

# Minutes of Camden Cycling Campaign Meeting. 13 October 2003.

Present: Daniel Glaser (chair), Paul Gasson, Stefano Casalotti, James Brander, David Arditti, Jane Boardman, Jean Dollimore (minutes). Apologies: Paul Gannon.

## 1. Progress on LCN+ routes in Camden

James spoke of the faltering LCN+ program and outlined his strategy for a campaign to resurrect it.

## 2. Treasurer's report

James reported that we have £2200 in the bank, of which £500 is still owed to Tom Young, so we can afford to make use of some of the money. We agreed that James could purchase a 'Dr. Bike' banner and some tabards from LCC. Jean suggested funding extra copies of Camden Cyclist for distribution to bike shops in addition to the six she currently covers. It was agreed that she should bring copies to meetings and ask for volunteers to distribute them. CCC membership is 530.

## 3. Kings Cross Opportunity Area – Planning and Development Brief

This document is now out for consultation. CCC's rep on the Kings Cross Community Forum, Andrew Conway has studied this document carefully and prepared a detailed list of responses. James Brander who has already studied the report agreed to submit a response from CCC using Andrew's comments together with some of his own. In particular he will point out contradictions in the report w.r.t whether cycle/pedestrian links should be associated with vehicle routes. He will emphasise the importance of permeability and in particular access from the north. See also item 10 below.

There was some musing as to how Pancras Road can remain a main distributor road for all classes of traffic and, at the same time, improve the pedestrian links between the two stations (St Pancras and Kings Cross) which are both within the area.

## 4. Green Fair / BikeFest

Stefano reported on the first meeting to plan the 2004 event: Camden will contribute less money next year, so the fair organisers and Camden Greening Forum will look for grants (lottery/GroundWork). Stefano has a great idea for a BikeFest theme: to hire bikes to demonstrate how to take children to school, getting support from a school and parents who might subsequently join LCC. He plans that CCC should use just the road in front of St. James Gardens at next year's event.

## 5. LCC Cycle Parking and Carriage Working Group

Stefano attended a meeting of this group, which is aiming to define requirements for parking at stations and the carrying of bikes on trains. He is to pursue the problem at St. Pancras station, which currently provides cycle parking only in the car park. He will approach the operating company (London and Continental Stations and Property) and consult Dave Holiday (consultant for bike-rail integration). Jane urged us to participate in the CTC survey on cycle parking at stations.

## 6. Speakers for Future Meetings

David has invited Kevin Mayne of CTC for January 12<sup>th</sup>. He has offered a presentation setting the context for campaigning and promotion, which explores the potential for utility and leisure cycling. David hopes to explore the contrasting emphasis of LCC, which is on cycle engineering and that of CTC, which is different.

Stefano will try to get the speaker from the London City Car Club to give a short presentation at our March meeting.

## 7. LCN+

Paul passed round a map showing the LCN+ routes in the borough and changes to be carried out in Camden between now and 2004-5. These are:

*Route 0 (SSL):* the remaining section from Woburn Place to Grays Inn Road;

*Route 6:* a) Georgiana Street junction, b) Malet Street to Montague Street and c) Newton Street to Great Queens Street.

## 8. Cycle route along High Holborn from Bury Place to Newton Street

David led a discussion based on a plan supplied by Ed Quartey showing an eastbound contraflow 1.5 m cycle track on the north side of High Holborn from the south end of Bury Place (which is 2-way) as far as Newton Street which is 1-way northbound. This is part of a southwards extension of Route 6, which will then go on to Great Queen Street and Long Acre. The plan shows a short contraflow cycle plug into Newton Street – what will cyclists do until the remainder of the contraflow is built? David is concerned with the difficulties of cyclists going (westwards) with the traffic in High Holborn and turning right into Bury Place. He would like to see a 2.5 metre 2-way cycle track instead of the proposed 1-way track. He will talk to Ed Quartey about this option. Paul queried the cost effectiveness of the proposed 1-way cycle track; this short section is budgeted by the council at £170,000. A 2-way track would be far superior and probably cost little extra.

## Members Meeting

Present: the above plus, John Chamberlain, Meade McCloughan, Alex McKinnell, Lilian Shapiro, Lionel Shapiro, Alix Stredwick. Apologies: Mayer Hillman

## 9. Alix Stredwick on the Womens Design Service project on Cycling for Women

Alix reported that the WDS project is progressing well. They had a launch with Jane Roberts. She gave out postcards and posters for us to distribute. They have met with Camden Council (Natasha Brown and John Clark, who will help with training). More people than she can accept have offered to help with travel diaries and to receive lessons on riding and maintenance. These include a woman who wants to carry children on a bike and a disabled woman who wants to ride a tricycle. Rose Ades is on the steering group. She is a little behind with training and setting up networks. She hopes to have joint rides with James' ride program. Some discussion followed on issues putting women off riding, such as getting sweaty

and needing special clothes – it was noted that these don't seem to arise on the continent where cyclist don't need to try to keep up with the traffic.

#### **10. Somerstown Safety issues**

The aim of this discussion was to provide advice for cyclists using route 6 between Crowndale Road and Euston Road. In this section, teenage boys have harassed cyclists over a period of time, culminating in a very serious recent attack.

James had written to councillor Roger Robinson (who has campaigned for a return of traffic to Goldington Street) for advice about the security issue. As a result, Roger Robinson spoke to the police using James' letter to reinforce his arguments about an ongoing community safety issue, which affects residents as well as cyclists. He copied James with a letter from a resident (Susan Close) who says that the identities of the main protagonists are known.

Daniel has spoken to the police in the Somerstown sector team. They didn't know about the rope incident, but said some of the culprits have been taken to court, with one successful prosecution and the result is a decline in the terrorising of residents and cyclists. The police want CCC members to continue to report verbal abuse and low-level harassment – with evidence of identity. Daniel will put the police contact number on the CCC list. Currently there is a police presence in the area, but in the long term the presence of street wardens would help – James will pursue this. Cyclists are advised to stick in groups. This information is to be given to ICAG and put in the Borough News as well as in Camden Cyclist.

A discussion followed on whether we still want to have cycle routes in quiet streets. Paul is against 'gating' of council estates, which pushes kids onto the streets. A pedestrian scheme in Soho was reversed after an increase in antisocial behaviour. However, it was felt that cars should not be re-introduced into Goldington Street.

For the Kings Cross development, cycle routes should be on properly lit and populated main thoroughfares. These need not necessarily be vehicle routes, for example a good towpath route would be useful.

#### **11. SSL Progress**

SSL east has recently been extended from Bedford way as far as Woburn Place. The council environment committee will consider the consultation on the section beyond Judd Street at its December meeting.

#### **12. LCN+**

Paul showed the map mentioned in item. This map had just been posted to him by LCC; it was the first time we had seen it and there was disappointment that there had been no discussion between CCC and the council on these routes. There are a number of anomalies in the LCN+ route maps - CCC will need to raise these with the council. Paul expressed concern over the high amount of CCC effort devoted to helping the council deliver high standard facilities, and wondered whether it was the best use of our time.

James reported that at WCRSAG, Dave Stewart said that these sections will be completed in 2006-7 – it is a financial issue. Paul lamented the consuming of CCC's effort in lobbying for high standard facilities. John Chamberlain mentioned signage – if routes are not signed, people will not use them and usage statistics will decline. CCC advocates signs with local+final destinations (see <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CamdenLCN.html>) – and advises talking to CPEC about the problem. Jean is to pursue traffic counts.

#### **13. Road Safety Scrutiny panel**

James attended the first meeting of a panel with six councillors including Julian Fulbrook, Gerry Harrison and Flick Rea and two co-opted professionals: Stephen Plowden and Mayer Hillman. They agreed to listen to James at future meetings. The panel is supposed to inform John Thane as to the efficacy of Camden's approach to road safety. They may consider the wider use of speed cameras. CCC is on list of groups to take representation but no professional drivers (bus/taxi) are on it. CCC should supply input to Mayer or Stephen.

#### **14. Regents Park**

Stefano presented the report on 'Removing through traffic from Regents Park' written by Transport 2000, CCC and WCC. Briefly, this proposes three barriers on the Outer Circle to prevent through traffic, together with many additional pedestrian crossings on the surrounding roads. CCC supported Stefano's feeling that the report should be strengthened by removing references to the separate campaign for cycle routes inside the park and by getting a pedestrian group as a signatory – Paul will contact Nick Harding.

There was a brief discussion of Rick Andrew's campaign for cycle routes inside the park. It was felt that it was better to omit cycling issues from the outer roads proposal. However the reduction of traffic speed resulting from the proposed changes could benefit cyclists.

James warned us that Doug Amer had said that people in the surrounding roads will be consulted about this scheme. He asked about whether we have a fallback scheme. Stefano wants to advocate carrying out a trial.

Cyril Cannon urged CCC members to join the Friends of Regents Park.

#### **15. Marks and Spencer Bike Parking**

Cyril Cannon reported the follow up in his efforts to get cycle parking re-introduced at Camden Town M & S. He has spoken to the manager who plans to put it back. People should write to M & S. Cyril will write a letter to Camden Cyclist.

#### **16. AOB**

Progress on Crogsland Road Safer Routes to Schools: no work has been done so far.

Progress on Eton Avenue market – where we had been told there would be a 'cyclists dismount' sign. Nothing has happened so far.

Next meeting: Monday 10th November.

JD 15/10/03