

Notes on Camden Cyclists Meeting, 17th October 2100

Committee Meeting

Present: John Chamberlain(Chair), Helen Vecht, Meade McCloughan, Jean Dollimore (notes)

Apologies: Stefano Casalotti, Alex McKinnell, James Brander

Minutes of Meeting August 15th 2011 and Matters Arising

We checked the August minutes as here was no meeting in September. We agreed that they are correct. Matters arising:

- Royal College Street blockage of cycle path – resolved satisfactorily apart from issue of cutting back hoarding; waiting for reply from Brian Foxton
- Swiss Cottage Gyrotory – ask for this to be on agenda of November meeting with officers.
- Royal Parks cycling on St Marks Bridge – note that we requested two way cycling in St Marks Square in our response on Primrose Hill
- it was proposed that we should make news items about things we do such as the above response so that they would be accessible later on

Plans and chairs for forthcoming meetings

- November 21st we will be at the Air Quality Summit at Camden Town Hall
- December 12th. John to invite Christian Wolmar and Jean to chair committee and do invitations. (PHCA is n/a on 12th, Jean looking for alternatives)
Note: Christian Wolmar is not available but will come in New Year. Meeting will be held at Castlehaven CC.
- January 16th: Meade
- February 20th: Helen
- March 19th: ask Stefano

Reports on effort to keep cycle routes open - John Chamberlain

- Royal College Street history: peds were told to cross the road and when they refused, the track was closed to cycling (for 18 months-2 years). Site meeting with Gordon Hamilton and Dave Stewart in June produced a plan for a cycle route in one lane of the road, but implementation took 3 months. Hopefully we have established a principle to take road space when tracks are closed.
- Montague/Malet. Thibault Henry was initially proactive in keeping Montague Place open to cycling. But Malet Street and Montague Street were suddenly closed. We have asked for a signed alternative northbound route, but no reply yet. Cycle stands at the top of Malet Street (by ULU) have been removed and replacement provision is needed ASAP.
- Tavistock Place Site meeting with Robert Slaney. Two forthcoming brief closures (east and west of Marchmont Street). Positive discussions; difficult to decide how much of the track to close.

Brief report on Camden Sustainability Partnership Board meeting. Jean D

CCC was invited to attend for the item on sustainable transport. This was preceded by a talk by Roger Madelin (mainly about sustainable buildings); but he assured us that although TfL have backed out from managing the secure cycle parking facility, someone will do so. But it will not open until 2015. He noted that there is a cycle parking problem for students at the newly opened Central St Martins college (it cannot be accessed from Kings Boulevard). John offered to check up on this.

Sam Longman gave a presentation on sustainable transport. He provided statistics (since cycling increased 229%, motors decreased but taxis increased; casualties also increased). He recognised the problem from limited kerbside space.

Jean was allowed to give a brief statement, but felt afterwards that it fell on deaf ears (she followed up in email, but has had no response).

Positive outcome is that through Sam Monck and Louise Bond our meetings with officers have been reinstated (4 times a year starting on 23rd November).

Members Meeting

We were joined by Andy Gryce, Julia Rampon and Sheridan Wilde (apologies from Stephen Taylor, Paul Braithwaite and George Coulouris)

Air Quality Summit (November 21st)

We looked for ideas for posters for our stall – to relate air quality to cycling. Some basics: pollution is worse on busy roads (CSHs), cyclists breathe more air than pedestrians or drivers, masks are inadequate. Cycle to improve health, but should cycling be encouraged when air is so polluted?

- new version of poster of speed limit enforcement used at Camden's Energy Future – have your say. March 2011. e.g. show a line from 'reduce PM10s etc' to 'increase health'
- calculate increase in life expectancy for cyclists and then deduct the loss due to pollutants
- "don't pollute us (cyclists) when we are part of the solution"
- diagram with car, taxi, bike, each in a circle with arrows showing pollution (PM10, NO2, SOX ,...) coming out. John to brief.
- a mask would need to be too big to breathe and have reservoir bag.

Helen, John and Jean committed to attend. We will ask for help from members.

West Hampstead Inspection ride. Meade

This was held on 15th October and attended by Meade, Vivien, George, Jean and Alex Santacreu. Not much infrastructure but problems due to intersection by railway lines and Finchley Road. Some photos. Will link in report when written. Meade will send report to local councillors.

Next inspection ride in March. Tufnell Park/Kentish Town. John/Jean

Going Dutch

Actions from August meeting after talk by David Arditti:

- consider Tottenham Court Road as an exemplar as it and Gower Street will revert to two-way working
- carry out cycle counts in Tottenham Court Road

We have found out that TCR southbound will be buses and cycles, northbound they hope to move some of the traffic to Gower Street.

Cycle counts were carried out in September. See report on website.

Cyclist fatality at Kings Cross

We asked the following questions:

- we responded to consultation in May 2011. Was our response too discursive?
- we have reply from Peter Bradley at TfL which is unsatisfactory. We should reply, stating specifics, relating to the collision and noting that the problem will continue unless cyclists are given space.
- what response to the actual event of a particular fatality? Talk to journalists and write letters to paper. CNJ has been very good on issues of cyclists' deaths.
- to help new cyclists, we could attend freshers' events and provide advice on staying safe and on routes of the college that avoid main roads and dangerous junctions. This would also build links with cycling groups in the colleges.

Next Meeting. Monday 21st November at Camden Town Hall at 5.30 pm. Air Quality Summit. Note that anyone planning to attend must register at airquality@camden.gov.uk

Jean Dollimore