



## 'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: October/November 2000

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

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**Newsletter editor: Paul Gannon**

### **Hampstead Heath progress**

Following the last issue of CCC Newsletter on Hampstead Heath we can now report some positive developments. The CCC article was picked up by Camden New Journal.

A series of letters pro and anti, have appeared in the CNJ and other local newspapers. The idea of improved cycling access to Heath facilities is now firmly on the agenda. Clearly there is high public demand for a sensible set of cycle routes designed to allow people to get to Heath facilities without circumnavigating the narrow, fast roads which encompass it.

At the last CCC meeting we decided to contact the Corporation of London and a very useful exploratory meeting was held with the Heath superintendant, Paul Canneaux. His staff spend much time policing the current cycling regulations. We presented our view that if a sensible and connected set of routes was agreed, then policing would be much easier.

CCC has submitted the plans outlined in the last newsletter to the Corporation's management committee, adding only the link from the Lido to join the Parliament Hill/Nassington Rd track to give cycling access to the school on Gordon House Rd.

However, there is considerable opposition to cycling anywhere on the Heath from bodies represented on the Advisory Cttee. Our proposals will have to go to this body for their comments before going to the Management cttee.

We will also offer to organise some training and education activities on the Heath so that we can help to improve cycling standards of people cycling on the Heath.

You can help by writing to your local councillor, the City of London, or local newspapers or lobbying any groups that you know have seats on the Advisory Cttee. Write to The Chairman, Harnpsstead Heath Management Committee, The Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

Every letter counts.

CCC will also write to Camden Council asking it formally to progress the development of an experimental 'shared-use' cycle facility on the wide path alongside Spaniards Lane between Jack Straws and 'Rotten Row' (across Sandy Heath) and to make a few minor measures in Tanza Rd.

## CCC News

### Regents Park

There is good news and bad regarding Regents Park. At a recent Friends of Regent Park meeting there was lots of support for better cycling facilities in the Park and very little opposition. This is a welcome development as the Royal Parks Authority have often cited such user groups as the reason why they are against allowing sensible cycling facilities in the Royal Parks.

On the other hand, the Authority's very lavishly produced and expensive consultation on traffic in the Park, despite the high number of users calling for banning through traffic on Outer Circle, promises little real change. Incidentally - the Royal Parks has a bigger budget than all the National Parks Authorities added together!

### CCC Website

Check out this great site for masses more CCC and general transport news and info: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/>

### E-mail news service

If you are on email, make sure you join the existing 60 subscribers to CCC's free news service which gives you local news updates, the chance to comment on traffic schemes in Camden, plus the opportunity to join in our on-line debates. For more information: [paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com](mailto:paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com), or [subscribe online here](#).

### 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.

## Seven Stations Link

Work is advancing well on developing the detailed designs of the Seven Stations Link section between the western edge of Camden at its border with Westminster to Woburn Place - about 1 kilometre.

Some compromises have had to be made, for example, the council ruled out any segregated track on Tottenham Court Rd (between Torrington Place & Howland St) for lack of road space.

The eastern section, which involves the introduction of some one-way working for motor vehicles, has been put on hold while the Council assesses the effects of the one-way working.

However, we are confident that the Council is determined to create a high-quality route that will attract lots of new users and national attention.

You can see details of the SSL design on the CCC website here: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/SSLdesign/SSLroutedesign.html>.

## **Somers Town/Waterloo Bridge route**

A meeting was held with consultants, JMP, to look at a high-quality route from Euston Rd/Mabledon Place south to Waterloo Bridge. This has been identified as a priority for network funding.

Two routes were considered. An western route through Woburn Sq., Montague St and Newton St., and an eastern one via Lambs Conduit St & Lincoln's Inn Fields.

CCC prefers the Western route, but as it uses University land it will need UCL agreement. A UCL group has been set up to help lobby - contact Paul Gasson or Stefano for details or see the CCC website.

## **Bikemates Wanted**

A way of encouraging more people to get on their bikes may be to share with them some of the expertise we all accumulate about routes and roadcraft. Someone wanting to start cycling to work, say, might well benefit from a ride with a more experienced cyclist along a route the latter is familiar with.

As well as showing the novice commuter good routes to take, some basic and route-specific advice on road-craft could easily be passed on. To this end, I am assembling a list of people who would be willing to provide this service. In addition to name and contact details, I need succinct route information.

For example, my main route is:

- Kilburn (Quex Road) to Bloomsbury (Malet Street), via Swiss Cottage, Primrose Hill and Park Village East (and back!);

I can also do:

- Kilburn (Quex Road) to Mayfair (Bond Street), via St John's Wood, Church Street and Marylebone High Street (and back).

We hope to be able to provide some basic training for people who offer to be 'bikemates'.

Please e-mail Meade McCloughan: [meade@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:meade@globalnet.co.uk)

## **CCC Members Evenings**

**2nd Monday every month from 7.30pm. The next two are: 9th October & 13th November.**

Find out what has been going on, and what's coming up for cyclists in and around Camden, and have your say. Format starts with a 20 minute news briefing, then 1/2 hour discussion on any urgent issues, a debate on a topic agreed by those present, before degenerating into pure chit chat. There is also an option of a move to the pub to wind up proceedings.

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 Paul at [paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com](mailto:paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com).



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