



'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: Apr/May 2001

News for cyclists from the Camden Cycling Campaign (LCC), London.

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Newsletter editor: Paul Gannon

Seven Stations Link on the way

Construction work has begun on the western segment of the Camden stretch of the Seven Stations Link. We expect work to carry on for at least another four weeks before the track can be used. We apologise to users of these streets for the disruption on the route.

We have agreed with Camden that the pavement and cycle track should be raised at junctions where there are no traffic signals. This will act as speed table for motor vehicles and will also aid pedestrians to cross the road at junctions by slowing down motor vehicles.

We have also agreed a design for Byng Place that caters for conservation issues as well as providing real improvements for pedestrians, and the provision of benches or people to enjoy the area. This could transform this tarmac area.

Transport for London - the Mayor/GLA's transport department - has agreed to fund a programme of cycle schemes related to the Seven Stations Link and which benefit local businesses This could be improved cycle access, cycle parking or other facility at workplaces, colleges or railway stations.

However, Westminster has voted against the SSL and it will, for the time being, stop at the borough boundary.

According to our correspondent from Westminster, "the main argument against the proposal was the ineffectiveness of police action against illegal cycling, and a motion was passed that of officers should investigate making insurance compulsory for cyclists. More specific comments were that no need for the scheme had been demonstrated, that there was no cost/benefit analysis and that no thought had been given to the stress that residents of St George's Drive experience."

Will Westminster also propose closing roads to cars because the ineffectiveness of police action against illegal motoring?

Annual General Meeting: April 9th 7.30pm

The CCC AGM will take place on Monday April 9th at 7.30pm, at the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1. It should last for no more than 15-20 minutes and will include a review of last year's developments and prospects for next year. Secure indoor cycle parking

City of London new cycling group

CCC has helped to re-start a City Cycling Campaign to cover the area run by the Corporation of London. If you live or work, or cycle through the City, and want to know more contact David Arditti (020-7431-2964 david@darditti.com). Meetings are held at lunchtimes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

CCC needs volunteers who can help with a variety of tasks such as stuffing this newsletter into envelopes, writing letters to the local newspapers, taking part in traffic counts, or simply putting forward your views on what cyclists need in London. The tasks can be as simple as you like and you need only spare an hour a month. Contact Jane Boardman - tel 020 7794 9708.

Out and about

Foot and mouth fever closes cycle tracks

The CCC Newsletter editor has been trying to get about on his bike a bit since the foot and mouth outbreak put the block on his usual weekend walks in the countryside.

But it's not so easy - foot and mouth is also blocking cycle tracks. My hope for escape from the city was on the new Millennium Cycle Route east from Woolwich. Unfortunately, the track was blocked by a notice about the dreaded disease after about five miles. Roads are open, cycle tracks are closed - can anyone explain the science of that?

My friends in South Wales tell me that the cycle track near them, squeezed on a ledge between the vertical crags of the valley side and the river, has been closed - so locals now have to walk dogs on the main road next to the fields where sheep graze!

Bureaucratic fever closes cycle track

Before cyclists reach the foot and mouth barrier on the route east of Woolwich they will initially hit another blockage across the path - outside Woolwich Arsenal. This blockage has been in place for two years even though the cycle track - paid for fully by public money - is ready for use.

Silly bureaucrats at the London Development Agency say that minor construction faults (such as the plant

sprinklers not working) are safety hazard! The same silly people intend to open the track for one day on April 21st to allow the Mayor's cycle ride and then close it again!

The LDA, previously English Partnerships, is now under control of the Mayor & the GLA - let's hope they put an end to these silly games!

Hampstead Heath route review

The Corporation of London will launch a review of policy towards cycling on the Heath this summer.

CCC has proposed a small increase in the routes so that they link up and let Heath users get where they need to go. Any increase in cycle routes will be stiffly opposed by some local groups.

If any more routes are approved they will probably be accompanied by stiffer policing of illegal cycling.

Cyclist Killed

CCC regrets to again to have to report that another cyclist was killed in the borough. The death occurred on Dartmouth Pk Rd. The vehicle driver initially ran away but, when he read about the cyclist's death, he reported to the police. An investigation is underway.

CCC Members Evenings

2nd Monday every month from 7.30pm. The next two are: 9th April (AGM for 1st 20 mins) & 14th May.

Join in the discussions about how London can turn itself into a 'world class cycling city' at CCC members meetings. Be part of the future! Find out what has been going on, and what's coming up for cyclists in and around Camden, and have your say and share a pint or two.

Meet at the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1 Secure indoor cycle parking.

Map of where the Centre is (next to Camden Market): <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CCCdiary.html#CastlehavenCCMap>

For more info: call Jane 020-7794-9708 or contact Paul at paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com.

For a complete list of our events organised so far for 2001 see here: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CCCdiary.html>



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