

# Minutes of Camden Cycling Campaign Meeting. 8 December 2003.

Present: James Brander (chair), David Arditti, Jane Boardman, Stefano Casalotti, Jean Dollimore (minutes), Daniel Glaser, Helen Vecht, Clair Shanks. Apologies: Paul Gasson.

During the meeting, we greatly appreciated the Bumblebee wine and the mince pies brought in by James and Clair.

## 1. Matters arising from the November Meeting

*Additional Cyclists breakfast:* This should be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate one year of the congestion charge. The location: Byng Place. James has purchased 12 CCC tabards.

*January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:* David confirmed that the speaker will be either Kevin Mayne or Roger Geffen. James will bring a screen (error in November minutes – Helen has not got a screen).

*Ring round lapsed members:* Stefano said LCC says we can't do this from home – it needs to be done at their premises so that they can update their database and use the credit card machine.

## 2. Paul stepping down as coordinator

After ten years in the role of coordinator, Paul Gasson has indicated his wish to stand down by the end of March 2004. He was unable to attend the December meeting. The committee discussed options which included the possibility of getting a grant to pay a person part time for administrative help.

We agreed that we should invite nominations to the committee in the February newsletter, for an AGM at the March meeting when the new committee and coordinator will be appointed. We would also use this as an opportunity to get more people involved in the committee.

In the January meeting we will finalise the AGM details, which will be published in the next newsletter. The coordinator job description will be written with Paul's help. A new minute taker is needed – volunteers will be asked for. The website will require support – Jean is willing to take this on if no one else wants to.

Before the next meeting, all committee members are to define tasks for which we can request volunteers in the next newsletter.

## 3. Paul's leaving party

Stefano had suggested in email we should organise a proper leaving party for Paul. This will be in March. We will invite all members to the AGM at 6.30. Then the party will be at 7.30. Jane is willing to organise food. We agreed on Stag's Head as location. We will invite people who have worked with Paul over the years e.g. from LCC.

## 4. Report back from WCRSAG

James attended the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November (but not as CCC rep). He reported that the infamous cycle registration scheme attracted little interest with anyone other than Aileen Hammond. It is unlikely to come up again.

The most important point is that LB Camden has acquired an enormous settlement of £5.3 million from TfL, with about 480K for LCN+, 620K for specific junction safety improvements and 325K for 20mph zones.

Daniel wondered whether we should embarrass the Camden engineers again (the council keep getting money and should spend it wisely). Jean and James who are going to an 'Apolitical Engineering Meeting' on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> should ask Dave Stewart how Camden plans to spend the extra cash for cycle schemes. If he cannot answer, we should go higher e.g. to Doug Amer or Alex Williams the director of Street Management. During the last six months Camden has produced dangerous partly-finished cycle tracks and has underspent its budget. We should seek a meeting at the highest level.

## 5. Report back from Road Safety Scrutiny

James reported that CCC will be invited to do a written submission about speed humps and consultation. Jean said that we should make the effort to respond to enhance our visibility. We discussed speed cameras as an alternative to humps. The council cannot legally use cameras. Apparently local groups in villages have used hand-held cameras to report speeding incidents.

## 6. Report back CPEG+ meeting

David says two parallel organisations are involved: Camden Council and the Centre for Cycling Excellence at TfL. John Lee of TfL had presented a set of drawings for the new LCN+ design manual which were discussed. David had presented photographs of the Royal College Street track and of new cycle facilities in Harrow showing the different approach to road junctions. Royal College Street make cars give way, whereas the Harrow facility makes bikes give way at road junctions. John Lee claimed that the Royal College Street track is illegal and Camden should have asked DfT for permission. The Royal College Street track design will not be in the LCN+ design manual. He claims that there is a high casualty rate on the Royal College Street track.

The next CPEG meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and David cannot attend – Jean to ask Paul Gannon if he plans to attend. If not, Daniel is willing to go.

At Wednesday's meeting with Dave Stewart, ask him what he thinks about John Lee's remarks on the Royal College Street track. Does Dave think the Camden design will be in the LCN+ manual? Offer to help.

## 7. Progress on 2004 BikeFest

Stefano will attend the next meeting and report in January. James said we have a grant of £350 for publicity.

James said that Green Fair will be in July, probably two or three weeks after Bike Week. Therefore we have two decisions to make: what to do at Green Fair and whether to have a BikeFest in Bike Week. For Green Fair, Jane suggested having a

more imaginative stand. For BikeFest, Stefano said that Stuart Dennison has suggested doing something different next time (i.e. not riding exotic BikeFix bikes round the block). We liked Stefano's idea of having a demonstration of how mothers can take their children to school by bike. We suggested contacting Alix Stredwick for help with this.

### **8. Finchley Road bus lanes**

Mayer Hillman had asked CCC to consider the effect on cyclists of the temporary experimental arrangement where motorcycles can use the bus lanes in Finchley Road. Apparently TfL reported at a meeting in September that they had received 'no adverse comments'. James said that due to the difference of speed between motor cycles and human powered ones, the motor cycles are zero problem. Daniel, who 'takes the lane' when riding is bothered by motorcycles and is opposed in principal. Jean feels that the presence of motor cycles make less confident cyclists feel endangered. Jean is to contact Tony Chicarro of TfL saying that some people do find motor cycles a problem and that their presence is intimidating to novices.

### **9. Cycle counter data**

Jean reported that Keith Hamilton has provided her with one month's data (September) from five of the six new cycle counters in Camden (the one in Southampton Row was dug up by Thames Water). She showed the meeting a chart that she had made from these figures. More information of interest will appear when we have figures over a longer period.

## **Members Meeting**

Present: the above plus, Richard Fletcher. Apologies: Mayer Hillman

### **10. Volunteers to deliver newsletters to bike shops**

Jean brought in copies of a 'bikeshop version' of the December newsletter for delivery to bike shops.

Clair agreed to go to Cycle Surgery in West Hampstead, Stefano to Condor and Evans in Grays Inn Road, Daniel to BikeFix and James to Camden Bikes and Cycle Surgery in Chalk Farm Road. Jean will do Simpsons and Chamberlaines.

This leaves Evans in Rathbone Place and Bicycle Magic in Compton Close.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm to continue with seasonal festivities at the Stag's Head.

Next meeting: Monday 12th January.

JD 9/12/03