecht (chair), Jean Dollimore, Geoff Stilwell, Angela Hobsbaum (note-taker), David Arditti, George Coulouris, Gareth Maeer, Simon Pearson.

1. Poster prepared by Geoff Stilwell: Geoff presented A4 colour versions of his poster. Concerns were raised about the legibility of the small words. Also whether so much print would be too distracting and difficult to read for anyone with reading problems. Geoff agreed to review the layout of the small words which were interspersed between the letters of the larger words and would ensure that the resolution of all the pictures was high enough to ensure good reproduction at A1 size.

Geoff was thanked for his hard work on the poster design.

It was agreed to get one A1 and six A3 size; Angela Hobsbaum would get these printed at Kallkwik in time for the IoE Freshers Fayre (29 Sept.).

2. Royal College Street Cycle track proposed changes: Jean presented the plans prepared by Brian Deegan (for Camden) for a separate segregated track southbound. She reported that many more cyclists currently go N than S on the existing track. Perhaps southbound cyclists use Pancras Way or Camden Street? Camden wanted to improve the intersection with Pratt Street and to reduce traffic speed. After careful inspection of the proposal, it was agreed that Jean would ask Camden for an electronic copy of the plans for use at subsequent discussions with a wider group (to take place after progress with the issues raised below), and would report the following reactions to the current proposals:

i) Vehicles emerging from Pratt Street (west) and going straight across to Pratt Street (east) would not notice the contraflow cyclists on the other side of the road as they will have been looking for a gap in the traffic on their right. In addition, they will have gathered speed in crossing the road, so the impact of any collision would be worse.

Jean and George subsequently did a quick 30 minute survey (16:50 to 17:20 on 18th September) and got the following statistics:

Vehicles exiting from Pratt Street at Royal College Street (cars and motorcycles):

Turning left into RCS: 48

Straight across into Pratt Street East: 19

They also observed driver behaviour and this confirmed the concerns; nearly all of the drivers proceeding straight ahead did not look left, and they would have had great difficulty in doing so, because they needed to keep their eyes continuously on the vehicle flow coming up RCS (which was almost continuous). George said: 'Had I been driving one of those vehicles, I would have felt in a bind trying to avoid southbound cyclists on the opposite side while also avoiding the vehicles coming up RCS'.

To solve this problem it would be necessary to introduce 'No entry' into Pratt Street (east).

ii) Concerning the southern end of the route. People didn't like the right turn across Royal College Street by College Place and stated that the scheme should be delayed until a signal is in place to allow them to join the entrance to Goldington Street via the track normally accessed via the existing toucan. It was felt that an early crossing detracted from the continuity of the journey as well as to the safety currently provided by the Toucan crossing.

Other issues raised were:

- prevention of parking across the contraflow track by the entrances south of Pratt Street
- making the new track wider (to allow overtaking) within the constraints of road width.

Note that the Dutch CROW standard would demand a 2m width.

3. LCC Campaign Conference 8 September: reports from Gareth Maeer and David Arditti. The focus of the break-out sessions was not sufficiently clearly identified. There was great diversity in terms of what borough groups could achieve. It was an opportunity to share some good ideas. The main talk in the morning focussed on what should be the next campaign, after Go Dutch; Go Dutch was a fragile commitment and the cyclists' voices need to be heard constantly. Should there be a cycling representative in every ward? Was it better to get support at Mayoral level or at local council level?

4. Camden's London Transport Liaison meeting, 17th October, 6.00, in the Camden Centre: Jean Dollimore has been invited to attend this meeting. What issues should we raise: Camden Road? Tottenham Court Road?

5. A ride to coincide with Open House 2013: Angela Hobsbaum suggested that a ride as part of Open House might be a good way to publicise CC widely. *Artouride* were organizing one in Southwark this year. Helen Vecht reported that one had been arranged in Barnet in previous years. Angela agreed to investigate what was involved and to present a more fully-worked out proposal to a future meeting.

6. Future meetings: 15 October: Primrose Hill Community Centre: Dick Vincent, Towpath Ranger: developing alternative routes.

19 November: Sidings Community Centre, West Hampstead; Geoff to confirm room.

7. Any Other Business: (i) Simon Pearson reported that the secure cycle parking at St. Pancras cost £1 to gain access, which was off-putting; there was no obvious way in.

(ii) David Arditti would be leading a ride this Sunday from Kilburn to the Lea Navigation, leaving at 11.30.