

Minutes of Camden Cycling Campaign Meeting. 14 April 2002.

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

Paul Gannon has resigned from the committee. The committee would like to thank him for the immense amount of work that he has done over the years and hope that he will return. Paul is CCC's representative on LCN+, SSL and Camley Street, and wants to get CPEC going again. We should therefore ask him to give us regular updates as to progress on those schemes. Paul Gsn will talk to him about the matter.

1. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Outstanding actions:

James to liaise with LBCamden regarding Dr. Bike location.

Paul Gs to write a holding letter to Chair of Heath Management Committee.

Paul Gannon to circulate a draft letter to police concerning bike theft.

2. Belgian Councillors

There will be 35 councillors in the party. Stefano will put a program together. It will include a visit to Highgate cemetery and a lunch stop.

3. Reports from recent meetings with the council

WRCSAG

For the first time in 10 years, there was no CCC representative at the meeting but James was present as a representative of the Camden Greening Forum. His minutes have been circulated to committee members. James reported on the continuing anti-cycling fervour. He wonders whether we should keep a low profile.

The cycling plan is coming before the executive environment sub-committee on Tuesday 15th April. As the council wishes to remove Target 4 and to dilute Target 5, a delegation (Paul, James, and David) will attend and Paul will make a presentation prepared by James.

Meeting with officers on 2nd April

Jean's minutes have been circulated to committee members. The main points were:

SSL cycle track width below 2.5 m.: The track (already built) from 20 m. west of the Bedford Way junction to just beyond the Woburn Place junction is only 2.0 m. in width. The officers told us that the next section of track as far as Judd St would also have to be 2.0 m. wide.

Crossover at Judd Street junction: due to the alignment of the roads, the choice of a cycle track on the south side of the road between Judd Street and Grays Inn Road is sensible. It also has the advantage of less side roads.

For the agenda of the next meeting; Junction priorities for Pancras Road.

Jean to ask Paul Gannon if he is aware that we haven't managed to maintain the 2.5 m. criterion, mentioning that Gerry was at the meeting.

4. Position of cycle track at Royal College/Georgiana Street junction

We studied the plan of the junction provided by Ed Quartey. There are many cyclist movements to cater for: The current track for southbound cyclists in Georgiana Street (E) should have a less steep curve. Cyclists coming from the cycle track and going north up Royal College Street or east into Georgiana Street could join the road and then use an ASL with a pedestrian phase at the junction – this requires a realignment of the kerb at the point where the road is joined. Those traveling between Lyme Street and the cycle track can use the existing route. Paul took the plans and will sketch out the possibilities.

5. Treasurers Report

James reported that CCC has £3760 in the bank, £2000 of which is for the Camley Street/Agar Grove study. There will be £3000 for Bike Fest – but the cheque went to Andrew Cornwell's old address.

6. Bike Fest and Bike Week update

Stefano reported that the publicity has been designed – some to be A4 and some postcard size. But we should do some of our own. Paul will write some CCC specific publicity material. Stefano will talk to Julian Jacobs (jjacobs@groundwork.org.uk) about publicity for BikeFest.

We need to think of some celebrities to invite for Bike Breakfast. The long-suffering Jon Snow and Glenda Jackson were mentioned as possibilities.

Members Meeting

Present: all of the above plus Anna Boyce, Andrew Conway, George Coulouris, Stuart Dennison, Kimberley Kapner, Hilda Matthews, Brian Monaghan, Steve Outerson, SC and W Rudeleff, Lionel Shapiro, Amy Timms, Peter Wills

Talk by André Gibbs

We were expecting a talk from Roger Madelin, but as he was ill, André Gibbs gave the talk entitled:

Sustainable transport: keystone of the King's Cross Central Development

André Gibbs works for Argent St George, the team making proposals for developing the King's Cross Railway Lands. His talk was accompanied by a beautiful set of illustrations, some of them animated – showing the site as it was and as it might be. André is a cyclist, which was proved in one of his slides.

The first part of the talk covered the publication: *Principals for a Human City* (2001). This presented the idea of a 'place for people' in a robust urban framework consisting of routes and spaces. The aim is to preserve the listed buildings as well as the canal and Camley Street Park. The site is very well connected and they hope to achieve a synergy of local, national and international needs. The scheme must integrate with its surroundings and the team has met with local groups and schools as well as with CTRL.

The second part covered the publication *Parameters for Regeneration* (Sept 2002), which resulted from a series of meetings. An aim is a high-density development that protects the views from Kenwood and Parliament Hill – leading to a 50m height limit (10-11 storeys). Another aim is to integrate it with adjacent areas by making links. The new entrances to Kings Cross and St. Pancras Stations will be from this site, with retail/leisure facilities nearby. Granary Square will be a large public space to attract people and offices and provide a route towards the other parts of the site. André showed us illustrations of the proposed use of listed buildings including the Gas Holders (possibly as a botanical exhibition space), the Coal Drops and the Goods Shed. There will be a backbone route to the northern residential area. The next steps will be a public consultation, followed by a report and then a planning application later this year.

The many questions resulted in the following points and replies

Camley Street/ Agar Grove cycle link: André pointed out that this is outside the site, but agreed to help facilitate it at meetings with Camden. Andrew Conway (Andrew@puntino.com) CCC's representative on the Kings Cross Central will bring this up at consultation meetings.

Sustainability: bearing in mind that the site will be a magnet for long distance travel, how will the scheme protect nearby local interests (e.g. shops)? André said that they are aware of concerns from local traders but he thinks that they will benefit from the additional people attracted to the area.

Commuting: there is already extensive commuting to area to the south of the site. Therefore the main requirement should be for housing. André said that even if they provide a lot of residential property they cannot tell where the residents will work and that there should be a large office component.

Pedestrian/cycle links across the CTRL embankment: André: there is not room to cut between Thameslink and CTRL and a very long ramp would be required. Access to the north of the site will be from York Way. The access position was discussed. York Way will be much improved.

Car-free areas: The main boulevard will be primarily for pedestrians and trams and André promises there will be no 'No Cycling' signs. Camden wants a 25% of houses to have parking, but Argent want more, to avoid excessive regulation. Car ownership and use are not directly connected. When pressed, André promised to think further about the issue but does not want to stop people having cars. There will be a small amount of car parking for the cinemas and theatres.

Cycle links: André: sections of the cycle network will go through the site and linkages must be maintained. BW will be consulted about widening the canal towpath, but the new bridges may increase foot traffic – which effects cycling.

Soon after 9 pm the meeting adjourned to the Stag's Head pub for drinks.

Next meeting: Monday 12th May.

JD 16/04/03