

Minutes of Camden Cycling Campaign Meeting. 11 August 2003.

Present: Jane Boardman (chair), Paul Gasson, Daniel Glaser, Jean Dollimore (minutes). Apologies: James Brander, Stefano Casalotti, Paul Gannon

1. Matters arising from minutes of July meeting

Jane took the meeting through the minutes. Infrastructure study – Daniel says this is in hand. Speakers – Paul Gannon has arranged for Tom Young to speak on ‘cycling and the urban environment’ at our November meeting. On consultations – Tavistock place should not have been listed in the minutes and does not need advertising on the CCC list, as it is a traffic order.

2. Camley Street

Paul Gannon has told Jane that there is nothing new to report. Paul Gasson has a pdf file of a new drawing of the ramp. He promised to send a copy to Jean.

3. Trams

Paul Gannon would like CCC to support the proposal that there should be new tram route from Brixton and Peckham to Camden Town. The committee does support the proposal in principal, but is very worried about the safety of cyclists when the tramway is implemented. Paul reported worrying details about carriageway capacity in the new Uxbridge tram scheme.

4. Regents Park, broadwalk and outer circle

Rick Andrews has asked CCC to soft pedal on the outer routes until he achieves some success with the routes inside the park. The committee felt that CCC should continue to push for both.

5. TfL's Draft Cycling Action plan

Jean talked briefly about TfL's plan. She expressed concern that the meeting should endorse the rather critical second section that she had written. She had said that although the plan promises a lot, it may never get implemented, due mainly to local opposition and had given examples from Appendix 1. Paul suggested that TfL needs to allow for a big marketing effort with the boroughs. Jean agreed to rephrase the section and to use the examples to illustrate the problems that might arise in order to convince TfL that they need to do work to overcome local opposition in the boroughs. For example, although Camden Council has the will to build the SSL to a good standard, local opposition has made this difficult to date.

6. Skinner Street

With reference to an email message from Richard Fletcher to the CCC mailing list on July 19th about the dangerously narrow segregated cycle lane in Skinner Street. Jane will advise Richard that as this is in Islington, he should talk to the ICAG people (or Alison Dines their coordinator) before their next meeting, which is imminent.

Members Meeting

Present: the above plus Andrew Rockliff, Cyril Cannon, George Coulouris and Alix Stredwick. Apologies: Mayer Hillman, Richard Fletcher, Rob Jinman.

7. Role of Street Wardens

Andrew Rockliff is a Camden Town Street Warden. They are currently funded for two years by the deputy prime minister's office but after that, Camden council will have to pay. Housing Associations will provide top-up cash. The wardens' work involves teaching disaffected youths cycle maintenance as well as generally trying to prevent them causing trouble in the streets.

Paul and Daniel described the incidents they had experienced in Purchase Street on the way to the meeting and the repeated problems with youths mugging cyclists between 5 and 7 pm in the evenings. Andrew said that that area is not currently covered by the street wardens but that he will bring it up at his next meeting.

8. Car-Free day

CCC will express disappointment at the very small scale of the event organised by Camden this year and will not be involved. Last year they had promised to do a bigger event this year. Daniel had spoken about Car-Free Day to Stuart Croucher of Camden Council, who told him that the bigger the area closed, the more activities must be provided and the greater the cost.

Ask Stefano to talk to Richard Evans (organiser of Car Free Day) about getting Ken Livingstone interested for next year by visiting one of the continental towns/cities to see the scale and impact of a bold

car-free day. It was suggested that a Sunday would be better as most people are not available for a weekday event.

9. WDS project on Cycling for Women

Alix Stredwick is from Womens Design Service. WDS has funding for one year for a project on Cycling for Women. The project is based in Camden and Lambeth and involves research into the reasons why less women cycle, as well as practical work on encouraging more women to cycle. They will reach out to under represented groups (e.g. ethnic or older people). Alix hopes that members of CCC will become involved. Tower Hamlets have had after work rides going round the borough and ending up in a pub. These were well attended by women. The project will involve 12 participants who will get loan bikes and will become LCC members (6 in Camden). We mentioned people for Alix to contact (Belita Clahar (Camden Safety Officer), Jane Roberts, the women's officer at UCL or at ULU. The U3A. Jean will contact Alix about writing a short article for our next newsletter.

10. Regents Park

Jane informed members about our earlier discussion. Cyril Cannon says that Royal Parks are due bring out a management report which should include policy on cycling. The report has been promised for about 18 months but is now expected within 2 months. It should refer to specific parks. Cyril Cannon encourages CCC members to join the 'friends of Regents Park'. Rick Andrew has not conveyed any recent news to CCC. Currently there is no report from Gerry Harrison about the meeting between Regents Park Managers and Camden Council officers.

We discussed whether we needed to be able to cycle both on the Broadwalk and in the outer circle. The latter is needed to get to points west, such as St. Johns Wood. Members felt that the two issues should be disconnected, but that we are more likely to succeed in the park.

11. Canteloves Gardens

George reported that Camden Council has upset residents groups in their approach to replanning the run-down gardens. He has attended meetings of the Friends of Canteloves Park chaired by Gerry Harrison and attended by local residents and skateboarders. The council wants to spend £0.5 million (which it plans to raise from charity) on the skateboarding facility although the skateboarders say its minor defects can be fixed much more cheaply. The council has appointed a landscape designer who has come up with a very poor plan. At the last meeting, a group of residents including Tom Young criticised these plans.

George had proposed a cycle track on the west side of the gardens linking the Camden Road pedestrian crossing and Bartholomew road. This would join up with the route via Canteloves Road to Agar Grove. The only snag is a pinch point of 2.5 metres on a path shared with pedestrians at the northern exit, where cyclists would have to dismount. The local residents were supportive, but not the officers. Before the last meeting Gerry Harrison mentioned that the developers of the JFS site had negotiated with Camden another through route for pedestrians and cyclists 200 metres further east. This was decided 18 months ago and CCC were not consulted. The latter track does not line up with a crossing of Camden Road, nor with convenient access to Bartholomew Road.

In this case, communication between the planning department and CCC was inadequate. We need to take action to ensure that CCC is consulted directly about future planning proposals that affect cycling.

12. AOB - Marks and Spencers

Cyril says that M and S have removed the cycle racks from their car park in Camden Town, although their HQ has recently announced a positive policy on cycling. He has attempted to contact various managers but all to no avail. The meeting suggested that Cyril should write a letter to M and S on behalf of CCC, passing it by the committee before sending it.

13. AOB - Anti Social Behaviour

Daniel wants to do a survey on the impact of anti-social behaviour on cycling. He will post a message on the CCC mailing list asking people to respond to him privately about their experiences.

14. Consultations

Euston Road jug handle. Daniel said that developers should not be allowed to remove a good facility. It does not conflict with pedestrians. It should have better signage.

Read Lion Square. Daniel will do.

Lambs Conduit Street – Jean will check statistics as well as mention problem of rat running. Daniel will mail her of any other ideas.

Next meeting: Monday 8th September.

JD 12/08/03