

Notes of a CCC Meeting 14 April 2014

1. Present

Stefano Casalotti (Chair), George Coulouris, Jean Dollimore, Angela Hobsbaum, Meade McCloughan, Geoff Stilwell and Alex McKinnell. Also David Arditti and James Brander.

2. Apologies

John Chamberlain, Ben Edmonds and Helen Vecht.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 19 March 2014

OK

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Jean Dollimore reported that Cllr Phil Jones had agreed to the implementation of the Cobden Junction scheme (17.3.2014 Minute 4.2).

4.2 The Sail Banner had been received, and all agreed that it looked very good (17.3.2014 Minute 4.3).

5. Outer Circle Action Group

5.1 Angela Hobsbaum had met Cllr Edward Argar (Westminster City Council) and Graham King, Head of Strategic Planning. Reception of the Group's report recommending closing the Outer Circle to through motor vehicle traffic had been surprisingly positive. Cllr Argar said that he would discuss the proposal with Transport for London and the Royal Parks, and take it to the next meeting of Cabinet (this would be after the May elections).

Jean Dollimore would attend the next meeting of the Royal Parks Cycling Development Group on 16 May 2014 – she wants the proposal on the agenda.

Currently TfL want a Cycling Super Highway through the Park.

Angela Hobsbaum thought that there was a risk that the proposal would be seen as extreme and that the authorities might go for something more “moderate”.

6. Web Site

6.1 Work was still proceeding. Noted that the contract payment to David Hastings for 2014/2015 was £750. For 2015/2016 perhaps £250 should be allowed for alterations,

with £120 p.a. thereafter for maintenance. This is dealt with in Minute 7.3 below.

7. Finance

7.1 Meade McCloughan presented the draft accounts for April 2013 to March 2014. Our main income was £1,500 from LB Camden for organising Bike Week events, and our main expenditure was £1,273 for the bike breakfast and the round Camden ride and £817 expenditure on the web site. The balance of expenditure over income was £423 and the balance carried forward was £3,764. The accounts were approved and will be presented to the AGM.

7.2 Meade presented the return to be submitted to LCC for 2013/2014, which is a slightly more detailed version of the accounts. This was approved.

7.3 Meade submitted a budget for 2014/2015. This projected income of £1,100 from LB Camden, with the main items of expenditure being £1,100 on Bike Week events and £1,000 on the web site, leading to a balance of expenditure over income of £1,490 and a balance carried forward of £2,274. During discussion it was noted that the web site cost was £750 payable under the contract with David Hastings and £250 was for alterations. A proposal was made that we allow a further £750 for publicity - possible press adverts for members. This was agreed, making the projected a balance of expenditure over income of £2,240, and the balance carried forward of about £1,500, and subject to this, the proposed budget was agreed.

7.4 LCC had asked that local groups, which had: -

- a budgeted surplus for 2014/2015 and a reasonable level of reserves; or
- a budgeted deficit for 2014/2015 but where the number of years' deficit covered by predicted reserves exceeded two years

should consider not claiming their LCC grant for 2014/2015. CCC had waived their grant for 2012/2013 but not for 2013/2014, in which year it amounted to £375.70.

Agreed to waive the grant for 2014/2015, but not for future years, and the treasurer to make this clear when notifying the decision to LCC.

Members Meeting

Christine Boyle, Jane Donnelly, Richard Olszewski and Eudine Regis joined us.

Stefano explained that the advertised address by Metropolitan Police Officers had had to be cancelled at short notice.

8 Membership

8.1 There was a discussion on the recruitment of new members, noting that CCC aggregate membership had dropped by 10% in 2013/2014 compared with 2012/2013.

8.2 George Coulouris suggested that there was confusion about what LCC membership actually meant – was it a benefit to the individual member or was it just support for the campaign? There was a problem of high cost, most of which went on the production and distribution of the magazine and on the cost of head office staff (about 20, many part time).

It was in the past sometimes difficult to see that getting people to pay a substantial subscription to LCC advanced the campaign in Camden. In the past 2 or 3 years things had probably improved, and the London wide campaigns (for example Go Dutch and Space4Cycling) coordinated by head office had had a huge positive impact and given our local campaigning much more impact and recognition.

Most members probably join and pay the substantial subscription because they see that the campaign is making a real difference to the safety and attractiveness of cycling in London. The problem was to convince more cyclists of this. Perhaps CCC recruitment material should highlight successes in Camden and say that these would not have been achieved without LCC funding and support.

8.3 Points made at the meeting were: -

- Doubling LCC membership would probably double LCC influence,
- LCC membership was now good value,
- Was attendance at local fairs a good source of members? There were some doubts on this.
- At one time LCC membership was one of a spectrum of environmental causes people tended to join. Renewal of links with Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth etc might help recruitment.
- The matter would be discussed further – in the meantime Meade would obtain a list of fairs, which Camden were supporting (already done).

9. Future Events

9.1 There was a space4cycling event in Royal College Street on 10 May 2014 (a Saturday). We must get plenty of people there. It was agreed: -

- To invite all candidates from all wards,
- to draft a leaflet explaining Space4cycling and the event (Angela Hobsbaum),
- to prepare a press release (Jean Dollimore).

9.2 It had been agreed to run a feeder ride from Swiss Cottage to the Big Bike Ride on 17 May 2014 (John Chamberlain). Details of the ride were awaited from LCC (there were apparently difficulties over routing it through the Royal Parks).

10. HS2 Bill

10.1 Jean Dollimore explained that the Bill authorising the construction of HS2 was before Parliament. The works to be authorised would have a major effect on Camden's roads, and, from a cycling point of view, whilst the deposited plans proposed measures to facilitate motor vehicle traffic during the construction phase, no measures whatever ameliorating the deleterious effects on cycle traffic were proposed.

We ought at least to be able to petition against the Bill in the interests of safeguarding cyclists' facilities. To do this a properly constituted meeting must pass a resolution authorising the deposit of a Petition and authorise a named person to act on our behalf. A letter containing the motion had to be deposited at the Private Bill Office with the Petition opposing the Bill.

10.2 PROPOSED by George Coulouris

“That the Camden Cycling Campaign (“the Campaign”) be and are authorised to deposit a Petition opposing the HS2 Bill and that Jean Dollimore be authorised to act on the Campaign's behalf in this regard.”

Seconded by Meade McCloughan

10 votes in favour

1 vote against

Resolution carried.

11 Next meeting

11.1 Monday 19 May 2014 at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place NW1 8TN (AGM) – Chair Helen Vecht.