



'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: Oct/Nov 2001

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

Newsletter editor: Meade McCloughan

European Car Free Day

Saturday 22nd September saw another very successful Car Free Day event in the Seven Dials area of Covent Garden. As before, pedestrians and cyclists spread out onto the streets with relish, making way from time to time for horse-drawn carriages and basking in the autumnal sunshine listening to the music. CCC was present with a stall and "Dr Bike", and there was also a cycling obstacle course for children (and others!).

LCC had chosen the day to launch its new "London Cycle Guide No. 10", which is in fact the replacement for the popular Central London Map. This map/guide, as well as being much improved and up-to-date, is free, thanks to Transport for London, and we gave out over 200 on the day. (Thanks to Councillor Gerry Harrison for letting us use his familiar little bike for nipping through the crowds to catch passing cyclists!)

We have a modest stock of the new maps left over - a further incentive to come to CCC meetings this autumn.

Camden Council should be congratulated on arranging an excellent array of entertainments which helped make it a pleasure to be there. Special thanks to Stefano for organizing the CCC presence, and also to Daniel, David, Dianne, Meade, Jean, George, Magda, Jane, Andrew, James and Richard for helping out and to the many CCC members who came to say hello.

Issues CCC is currently dealing with:

Seven Stations Link (SSL)

There is some embarrassment in the Planning Department over the slow rate of progress (due mainly to cable laying works and the Boulevard Project). Problems are also now emerging as a result of the application of DETR (Department of Transport and the Regions) regulations (see Royal College Street, below). For example, these have prevented a fourth pedestrian crossing at the Torrington Place/Malet Street junction. The Council is now consulting on the Guildford Street stretch.

Royal College Street

The DETR has had a look at this and wants the flashing lights at the road crossings to be removed, as these contravene its regulations, and "Give Way"/two-way cycle logo signs put in instead. (This is also to be implemented throughout the SSL.) Given the problems these junctions already create, such diminution of the notice offered to motorists is very worrying. The Council now plans to put in speed tables, as we've always wanted, but funding has not yet been secured. We will need to ensure that the incline on these tables is steeper for motor traffic than for bicycles. It would be good to have signs saying "Look Both Ways" as well.

Waterloo Bridge/SSL route

We've discovered that the University of London has put in a new cycle track between Thornhaugh Street and Woburn Square. This coincides exactly with part of a route we proposed last year for a north-south link running from Waterloo Bridge to the Seven Stations Link. We now hope to try to get the Council to move forward with this.

New routes on Hampstead Heath

The Heath Committee is meeting soon, so we expect to hear back as to how the consultation process has gone.

St Pancras Channel Tunnel Terminal

Paul Gasson had discussed this with Rail Link Engineering and the Council. The main issues are (i) the poor provisions for cycle parking provision, and (ii) on cycle routes, the track design in the vicinity of the Euston Road junction, the track design at the junctions between Euston Road & Goods Way, the London Cycle Network route between Brill Place & Goods Way and the lack of cycle facilities in the four-lane southbound Midland Road.

CCC Events

The (famous?) "Raising the Standards of Cycling" conference is soon to be planned - we expect it to take place in February 2002.

CCC Members Evenings

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! We meet on the second Monday of every month from 7.30pm. The next two meetings will be on the 8th October and 12th November. 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

Volunteers Needed!!!

CCC needs volunteers who can help with a variety of tasks such as stuffing our 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