

Camden Cyclists Meeting

Minutes



Committee and Open Meeting combined:

Monday 26 September 2016, 18.45 – 21.00

Meeting held in the Princess pub, as the Primrose Hill Community Centre was double-booked.

Attending: John Chamberlain, Jean Dollimore, Steven Edwards (chair), Angela Hobsbaum (minutes), Helen Vecht.

James Brander, Danny Ryan and Sean Howes were also present.

Apologies: George Coulouris, Ben Edmonds, Meade McCloughan, Geoff Stilwell, Ursule Thurnherr.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, 15 August:** these were passed as correct: it was noted that John Chamberlain is now the acting coordinator, until the next AGM when he is willing to formally take over from Angela.
2. **Matters arising:** (5) Bank signatories: neither Helen nor John were yet signatories for the bank a/c.
3. **Hampstead Heath: Cycling Action Group:** there was much discussion about our strategy for this. The following points were made:
 - (i) Danny argued that since the current surfaces were so treacherous for cyclists, the Heath was ignoring its duty of care towards its users. If the currently available routes were tarmac, they would be suitable for all cyclists. Gravel surfaces are very hard for pushing wheelchairs too.
 - (ii) We should in the first instance press for improved surfaces rather than extending the network of cycle paths. Not sure whether commuter-routes should be prioritised. We should give up Link 5. A joined-up leisure circuit would be an achievement.
 - (iii) We should also emphasise children's needs for active leisure.
 - (iv) It was agreed that Angela would write to Jonathan Meares to ask for more information about the next 10-year plan – who we should contact for input.
 - (v) We would suggest that Jonathan should invite Sian Berry and Sally Gimson to join the Cycling Working Group.

4. **Tavistock Place campaign:** (i) We agreed the main points that Jean would present in our response to the consultation: improved air quality; reduced conflicts between pedestrians / cyclists and motors / cyclists; it is now possible to cycle side by side and the wider 2.2m tracks accommodate cargo-bikes and children. The shopping environment at the north end of Marchmont Street was improved. Some minor improvements were needed. Jean would put the draft on Cyclescape for comment.
(ii) Jean reported on the leafleting so far. Some residents at the eastern end (Judd St) have been very helpful but it has been hard to contact residents of Torrington Place and we had not yet managed to contact UCLH staff. Sean might be able to contact nurses on Twitter; is there a BUG (Bicycle Users Group) at UCLH?
5. **CS11:** we rehearsed the arguments to be used against the Stop CS11 group who were holding a meeting on 27 Sept: we should focus on general arguments: growing population; public transport saturated; more people will cycle if safer conditions are provided. Modal filtering would reduce traffic congestion. 'Your air pollution kills my child.' A number of committee members would be attending the Stop CS11 meeting but CC had been denied an opportunity to make a presentation.
6. **Pratt Street – Stop the Killing demonstration** 10 October, 5.30 pm. We would support this. If the new scheme had been installed this incident would not have occurred.
7. **Future speakers:** Lucy Saunders (TfL Public Health Specialist) was coming to speak in October. It was suggested that we might have a better audience if we held joint meetings with Islington. Baisekel? Lynn Sloman? We don't need a speaker until January.
8. No other business.

Next Open Meeting: Monday 17 October at Sidings Community Centre. Speaker: Lucy Saunders: What the Healthy Streets approach means for cycling schemes in Camden.