

Camden Cyclists Meeting Minutes 16 March 2020



Committee Meeting

Monday 18.30 - 19.30

Meeting held by Skype

Attending Chair: Helen Vecht, Minutes: John Chamberlain, George Coulouris, Jean Dollimore, Helen Vecht, Paul Allen

Apologies Sean Howes, Meade McCloughan, Geoff Stilwell, Simon Pearson, Rachel Wrangham, Berwyn Rutherford

1. Minutes of 17 February meeting

Some edits are still outstanding. **Action:** Paul (St Mark's Square), Jean (EVCPs). Other than these the minutes were approved and can be published.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing that is not covered later

3. Reports on meetings attended:

- a. Yavuz Kalayci re C6 snagging (JC/GC). George and John had a very useful meeting with one of Camden's senior engineers to go through a list of issues with C6 including motor vehicle incursion, lack of a feeder at the Kentish Town Road junction and a number of other problems (21 in all). Yavuz has passed some on to TfL and will look for funding for most of the others.
- b. Meeting with Adam Harrison (JC). John had an informal meeting with Adam Harrison (Camden councillor with responsibility for Transport), mainly to discuss policy and progress (or lack of it) on upcoming projects, including TfL ones.
- c. Ride around Euston with Michel Barratt (GC/JC). George and John joined Michael Barratt, Lewis Gunn and Paul Harwood from TfL for a cycle ride around the Euston area to look at the impact of the HS2 works and also the problems for cyclists at Euston Circus. Paul carried a 3D camera on a pole and it will be very interesting to see the footage when it is ready, especially to show the terrible situation for southbound cyclists on Hampstead Road at the Euston Road crossing.

- d. Royal Parks Meeting (JC). John attended this meeting which was to launch the Royal Parks' new draft Movement Strategy. The universal opinion of the cycling reps present was that though the Vision and Principles section is good, once it gets on to Outcomes and Strategies it is weak on cutting motor traffic and contains a lot of anti-cycling language. Cycling comes across as a problem not an opportunity. We will be responding directly and asking supporters to email their comments to RP.

Action: John

4. Prince of Wales Road

Jean summarised the progress on the cycle track. We then discussed the editorial by Gulliver in the CNJ. Although purporting to criticise the consultation process, it came across as very negative on cycle infrastructure and was essentially a mouthpiece for Nick Harding, who has always opposed cycle infrastructure and whose cause seems to have been taken up by Councillor Alison Kelly. There was also a letter opposing the raising of the cycle track leading out of Queens Crescent to footway level compared to the previous arrangement of dropped kerbs. We decided:

- i) To write a piece in support of the track once it was predominantly complete

Action: Jean

- ii) To write to Alison Kelly countering the more specious of Nick Harding's arguments and pointing out the many improvements for pedestrians.

Action: Paul

- iii) To see if we have any other supporters in the ward who could write to councillors

Action: John

As a general point, we recognize that though we often mobilise support for projects during the consultation phase, we don't get people to write in during and after construction. Hence the councillors and officers only tend to get negative feedback. We need to encourage supporters to send short emails of support on a project by project basis.

Action: All

5. St Mark's Square

Paul summarised the current situation and described his plan to remove the gyratory that includes Albert Terrace, thus freeing up space for cycling. This plan was one of the options suggested in 2014 but was not progressed. Paul agreed to continue on the design with help from Jean but also to work up a simpler scheme that kept the general layout as is but moved the parking to allow a kerb-side contraflow on St Mark's Square. Once complete we would present these options to officers and also, potentially, to local residents and the vicar, who opposed the previous plans.

Action: Paul, Jean

6. Midland-Judd

We noted the success of this project as recognised by the Excellence in Cycling and Walking award at the London Transport Awards. Adam Harrison is getting huge amounts of online trolling from the taxi lobby so we need to make sure he and the other local councillors get some positive feedback especially from residents of Judd Street. We also decided to try to get in touch with the RNIB for feedback.

Action: John

7. Plans for future CCC meetings

We decided to cancel all future meetings for the foreseeable future. Committee meetings will be held by Skype or other online means and we will consider inviting all LCC members to join in.

8. AOB

John mentioned our involvement with the many large construction projects currently underway or proposed in Camden. We check that the designs meet Camden cycle parking and storage standards and also review the Construction Management Plans especially when they are adjacent to major cycle routes. Specifically, there are two huge developments planned for the east side of Royal College Street either side of Pratt Street which will have a significant impact on this route.

General Meeting

There was no general meeting

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 20th April 2020, 18.30 - 20.00; Chair: John Chamberlain