

CAMDEN CYCLING CAMPAIGN MEETING

Monday, June 9th

Present (at Committee Meeting):

Jane Boardman, Stefano Casalotti (Chair), Daniel Glaser,
David Arditti

additionally for full meeting

Dave Perkins, Alex McKinnell

Apologies:

Jean Dollimore, Paul Gasson, Meyer Hillman

Agenda:

Bike week update
Consultations update
Theft and thuggery
Royal Parks issues
Other business

Bike Week update:

Stefano reported that three banners have been made (for the Breakfast, CCC generally and LCC generally). These would probably represent the only tangible benefit to CCC of the grant being made to it for Bikefest (which has not yet been received). He believes he has enough offers of stewarding, though any further volunteers would be welcomed.

Jane reported having been offered a £300 grant towards the cost of the breakfast (which may well require greater expenditure on food than usual since LB Camden is intending to bring a contingent to it).

Stefano then described that the Camden Bike Week leaflet (designed by Paul Gasson and printed by Stefano, to fill the gap left by LCC's failure) has cost £105 for 2000. He and James reported having distributed them to all bike shops and nearly all libraries by Saturday, and having used them and the modified Green Fair postcards to leaflet several hundred bikes.

Daniel offered to do further leafletting in Ossulston Street on Wednesday morning, while Stefano will do some at Paddington Station and outside UCL on Wednesday afternoon. Jane offered to cover the Waitrose in Swiss Cottage, and James will repeat his drop along Camden High Street, Kentish Town Road and up to Swiss Cottage on Saturday.

Other participants at the Bike Fest (apart from CCC, LB Camden and Bike Fix) will be CTC, the Police (their cycling team from Westminster) and the Bicycle Repair Man described in the latest LC.

Daniel offered to proof-read a series of posters describing CCC designed by Stefano to be hung round the edges of the stall.

Publicity efforts were discussed further in the full meeting.

Consultation update:

The new distributed system appears to be working, though it seems Paul Gasson has still probably a lot to do scanning everything.

Stefano reported a problem with the post: one of the consultations forwarded to him having never arrived.

It was agreed that all completing consultation response questionnaires on behalf of CCC should use Paul Gasson's address.

Detailed consideration of three schemes currently up for consultation was deferred to the full meeting.

James also raised the point that CCC should send a deputation of support to the Environment sub-group meeting on June 17th when the officer report on the eastwards extension to the SSL is due to be voted on. David agreed to offer moral support to this deputation, and James thought he would probably end up writing it.

Theft and thuggery:

Daniel described the situation apropos bike theft in Queen Square in pretty gruesome terms, making the point that really the only chance of combatting it is through the Sector Teams. He did report though that the Police are more responsive to calls on this subject perhaps than they used to be.

He again encouraged everyone to log incidents onto the police website.

It was agreed that, despite Paul Gasson's misgivings, the opportunity to follow up last week's CNJ story about Peter Cumming with letters about bike theft (especially in view of Jane Roberts' experience) should be taken; letters should aim to be clear as to what remedial action is needed.

Royal Parks:

Stefano (who volunteered to be the Camden representative on the LCC group trying to open further cycling opportunities in Royal parks) reported having been asked to ensure that some senior LB Camden member writes to the Parks asking for cycle facilities to be improved. He wasn't quite clear how he is supposed to achieve this.

He also reported having been approached by T2000 to join in efforts to improve traffic conditions on the Outer Circle. Several people present had senses of déjà vue at these remarks, and opined that history (given the recent Kensington Gardens successes) would more favour efforts to open the park to cycling than to reduce traffic on the Outer Circle. Stefano will follow up both lines, with he and Daniel intending to attend a meeting with T2000. Cyril Cannon is to be kept informed.

Full meeting:

Bike Week again:

Dave offered to take a wadge of leaflets to hand out on his way to work.

James was asked to find some yellow reflective jackets for Bike Fest stewards.

James was also asked to include the Bike Fest stewards in the meal vouchers scheme being organised for the Green fair.

Consultations:

There was a lot of discussion about the proposals to close Gloucester Ave at Oval Road, and divert traffic onto Oval Road and Prince Albert Road. Generally, it was felt that the existing arrangements are far from satisfactory for cyclists, and that these should be improved as part of the wider scheme. The following were identified as particularly troublesome:

left turn lane from Gloucester Gate into Prince Albert Road
width of existing lane from Delancy St into Gloucester Ave

It was felt that reopening the right turn into Prince Albert Road would make life more difficult for cyclists aiming to turn into the Outer Circle.

No opinion was expressed on the need or desirability for restricting traffic through the Primrose Hill conservation area, nor on the need for a blanket 20mph zone there.

Jane then brought the Belsize Area traffic calming proposals to people's attention. It was agreed that more effort to restrict speeds on Belsize Ave and Fitzjohn's Ave was needed, though Fitzjohn's was described as being better than it used to be for having a couple of new zebra crossings (the lines of racing cars are now broken). The complete lack of any road closure proposals was noted as disappointing, and the possibility of closing Lyndhurst Road altogether was raised.

Meeting closed at about 9pm.