



'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: Dec 2001 / Jan 2002

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

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Camden & Barnet GLA Member on Cycle Facilities

As London Cyclist will no doubt describe, November saw a tense campaign to get the threatened abolition of the London Cycle Network's budget abandoned. Many CCC members contacted Brian Coleman, the Member for Camden and Barnet in the Greater London Authority about this, and were astonished to receive the following reply:

"Thank you for your e-mail of 8th November regarding London Cycle networks. It is true that the Transport for London budget for the year 2002/3 does not include a budget for the London Cycle Network. I am not, however, prepared to make any representation to the Mayor over this for the simple reason that I consider cycle lanes to be an unnecessary obstruction to cars, for which of course, roads were built. I do not intend to be facetious over this matter, however many motorists are thoroughly tired firstly of the delays caused by the building of cycle lanes, followed by the further delays when the completed lanes encroach on road space, coupled with the fact that they are so drastically underused that they regularly provoke outrage at the pointless wastage of public money. I hope that this is an adequate expression of my views. Yours sincerely, Brian Coleman"

Suitably provoked?! Well, don't bother wasting your argumentative energies on him - this has already be done (to little effect!) but come along to the **CCC Members Evenings** and help us counter this kind of rubbish.

We meet on the second Monday of every month from 7.30pm. The next meeting is on Monday 10th December.

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. Meetings take place at the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1 (with secure indoor cycle parking). Contact Paul (7482 6692) or Jane (7794 9708) for more information.

Hampstead Heath cycle routes

The outcome of the consultation on CCC's proposed new routes showed that a majority of respondents were in favour. Given the determined efforts of some 'user groups' to get a negative result, this was very impressive - thanks to everyone who returned a questionnaire! These same opponents have been continuing their anti-cycling campaign through the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. Thankfully, though, the Management Committee is adopting a more sensible approach, and appears to be in favour of the new routes. In order to assuage the opponents, however, it has decided to have a 'safety audit' before coming to a final decision. Presumably the opponents feel sure that this will judge the new routes to be unsafe; we feel confident that exactly the reverse is the case, and that the audit will help ensure the routes are designed to a high standard.

Problems remain with the Spaniards Lane stretch, as Camden Council says this is not sufficiently wide for shared (pedestrian/ bicycle) use. Discussions are underway with Camden to see if there are ways around this, and we hope that the Heath routes can be proceeded with separately in the meantime.

Seven Station Link Woes

The second half of the Seven Stations Link (running from Byng Place to the Islington border) is continuing to experience a rocky ride at present. The proposed route along Guilford Street has the support of just one of the half dozen councillors whose wards cover this section of the SSL. The date for the start of the public consultation is unknown, but is likely to be soon. This is hardly a promising sign for a scheme which is sure to come under renewed fire from a number of powerful interest groups, including Coram's Fields and the taxi lobby.

Raising the Standards Conference

The famous "Raising the Standards of Cycling" conference is now provisionally booked to take place on Thursday 21st March 2002.

Problems with taxi drivers?

Complaints about the cab or the driver should be sent to the Public Carriage Office, 15 Penton St, London N1 9PU with the number of the cab or driver's badge. Complaints can also be notified by telephone to 020 7941 7800. The PCO (and the police) reputedly take reports of poor taxi driver behaviour very seriously. The PCO has a web site at:

<http://www.transportforlondon.gov.uk/pco/taxi.htm>

Cycle Trainers Required

Are you interested in teaching safer cycling skills to children and adults. Camden Council requires enthusiastic part-time/casual cycle trainers. £9.50 per hour after initial training period. For more details and informal discussion contact John Clarke on 020-7974-5537.

