

# CAMDEN CYCLIST

Camden Cyclists' News February/March 2013

Website: [www.camdencyclists.org.uk](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk)  
Enquiries: [info@camdencyclists.org.uk](mailto:info@camdencyclists.org.uk)  
emailing list: [camdencyclingcampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:camdencyclingcampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
@camdencyclists on Twitter



## Members' Meetings

Our meetings are usually held on the third Monday of every month at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN. There's a Committee/Business meeting at 6.30pm that anyone interested may attend. Next meetings:

### Monday 18 February 2013 @ 7.30pm

**Charlie Lloyd** from LCC will be our **Guest Speaker** and talk about reducing the danger to cyclists from Large Goods Vehicles.

LCC is running a 'Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling' campaign. Lorries are disproportionately represented in serious collisions with cyclists; they account for at least half the fatalities but represent less than 5% of the traffic. Charlie has worked as a lorry driver so has insight from both cab and saddle.

### Monday 18 March 2013 @ 7.30pm

We're hoping helmet cameraman

**Cycling Mikey** will be showing some of the best videos he has put on YouTube and speak about recumbent cycling (and skating) in London.

### Kentish Town Bike Workshops

Maintenance workshops continue, on the first Monday of every month. They are held at Kentish Town Health Centre 2 Bartholomew Road NW5 2AJ

### Monday 4 February 7-9pm

### Monday 4 March 7-9pm

Bring your bike for a check up and advice as to how to fix it. You'll work on your own bike with help from a mechanic. Sessions are free but donations are welcome.



## Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling

LCC's Spring campaign is to improve the safety of cyclists near lorries. Each council has been graded red, amber or green depending on how well they have ensured lorries are as safe as possible around cyclists. Camden has been graded amber as its own vehicles are not yet fitted with all possible safety equipment, unlike its contractor, Veolia. We hope to get Camden to sign a pledge to work towards getting all its vehicles compliant. This may take place in March.

<http://lcc.org.uk/pages/safer-lorries-safer-cycling#>

<http://lcc.org.uk/pages/why-safer-lorries>

## 20mph Consultation

Camden Council is planning to consult with residents about imposing a universal default 20mph speed limit on all Borough roads. Reduced speeds have been shown to make cycling much more pleasant and to reduce the number of severe collisions involving cyclists. Supporting these measures would encourage cycling.

Several other local authorities have introduced 20mph speed limits, most recently Brighton & Hove. <http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk>. Andrew Thorp of the Green Party, wrote an excellent letter in The Camden New Journal supporting the measure on <http://tinyurl.com/aquq5wa>

## Royal College Street

As we go to press, Camden Council has just approved improvements to the segregated cycle route as detailed here <http://tinyurl.com/a9uey38> and discussed here <http://tinyurl.com/ax36hkj>

One blogger has said this scheme 'could be the best in the UK'. Certainly, it is the closest to truly 'Going Dutch' to any facility that I have seen. Congratulations are due all round for creating such a revolutionary scheme!

## Against the Flow

A small group from our Committee will be working with Camden Council to select and prioritise which one-way streets might be suitable to be modified to allow contraflow cycling. This could potentially increase convenience and shorten journey times for cyclist who may wish to avoid the air pollution and heavy traffic on the main roads.

## Regents canal alternative routes

Dick Vincent London Towpath Ranger addressed our [meeting on 15th October 2012](#). Dick worked for British Waterways for a year and since July has worked for its successor the Canal and River Trust. He told us then that the Canal and River Trust wants to revive the idea of providing good quality cycle routes on nearby roads.

Soon after that, Rosie Tharp (ex LCC) was appointed Strategic Routes Coordinator. She has been very active in contacting local LCC groups and others including Friends of the Earth. Early in December, Angela Hobsbaum and Jean Dollimore had joined Rosie for a ride along the Camden section of the canal. Rosie had told us that canal access points are high on her agenda, so she said the route shown in green on the map below looked like a good one to kick off with. We inspected the canal access points and considered how they would link up with existing cycle routes. The squares show the canal access points: the locations indicated by the green squares have ramp access whereas those at the red squares have stairs. Rosie confirmed that she believed good links between cycle routes and the canal are an aim in her project. The access points requiring attention are at Camley Street, Kentish Town Road and Oval Road. The red crosses indicate one-way roads in which contraflow cycling would be needed to provide a sensible two-way route. These include a short section of Camden Street, Hawley road and St Marks Square. We assume that the northern end of Royal College Street will receive the promised treatment.

Canal Alternative Route: Camden



### Could we make a better route?

The route marked in green above would be really useful for people moving between the canal and one of the cycle routes (marked in blue). It would also be useful for bypassing Camden Lock. For that reason it seems an essential starting point. However, it is rather an indirect and zig-zagging course for someone who wants perhaps to bypass a longer section of the canal, perhaps we should also plan a more direct route e.g. between Royal College Street and St Marks Bridge (the western most green square). Also the green line between Oval Road (westernmost red square) and St Marks Bridge is very inconvenient compared with the towpath.

At one of our discussions, Alex Santacreu had raised the issue of being more ambitious. The orange line on the above map shows such a route. It would go along Pratt Street/Delancey Street. Rosie told us she had inspected that route with Brian Deegan and that he is keen on the idea. She suggested that we could arrange an informal meeting with Brian and someone from Living Streets to brainstorm alternative route proposals. <http://camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/ccc/regents-canal-alternative-routes>