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CamdenCyclingCampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2003 NEWSLETTER

Meetings

Monday 10th February and Monday 10th March at 7.30 pm. We meet in the Castlehaven Community Centre, opposite the Stags Head Pub, Hawley Street, NW1, on the second Monday of each month. You can bring your bike inside.

Talk by Ralph Smith

Monday February 10th at 8pm.

Two-wheeled terrorists or persecuted minority? Why and how the law has ignored cycling and what should be done about it.

By Ralph Smyth, Barrister and Chair of the new LCC Legal Reform Committee.

- Scapegoating cyclists - a criminological analysis of road traffic crime, especially by cycles, and its public perception
- Are cyclists' rights human rights? Could this developing area of law make politicians and planners take cyclists' needs seriously? Can the hidden discrimination really be described as "motorism"?
- Cycles of reform: from the Euro-insurance debacle to the decriminalisation of flashing lights, a whistlestop (or should that be ringstop?) tour of current legal developments impacting on cycling.

First ride of 2003

Leader James Brander. Sunday, Feb 23rd (weather permitting).

North London's Parks and Open Spaces.

Meet at 11am outside the Old Town Hall on Haverstock Hill (more or less opposite Belsize Park tube). Lunch and tea stops. Bring lights. Not a vigorous ride! For more details, contact James (7267 3585)

Rep needed for City Group

Ralph Smyth, the coordinator of the City Group would like to have support from neighbouring

boroughs. He has asked for a representative from CCC to attend their meetings, preferably someone who works in the city or just cycle cycles through it.

Join our mailing list

If you join our mailing list you will be able to participate in the urgent discussions that take place and to be aware of current cycling issues as they arise. Camden Council consults CCC frequently about planning issues that affect cycling. In most cases Camden Council requires a response at short notice. These consultations are reported on the mailing list, enabling members with local knowledge to give their feedback. It would be useful to have more members participating in this process. To join this list, send an email message to:

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Bad news about cycling on Hampstead Heath

CCC has worked for three years on getting three new cycle links on Hampstead Heath. In September 2002, a consultants' report on these proposals recommended that only one link should go ahead - the one that runs alongside the Lido. But in November, the Hampstead Heath Management Committee decided that none of these routes should be implemented.

CCC's December meeting discussed the possibility of altering the negative climate of opinion in the Heath Management Committee regarding cycling on the Heath. However, it was felt that it would be better to put our efforts into the many other cycling improvements currently in progress.

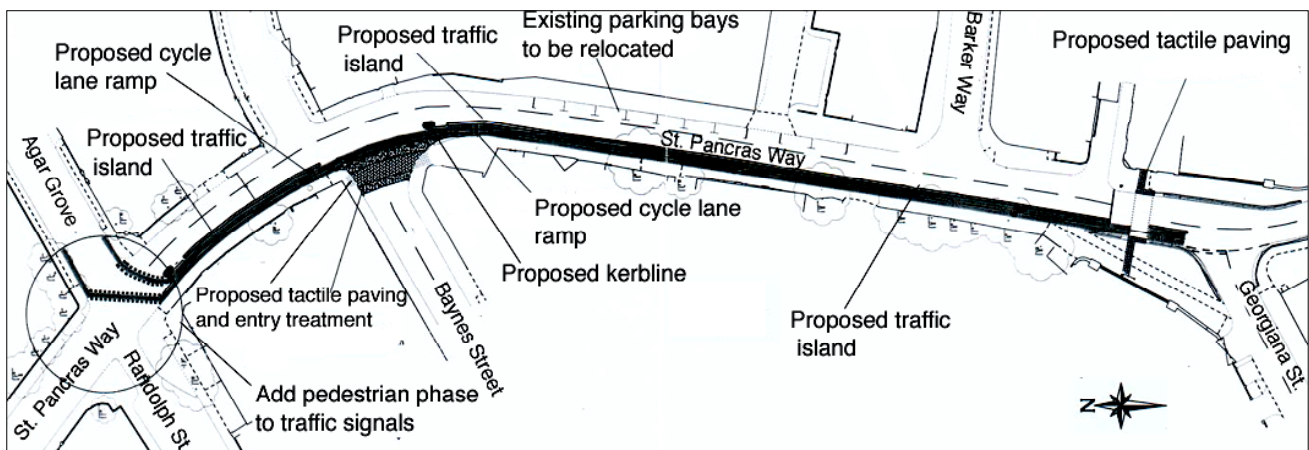
At the January meeting members felt that if they just give up, even the existing cycle routes may be withdrawn. They have therefore decided to continue with campaigning, using a two-pronged approach. The first is to invite Simon Lee, the superintendent of Hampstead Heath to come to

talk to us. The second approach is to continue to propose new routes, starting with routes on the eastern and northern edges of the Heath (the latter along the footpath on Spaniards Road).

Recent letters in the local press concerning cycling on the Heath try to blame all cyclists for the misdemeanors of the minority.

Members could make a big difference to our campaign by writing letters to the local press to counter-balance this effect.

Royal College St. to Agar Grove extension: Progress report



This new cycle link will go via Georgiana Street and St. Pancras Way to Agar Grove. Camden Council has designed a two-way cycle track on the west side of St. Pancras Way. At the January meeting, CCC members discussed the three main design problems:

Funnel for access from Agar Grove: the design proposes a 1 metre wide funnel (ie cycle track plus segregating island) with traffic light control that includes an all-cycle phase. Cyclists that don't like the funnel may not use it. The alternative would be an advanced stop line, but this would be difficult for cyclists arriving after the lights change.

West vs east side for the cycle track: Because the cycle track is on the west side of St. Pancras Way, motor traffic turning right into Baynes Street will cross the cycle track. In an alternative design with the track on the east side, cyclists would use a push-button crossing by Georgiana Street.

Randolf Street two-way: Camden Council is considering the possibility of making Randolf Street two-way, in order to reduce the number of vehicles crossing the cycle track at Baynes Street.

The meeting decided to support the funnel and to retain the track on the west side, but also to encourage the council to make Randolf Street two-way.

The Observer laments the decline in cycling

On December 22, the Observer published an illustrated two-page spread on cycling. Joanna Walters' article discusses the reasons why cyclists have been forced off Britain's congested roads. Although cycling for leisure is increasing, it is not being used either as a way of travelling to work or

to school, or to get daily exercise. In general local and national politicians are reluctant to give priority to cycling on the road or to consider walking and cycling when planning new roads, hospitals, schools or supermarkets. The government has started a nationwide assessment of councils' performance on cycling, in which Camden Council is praised for its efforts to expand cycling. See the full article on the web at: <http://www.observer.co.uk/politics/story/0,6903,864328,00.html>

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