

Camden Cycling Campaign
Meeting
Monday 20 March 2017
Primrose Hill Community Centre



Minutes

Committee Meeting

Attending: John Chamberlain (Chair), George Coulouris (Minutes), Jean Dollimore, Angela Hobsbaum, Steven Edwards, Sean Howes, Helen Vecht, James Brander (observer)

Apologies: Meade McCloughan, Ben Edmonds, Geoff Stilwell, Ursule Thurnherr

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, 20 February 2017:** after one clarification these were accepted as correct.
2. **Matters arising:**
 - Bank signatories: JC and HV are now authorised signatories for the CCC bank account.
 - Towpath ramp: George reported that a rebuilt ramp for access to the Regent's Canal from Prince Albert Road had been built by Royal Parks to an inferior design that does not meet disability access standards according to a feasibility study commissioned by the C & RT (2012) (<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/4068.pdf>). JC may write to Isobel Clements about this but we felt there is little likelihood of getting it revised.
3. **Tavistock Place Public Inquiry:** George reported that no details of the proposed Public Inquiry had yet emerged from the Council. Discussions are in progress within CCC and with LCC head office about our approach and representation at the Inquiry. JB and others reported on some external advice received.
4. **Briefing for Candidates at the Gospel Ward Council By-Election:** Following on from our recent meeting with the LibDem party (reported below), Angela suggested that we should prepare a briefing note on cycling issues in the Gospel Oak Ward for candidates (of any party). Discussion was deferred to the main meeting.

- 5. Proposals for a Liveable Neighbourhood scheme in Camden:** Discussion deferred to the main meeting.
- 6. Bikehangar Status:** JC reported on a meeting he had with Lu Everett and Barry Covington of CycleHoop Ltd. The main outcomes included:
- Cyclehoop have records of 140 requests for hangars in Camden (against our records of 80).
 - A new tranche of 23 locations has been suggested by Camden Council. 15 of these do not coincide with any of the requests that we so carefully compiled over the last two years in response to a request from the Council but appear to be responses to direct emails to Camden.
 - JC reported that in most of the other boroughs installing hangars, the locations were researched by Cyclehoop and suggested to the relevant council officers. We now consider that we should recommend Camden to use a similar approach. JC will take this up with Camden.
- 7. Freecycle Feeder Ride Saturday July 29th:** We agreed that Camden Cyclists should support and lead a feeder ride from Swiss Cottage. It was suggested that the return ride, which is less popular, could be shared with Barnet or other north London groups if this was helpful.
- 8. Demonstration of the Slack communication tool:** Sean gave us a quick run-through of the features of Slack. We concluded that there would be little benefit for Camden Cyclists in transferring part of our electronic communication to it (as compared to our current use of email, Yahoo Groups and Cyclescape).
- 9. Topics, Speakers and Chairs for upcoming meetings:**
- **May, AGM:** Chair - Meade McCloughan, suggested speaker Phil Jones - JC to invite him.
 - **June:** Chair - Steven Edwards, Speaker ??
 - **July:** Chair - Jean Dollimore, Speaker ??
 - **August:** Chair - Sean Howes, Speaker ??
- Other suggested speakers to be approached: J. Kitchener, Wheelytots organiser, Clare Rogers, Enfield Cycling Campaign

Main Meeting

Attendance: as above + John Ackers (Cycle Islington), David Arditti (Brent Cyclists).

Reports on meetings attended and other actions:

- JC had attended Haringey Cyclists AGM and reported on this and on the excellent talk by Clare Rogers of Enfield about their mini-Holland,
- SH reported on the 'Meet and Greet' he had organised with representatives of the Camden LibDem Party. Emerging from that was the information that there will be a By-Election in May for a council seat in Gospel Oak ward and the proposal for us to prepare a briefing note for candidates (of any party). SH agreed to produce a rough first draft for discussion and editing by all committee members.
In further discussion we concluded that the briefing note should be accompanied by a statement of the following two key local issues relating to Healthy Streets and cycling:
 - i. Consideration of a [Camden Council Healthy School Street](#) scheme (as recently implemented at St Joseph's School, in Holborn and Covent Garden) for Gospel Oak School by way of temporary closures in Savernake Road at school entry and exit times.
 - ii. Provision for safe two-way cycling in Fleet Road, between Southampton Road and Cressy Road at a minimum.
- GC reported that he and Jean had participated in a traffic study instigated by Rachel Wrangham to study the traffic impact of a 2-week closure of Sandall Road. It is hoped that Rachel and/or the Bartholomew Area Residents' Association will take action with the results.

Review of Progress with Infrastructure and Discussion of Future Plans

JD presented an excellent detailed review of progress made with Infrastructure in Camden in the period 2014-16 and led a discussion on plans for the future including:

1. Overview of how/why we got to where we are with some case studies to illustrate:
 - a. successes, failures, delays, barriers to progress
 - b. new ideas about infrastructure
2. Arguments as to where we'd like to be and why the goals may be feasible/ should be more ambitious:
 - a. how to grasp opportunities e.g. Ask Camden to apply for post-2016 GRID funding, try to identify some feasible Quietways
 - b. current/upcoming council study areas
 - c. healthy school streets

d. Mini-Hollands (Healthy Neighbourhoods)

[Slides of Jean's presentation can be found here.](#)

(<http://camdencyclists.org.uk/2017/03/infrastructure-2014-16-and-on/>).

Proposals for a Liveable Neighbourhood scheme in Camden: Under (d) above we discussed this item carried forward from the Committee Meeting.

George reported on LCC's plan to engage 4 local borough groups as 'Pilot groups' for the expected TfL/London Assembly initiative to meet the Mayor's promise of a 'A Mini Holland in every borough that wants one'. Details of the TfL initiative haven't yet been announced but it is understood to take the form of a Healthy Neighbourhood offered to boroughs, with funding at the level of £5-10m for each scheme.

The LCC office has issued a draft document on LCC's planned approach which includes an invitation to local groups to apply to be one of LCC's 4 'pilot boroughs'. LCC staff would then work with the selected 4 borough groups and their local council officers to produce a 'Healthy Neighbourhood' draft proposal. George asked whether we might wish to apply to be an LCC 'Pilot Borough' and if so what area we would wish to choose for the Healthy Neighbourhood. LCC's plan envisaged a submission by local groups in mid-May (to LCC) to be one of the 4 'pilot boroughs'. We concluded that it was worth pursuing further, provided that Camden Council indicate their interest in working with us on it. This will be raised with officers next week.

George proposed 4 possible areas for consideration:

1. Holborn/Clerkenwell
2. West Hampstead
3. Chalk Farm/Belsize Park
4. Gospel Oak/Dartmouth Park

Discussion quickly focussed on an idea proposed by David Arditti to consider preparing a joint Camden Cyclists/Brent Cyclists bid for 2 geographically contiguous Healthy Neighbourhood plans in West Hampstead and Kilburn.

We agreed to devote a substantial part of our April meeting to working out the details of such a proposal. Also to an initiative led by Sean to identify some Quietway routes in Camden

Next Meeting: Monday April 24th 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This will be a Committee Meeting only, chaired by George Coulouris – but observers are invited as usual. It will be held at George and Jean's house (23 Torriano Cottages, NW5 2TA, tel. 020 7485 5896).