

Minutes of Camden Cyclists Committee Meeting 20th July 2015

Present: Jean Dollimore (JD), Helen Vecht (HV), Steven Edwards (SE), Geoff Stilwell (GS) (chair), James Brander (JB, from #7), George Coulouris (GC), John Chamberlain (JC) and Meade McCloughan (MM) (minutes).

0.1 Apologies

Angela Hobsbaum (AH), Stefano Casalotti, Ben Edmonds and Ursule Thurnherr.

0.2 Minutes of 15th June

Approved as accurate

1. Matters Arising (with reference to notes provided by AH)

- 1.1. Cyclists' Breakfast: AH reported that about 100 cyclists stopped, and 14 signed up to get our and LCC newsletters. Somers Town Community Café supplied the tables, food and small cartons of juice; they were extremely helpful. Dr Bike was provided by both JC and Paul Davis (LBC). It was also reported that the Islington version was a much smaller-scale event.
- 1.2. All Around Camden Ride: We had 35 starters (according to Paul Davis' list), about 50 in all (including marshals), of whom about 30 finished the course. Notable for the number of children who coped with the route. JC made useful notes for future discussion.
- 1.3. S4C petition: This has been handed in to the Mayor of Camden, via a deputation at a full Council meeting on the 22nd June. Councillors asked questions and it will have brought the S4C asks to the attention of all councillors, including those who had not signed up.
- 1.4. Tufnell Park Cycle to Work scheme: AH's report has it that 14 people replied to our leaflets, 5 have been led on rides to their workplace and 3 others seem to have taken up cycling to work on their own, using routes from CycleStreets. These figures were thought to be perhaps out of date, in that maybe twice as many cyclists had been on rides. **AH to write to all those who participated.**
- 1.5. Dartmouth Park: AH reported that the local group had meet and will liaise with local residents and businesses to foster support for a timed restriction on Chetwynd Road. SE elaborated as to his wider plan to prevent displaced motors from using alternative E-W routes and to make Dartmouth Park a fully traffic-calmed area. It was felt that the tidal restriction would be a good first step.

2. Camden's Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee

JD and JC reported on our participation in the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting. We had been invited to it by the chair, Cllr Awale Olad, in relation to the issue of peak-hour restrictions on HGVs, which AH spoke to. There was also inconclusive discussion of the S4C West Hampstead ask and funding for a new (cycling) officer. There was also an officer's report from Louise McBride, and it appeared that she was somewhat unhappy about the absence of public support for her endeavours from our side. AH had emailed her subsequently to smooth things over. Although it is not our role to act as cheerleaders for officers, we also do not want unintentionally to antagonize them. Something to watch out for in the future.

3. LCC's Lorry Ban Campaign: 'End Lorry Danger'

AH had emailed the committee about this previously: campaign due to start 22nd July, with a petition to be handed to the Mayor on 1 September. **SE to contact Rosie at LCC** with a view to us planning at the August meeting how to collect signatures for this.

4. Brent Parks Ride and Ice Cream Ride

GS reported on these rides: 8 riders on the first, but no real beginners; 11 people (10 bikes) on the second, with three children.

5. Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge, Camley Street – King's Cross Central

JC reported on the plans for this bridge, as discussed at the King's Cross Development Forum. This will run from Camley Street just below the Cruising Club, by the top of the Natural Park, over the canal and into King's Cross Central. Due to be built in 2016; not meant to be a commuter route, but will be very useful. One drawback: will be closed 9pm to 6am, as it can't have lighting (at the request of the Natural Park).

6. RideLondon FreeCycle 2015, Saturday 1st August

JC reported that there are already 100 riders registered for the feeder ride from Swiss Cottage; the number could increase to 120. Three people so far volunteered to marshal this ride: JC, AH and John Hartley – so more needed! SE said he might be able to do it. LCC is due to provide some marshals, but we can't be sure. Three sources:

1. more volunteers
2. Police riders, as with the All Around Camden Ride?
3. paid marshals, via Richard Riddle?

Re. 2: **JD to provide JC with contact details of the officers involved in this**; GS suggested Justin.Royer-Collard@met.police.uk; **JC to contact police accordingly.**

Re. 3: agreed that we could spend money on marshals if necessary; **JC to contact Richard Riddle accordingly.**

7. LCC AGM, Saturday 17th October

Deadline for trustee nominations/motions is 14th August. GC has one year still to run as trustee, is busy working on LCC's IT! SE had come up with some ideas for motions, but we didn't have time to discuss these, and in any case it was pointed out that we should only submit motions if we were really committed to them.

8. Kidderpore Avenue

JD reported on AH's behalf that there is the possibility of planning gain money being made available for cycle schemes, according to Steve Cardno (LB Camden). **AH to email local members about this**, and then **AH to organize an inspection ride**. MM and GS willing to take part; HV suggested inviting David Arditti. **JD to communicate the above to AH.**

9. Widening existing painted cycle lanes

JD reported on the request received from John Fitcher (LB Camden) for suggestions of places where existing painted cycle lanes could be widened. This goes back to a suggestion we made back in 2011 in relation to Prince Albert Road; given the traffic volumes there, we would now ask for segregation to be put in there. The general feeling was that there might be some cases where such widening would be a slight improvement, and it would be good to try to come up with some suggestions. **JD to collect ideas and possibly make recommendations.**

Members' Meeting

We were joined by: Michael Mortty, Cllr Julian Fulbrook and Chris Day (Regent's Park Cyclists Group). There were two items on the agenda:

10. S4C Ask / West End Lane

GS had invited the Fortune Green and West Hampstead councillors to the members meeting for a discussion on 'Cycling in West End Lane'; however, none had been able to attend (Cllr Fulbrook mentioned that there were other meetings on that evening).

11. Regent's Park / Cycle Superhighway 11

Chris Day introduced himself as a member of the newly formed Regent's Park Cyclists (RPC), a body representing the sports cyclists who use the Outer Circle. This has grown out of a 800+ strong Facebook group, and is still in the process of agreeing on its aims and objectives. Its primary purpose is to respond to the CS11 proposals insofar as they take in Regent's Park. The plan is for the route to go from Avenue Road over Macclesfield Bridge and then down both sides of the Outer Circle. Four of the gates (Macclesfield Bridge, Park Crescent (E), Park Crescent (W) and York Gate) will be closed (except maybe open for rush hours). Of particular concern to the RPC is the proposal to put in 14 speed tables with raised granite sets. TfL is justifying this on the basis that the gate closures will reduce motor traffic volumes within the Park and that there will therefore be a greater need to control traffic speeds. It was agreed that the tables were excessive and that alternatives should be recommended.

Various alternatives were discussed:

- entry/exit average speed cameras to catch speeding motorists
- sinusoidal humps (easier for cyclists and help prevent the pavement/road confusion tables can engender)
- carriageway width restrictions with wide cycle by-passes (Alex Santacreu's idea)
- fewer/narrower raised tables
- Richmond Park style traffic calming (?)
- 20 mph speed limit

It was agreed that it had been a useful discussion and a good start to co-operation between ourselves and RPC.

Date of next meeting: Monday 17th August (MM to chair, AH to take minutes).