

The "Camden Cyclist"

October/November '05 Camden Cycling Campaign Newsletter

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

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Dates for your Diary

Members meetings:

on the second Monday of each month

October 10 in the Castlehaven Community Centre, 33 Hawley Road, NW1 at 7.30 pm. Bring your bike inside for security.

Barry Mason of Southwark Cyclists and someone from Living Streets will talk of the way pedestrians and cyclists have worked together to enhance life for all.

November 14,

CTUK will hold a maintenance workshop at our November meeting; at Castlehaven Community Centre, as above.

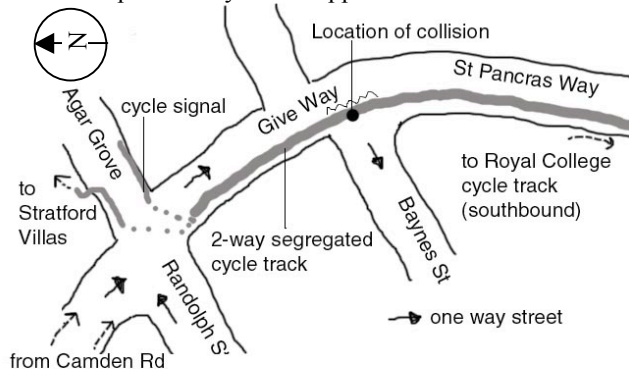
We might find other venues for future meetings in an effort to attract more members, so check with the website near to the time

Cyclist fatality in St Pancras Way

We are very sorry to have to tell you that a cyclist died as the result of a collision with a vehicle on the segregated cycle track in St. Pancras Way at the junction of Baynes Street. The collision occurred on 14th July and the cyclist died a few days later in hospital.

This cycle track is on LCN+ Route 6 and links the Royal College Street track to the quiet east-west route on the south side of Camden Road. The figure below shows the details of the location of the collision. The cyclist was travelling southbound on the segregated track and was involved in a collision with a lorry at the junction of Baynes Street.

This collision occurred when a cyclist was travelling in the same direction and on the right side of a motor vehicle on approach to the junction at Baynes Street. The driver may not have expected a cyclist to approach from this direction.



Please would users of this route be aware that this situation can arise either:

i) if you arrive at the track from Camden Road or

ii) if you move off with the vehicles from Agar Grove without waiting for the cycle signal.

CCC has had a recent meeting with Dave Stewart of Camden Council. He told us that there had been no reported cyclist casualties at this site in the last three years until the fatality in July. However, he accepts that the junction needs a review and Camden Council had agreed with the police to consider the layout.

CCC restated its position that for this cycle track to be viable, westbound traffic should be allowed on Randolph Street. However Dave Stewart gave arguments against this solution based mainly on traffic flow in Royal College Street.

He then proposed two alternative solutions:

1. Cyclists give way at each side of the Baynes Street junction (instead of vehicles giving way) together with a raised table at the junction. He emphasised that the cyclist give way should not be seen as a precedent for other cycle tracks. Plus a review of the signal phasing in Agar Grove.

2. Change the layout of the junction by introducing a bigger island south of the junction and putting the 'Give Way' vehicle sign at about 45 degrees (instead of parallel) to vehicle direction. In effect this section of road would be single lane with each vehicle either turning right or going straight on.

However Camden Council is very concerned that something should be done as soon as possible. Therefore, in the short term, the cyclists' Give Ways will be implemented

CCC discussed the design of this Agar Grove and Baynes Street junctions at the members meeting on September 12th. The proposal for cyclists' 'Give Ways' was felt to be unsatisfactory and if implemented, must be very temporary. Our discussion of longer term improvements including the following:

- we could campaign to make Randolph Street two way to lessen the number of vehicles using Baynes Street;
- the light phasings are incomprehensible on first encounter and seem illogical when understood; they are therefore often ignored by cyclists;

- the council's second proposal for an island and raised junction was not felt to be sufficient to prevent drivers from colliding with cyclists travelling in the same direction. A possible improvement would be signs indicating the presence of two-way cycling;

- some stated that the problems with the junction were so severe that any proposals would amount to tinkering and instead the route should continue on Royal College Street, rather than St Pancras Way. One person felt that the cycle track on St Pancras Way was so dangerous that it should be closed for now.

It was agreed that given the complexity of the issues involved, we should undertake some monitoring of the above junctions one morning rush hour in the near future and use this to inform a further discussion of the whole range of options.

CCC Welcomes New Cyclists!

The warm dry summer weather, and the disruption due to the events of July 7 has brought a huge increase in cyclists to London's inner boroughs. We'd like to welcome all our new members. There's a web page for you on:

<http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/info/tips/newcyclist0805>

If you don't feel confident cycling on Camden's busy streets, many of our members have volunteered to act as mentors (aka 'Bike Buddies') to help you find useful routes and teach traffic techniques. Find out more on

<http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/camden/mentoring>

One happy new commuter sent this, in an email to Lionel, her mentor:

"Hi Lionel!

Just wanted to let you know I successfully cycled to and from work on Wednesday for the first time! I

remembered the route easily and survived in one piece!

I also cycled today, despite the rain, just to disprove the theory that I'm a fair weather cyclist. I'm not liking the look of the weather outside now but will be cycling

home - don't you worry!

Thanks so much for your help, I really can't believe this is all so possible!"

To enquire further and/or book a 'mentor', contact Meade McCloughan either by telephone (020 7625 9773) or by email to m.mccloughan@Tucl.ac.uk

Cycle training is also available from Camden Council, CTUK and the London School of Cycling. More details on:

<http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/camden/training>

Mentors Wanted!

If you are a confident, competent cyclist, who could share your expertise with a novice or 'born again' cyclist, please contact Meade (email above) who will soon be a CTUK Trainer.

Car Free Day 2005

Car Free Day is held throughout Europe on 22 September each year. This year's theme was 'Clever Commuting' and Camden closed Monmouth Street to commemorate it. CCC held a stall on the site. Camden provided 'Dr Bike'

Planned Cycle Routes

TfL is proposing cycle improvements on the A501, the busy Pentonville Road and Caledonian Road.

The proposals are on: <http://tinyurl.com/afw76>

CCC is being consulted about a cycle route along the A503.

This road is a red route managed by TfL. The part of A503

in Camden is called Camden Road. However TfL plan to

make a cycle route along the part of the A503 east of

Camden (in Islington, and on the Hackney/Haringey

border where it is known as Seven Sisters Road)

They are starting a CRISP study on this route. Details are

on: <http://tinyurl.com/7jpta>

More Cycle Parking

In response to an estimated 25% increase in cycling this year, Camden is installing new cycle parking stands in Kentish Town, on Chalk Farm Road and south of Euston Road.

Scotland in Summer



Four CCC members cycled around the northernmost parts of Scotland. There are some truly stunning photographs of the scenic landscapes and a short account of this trip on:

<http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/features/scotland0805>

and rather more photographs and detail on:

<http://www.coulouris.net/george-jean/Scotland2005>

George Coulouris & Jean Dollimore with Moulton Tandem