

Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News December 2009/January 2010

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**London
Cycling
Campaign
Camden**

Seasonal Celebrations!

We have much to celebrate this month: our successful **Agar-Camley Link, Broadwalk Cycling**, the imminent cycle hire scheme etc. You are invited to a **FILM SHOW** of fun films on cycling-related themes, to inspire discussion before we tuck into seasonal delicacies.

We have a Committee/Business meeting the hour before our main meeting. All welcome!



Where: Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN

Date: Monday 14 December 2009

Times: Business meeting 6.30pm
Main meeting: 7.30 -10pm

Contact: jean AT dollimore.net



Elections Impending

The General Election is likely to occur in the first half of 2010. We wish to assess our candidates' commitment to cycling and hope to plan hustings with prospective Parliamentary Candidates and other environmental groups. Help plan our strategy to quiz our politicians. Constituency boundaries have been redrawn so we are likely to have different parties in power.

Help create our wish list at our

January meeting

Hustings likely in March.

Where: Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN

Date: Monday 11 January 2010

Times: Business meeting 6.30pm
Main meeting: 7.30 -10pm

Contact: jean AT dollimore.net

Maintenance Workshops

We plan to hold more instructive workshops in the New Year. Final arrangements will be posted on our website. Despite having many names on our waiting list, rather few participants enrolled on our most recent course. We need to have enough people to make the course worthwhile. Learn how to fix your bike with the experts!



Where Velorution 18 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 8BD

When: TBA

Contact: info AT
camdengreenfair.org.uk



LCC Gift Membership

If you are stuck for an unusual gift this Christmas, why not give a year's LCC membership? You may be eligible for a Prize Draw at our December meeting. Your friend would receive six copies of London Cyclist, Local Group membership, free third party insurance, discounts in many bike shops, access to competitive theft insurance and free legal advice.

Apply online via

www.lcc.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=195



Sam Monck

Camden's Head of Public Realm and Transport Policy addressed our October meeting. TfL's multiple programs have been replaced with fewer focussed programs, such as corridors, smart travel and major town centre schemes.



Lionel Shapiro

Sam approves of this holistic approach which he regards as better than a scattering of schemes for cycling, local safety or walking but there's a disadvantage in boroughs which don't support cycling and have more interest in motor traffic. It will be different; instead of the engineering team making bids under the LCN+ budget, Sam's team will make bids and allocate the work to the engineering team. Funding is now allocated to boroughs according to a formula, which is fairer than before. However, Camden will lose funding maybe £1.5-2 million from £5 million. Sam mentioned the London mayor's air quality strategy and second transport strategy documents, which will be a basis for the Local Implementation Plans (LIPs). Camden politicians support sustainability: we are to have one of four trials of 20 mph average speed camera in Fitzjohns Avenue.

The Next LIP

How can we best deliver a LIP which encourages cycling? Sam has contacted TfL about the cycling superhighway on the A5 to ask about flexibility of routing and is still awaiting a reply.

The LIP must be designed to produce a better city. Camden still might implement segregated cycling if appropriate, but many are against it.

Discussion

The following were among the topics raised:

- dedicated cycling officer: Sam wants officers to be generalists, but said this topic will not die
- sustainability: Camden will attempt to reduce the need to travel but will not reduce road capacity - vanishing traffic is at 10-15% level and shifting it is not acceptable; managing movement is about modal shift; Sam regrets that he thinks that carbon reduction is unlikely to move to the necessary level in Camden
- public realm (enjoyment of the city) see Fitzroy Square ; St Giles Circus will follow
- permeability: Sam explained really well with an example of a route parallel to Euston Road on the north side where the mainline stations are major barriers. He regrets the loss of the link from Regis Road to Arctic Street.
- private cars don't fit in the city: Sam didn't take that one up.

Finally, Sam asked Camden Cyclists to provide him with wish lists (e.g. like the ones we already provided for permeability and for danger spots).

Jean Dollimore

Two Tings

Camden Cyclists were again involved with the Two Tings Campaign on the Regents Canal.

The aim is to promote considerate shared use of the towpath. Cyclists are requested to 'ting' their bell twice as they approach pedestrians. Leaflets and bells were distributed and hopefully the unpopular image of the speeding Lycra lout cyclist will be dispelled.

This is a joint initiative with British Waterways and TfL.



Boris to the Rescue!

Franny Armstrong, director of 'The Age of Stupid', a truly terrifying film about climate change, was threatened by three young girls whilst she walked through Camden. One was carrying a long metal bar. Franny stopped a passing cyclist and asked for help. The man who chased off these 'oiks' was Boris Johnson, Mayor of London. He then walked her home.