

Minutes of CCC Meeting 19th August 2013

Committee Meeting

1 Attendance & Apologies

Present: Alex Santacreu (AS) (chair), Meade McLoughan (MM), Angela Hobsbaum (AH), Geoff Stilwell (GS), George Coulouris (GC), Jean Dollimore (JD), Stefano Casalotti (SC), Ben Edmonds (BE), Helen Vecht (HV)

Apologies: Alex McKinnell

2 Minutes of CCC Meeting 15/07/2013

Minutes were approved.

3 Matters Arising

GS reported that the Sidings Community Centre Heritage Fair had been postponed to October 5th.

AH asked about items from the last LCC Borough Coordinators' Meeting, specifically (1) how we should be influencing local elections due in early 2014 and (2) local LCC group liaison. SC responded that (1) is important because manifestos are already being drawn up but that (2) was more a matter for outer boroughs. JD asked whether election campaigning was intended to be at local ward or at party level. SC felt that we should start at party level with some high-level issues such as Quiet Zones and then move to local level with specific issues. JD suggested that we could use our previous manifesto as a starting point and modify it. She would draft something for discussion at the September meeting. MM asked if it was the best use of our time but the meeting felt it was important to have a position. AH suggested that instead of limiting it to "Cycling Issues" we should broaden our manifesto and all agreed after discussion that the title should be "Transport, Environment and Health".

Action: JD to draft new manifesto.

4 Bloomsbury Way bus lane

JD reported on the recent Safety Audit, which had been attended by Camden officers, Camden's safety consultant, JD and GC. Many cyclists were using the lane, in spite of the signage restricting it to buses only. Simi Shah (Camden) had originally been against allowing cyclists but had moderated her position. She still preferred a separation kerb between east- and westbound traffic but the consultant and CCC are not in favour of this as overtaking of buses is quite feasible and relatively safe and a kerb can actually have the effect of trapping cyclists if a bus moves out. Most cyclists are in front of the buses as the lights change; some of those behind choose to wait behind the bus, others overtake it but it all seems to work reasonably well. It is anticipated that the recommendation will be to allow cyclists into the lane. Discussion about the number of lanes followed - our long term preference would be for a reduction in the number of general traffic lanes to allow dedicated space for cyclists. BE suggested asking for a right turn into Southampton Row from Theobalds Road and JD agreed to bring this up at the next meeting.

5 Prince Albert Road ramp

AS had attended a meeting of the Canal & Rivers Trust where the proposed ramp from the canal towpath to street level near the junction of Prince Albert Road and St Marks Square was discussed. The scheme looks very well engineered and will be very beneficial to cyclists as well as to other users and although it will be necessary to remove some mature trees it is likely to go ahead. It was suggested that Rosie Tharp be invited to our September meeting to talk about this and other Canal Bypass issues.

Action: AS/SC to invite Rosie Tharp to September meeting.

6 Chairs & speakers for meetings in Sept-Dec

JD volunteered to chair October and has invited Rachel Alldred, who is chair of LCC's Policy Forum and Professor of Transport at Westminster University. SC offered to chair September (Rosie Tharp). HV will chair November and would see if Mike van Erp was available. JC will chair December's meeting including the seasonal celebrations.

Action: All chairs to organise speakers etc.

7 Historical bikes

GS had asked whether any historical bikes might be available for the Sidings Heritage Fair. AH suggested Lunar Cycles but all felt that they would not have any truly historic bikes. BE suggested contacting either the Tweed Run or Magnificent Revolution. GS suggested that they might look at electric bikes as an alternative.

Action: GS to follow up.

8 LCC Protest Ride 2nd September

The LCC protest ride to demand more space for cycling following recent fatalities is planned for 6 pm on 2nd September from Jubilee Gardens to coincide with the parliamentary debate on the subject. SC mentioned that a map of the route is on the LCC website and AH pointed out that T-shirts and posters are also available though she had had no response to her request for a poster. SC asked whether CCC wants to organise a feeder ride. As it is a work day, take-up may be low, but JD and JC felt that we should and it was decided to start from Camden Square, outside the Irish Centre, at 5:15 for a 5:30 start. GS will also organise one from Sidings (see main meeting for details).

Action: JD to advertise

9 CCC Website

JD had initiated a discussion on the CCC forum to try to get ideas for the new website. Stephen Taylor had made some useful comments and most people agreed with them. All agreed that it was important that it worked well on all devices, including smart phones and tablets. BE recommended that the website not use carousels or sliders and not rely on hover. Also each page should have a clearly defined purpose. JD mentioned that the page showing bikes shops gets a lot of hits. There was some discussion of the best CMS but the quote is for WordPress and we will probably go with that. GC said that it was important to link to social networks. BE suggested a small working group be formed and offered to help.

Action: JD to form working group

Members' Meeting

We were joined by Paul Braithwaite, David Arditti and Kristy Revell

a LCC Protest Ride 2nd September

JD reviewed the plans for the protest ride - there will be feeders from Camden Square at 5:30 (meet at 5:15) and from Sidings Community Centre at 5 pm, this will be a merged feeder with Brent cyclists. Kristy is organising a feeder ride from UCL.

b Official Royal College Street Opening

There will be an official opening at the junction of Royal College Street and College Place starting at 4 pm on 5th September. CCC will have a joint stall with Camden and Dr Bike will be in attendance. BE, JD, JC, GS and others volunteered to attend and help out. HV volunteered to provide light

refreshments, JC will bring leaflets. BE suggested that Camden should bring plans and photos showing RCS before and after and also their plans for extending the scheme across Camden Road.

Action: JD to confirm details with Camden and suggest they bring plans etc as above. JC and HV as mentioned above.

c Home Zones / Quiet Zones

GC had been asked to draft a paper on Quiet Zones for the LCC Policy Committee as a possible campaigning issue for 2014 and he gave a presentation on the topic (see link). The idea is to have zones with no through traffic where the only vehicles were local and speeds were very low. AH had also suggested this idea to CCC at a previous meeting. There had been similar schemes suggested in the past under the title "Home Zones" and one (at Lupton Street) had been implemented (at high cost). The zones will probably be called "Low Traffic Zones" (LTZs). An example in Hackney would be the De Beauvoir area, or Primrose Hill in Camden. GC, JD and others are trying to come up with a design for the Bartholomew Road area but it is not easy. However, Camden are keen to be adventurous and it might go ahead. Kristy expressed concern that TfL might oppose if it displaced traffic onto red routes, but JD pointed out that there are not many of these in Camden and that Hackney's experience was that traffic evaporated. BE mentioned that some roads might have to revert to two-way.

Paul Braithwaite suggested that we should come up with some schemes that targeted marginal wards for 2014 and there was some discussion of which these might be.

AS suggested that it might fit with ideas to reduce traffic on Tavistock Place and give more room for cycle lanes and Kristy mentioned the schemes for Gower Street and Tottenham Court Road but it was felt that it might be easier to start in predominantly residential areas. BE pointed out that the main attraction might be the subsequent increase in property values and that we should consider talking to local estate agents. AS asked what was the best way forward and GC suggested waiting to see whether LCC adopted the idea. AH suggested approaching the Neighbourhood Forums to try to get LTZs into the Neighbourhood Plans and all agreed that this was a good idea. Paul Braithwaite suggested the North Camden and Kentish Town Forums.

Action: None yet, pending LCC decision

d TRL trials and surveys

AS had attended one of the Transport Research Labs half-day trials in Bracknell where volunteer cyclists try out new road configurations and traffic lights. He recommended it as a good day out and mentioned that participants are paid.

e Hampstead Heath

Stephen Taylor had approached the Heath Subcommittee of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society to re-open the idea of some minor enhancements to cycling on the fringe of the Heath and it was agreed that a meeting should be requested to follow this up. JC and SC volunteered.

Action: JC to arrange meeting

f AOB

BE asked about progress on the College Place cycle store and Paul Braithwaite said he would pressure officers to move ahead.

The meeting closed at 8:45 and was followed by conversation aided by the chair's kind organisation of refreshments.